

Hon. Umyy Mwalimu commits to be TB champion beyond this term.....

'My number one priority focus is TB and even after this term, I will still continue supporting TB to ensure we end the epidemic...'

Gracing the TB stakeholder meeting organized by NTLP and supported by Health Promotion Tanzania in Dar Es Salaam on April 15th, the minister acknowledged the continuous efforts from the Government in tackling TB cases and through Primary Health care. She said that the Government has invested in providing TB treatments through all public health facilities and some of the Private Health facilities.

The urgency of establishment of STP TB partnership is based on the fact that Tanzania ranks 6th among 30 countries with high burden of TB in the world and ranks 4th in Africa. In 2015 the world Health organization estimated the prevalence of TB of all forms to be 528/100,000 with case detection rate at 36%, meaning that every 64 TB cases in every hundred goes undetected. This translates to an estimation of missing cases annually to 108,429.



Figure 1: Minister for Health Hon. Umyy Mwalimu in middle with white xx on her right is Hon. Dr. Mukasa chairperson of committee responsible with HIV, TB and Drug abuse, followed by Chief Medical Officer Prof. Bakari and Dr. Leonard Subi the Director of Preventive Services.

The National TB and Leprosy Strategic Plan committed to increase care detection by 29% by 2020.

Speaking at the occasion, Hon. Dr. Oscar Mukasa said, “committed to engage the Speaker of the Parliament, Members of TB caucus to leverage the Uhuru Freedom Torch messages to include TB awareness and arguing regional leaders to identify TB cases for early treatment”. Alluding to minister commitment, the Chief Medical Officer and director of preventive services called for development of strategies for effective TB case finding, resource mobilization for TB, integrating TB programs in current projects and use mobile technology to increase case identification.

Ms. Belinda Kijangwa Health Promotion Tanzania Program Officer called for Government and partners to renew strategies and Government funding to reach Tanzania UNHLM TB targets of diagnosing and treating 561,100 cases, 3963 Drug resistant cases and 72,600 childhood TB by 2022. Health Promotion Tanzania (HDT) is a National NGO affiliated to Action Global Health Partnership (www.action.org) focusing on diseases of poverty including TB epidemic. For more information on please visit <http://healthpromotiontanzania.org>.