



**Civil Society and The
Global TB Caucus:**
the impact of a
partnership in the TB
response



The Global TB Caucus:

The Global TB Caucus is a unique global network of parliamentarians engaged in the fight to end tuberculosis (TB). Caucus members act as interlocutors between civil society organisations (CSOs), international donors, and governments at global and regional levels.

Our mission:
To achieve a sustainable political response to TB

Background

The Global TB Caucus' main goal for our work with civil society is to help national organisations develop their advocacy capabilities in order to engage with Members of Parliament (MPs).

The Caucus strives in every country where we have MPs to engage a National Focal Point (Focal Point). This Focal Point is usually, but not exclusively, a civil society organisation (CSO), but can also be a National TB Programme (NTP), a parliamentary official, or another type of organisation. Following the principle of sustainable, locally-led response, the Caucus does however prioritise CSOs as Focal Points; particularly national CSOs rather than INGOs.

Every six months, as we collect evidence of parliamentary actions we also assess our Focal Points based on the strength of their relationship and interactions with MPs. The purpose of the assessment is to inform the direction and focus of our support and activities versus rating outputs of Focal Points which, due to vast gaps in available resources, might be prejudicial.

The support that The Global TB Caucus provides ranges from:

- Introductions and facilitating connections to MPs, e.g convening meetings between the focal point and MPs to discuss local needs and challenges in the fight against TB
- Creation of advocacy materials, including informational briefings on concepts and data, and messaging
- Intensive training in the form of workshops and seminars, and 1 on 1 or group mentorship on advocacy
- Sharing of global and regional intelligence

The Global TB Caucus facilitates the connection between civil society organizations or individuals and parliamentarians, on neutral terms, which otherwise can be a challenge for CSOs.

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Platform of civil society experts on TB

A platform of experts is a knowledge platform that will facilitate the sharing of expertise between parliamentarians and civil society partners.

Outcomes from discussion will be reported and further discussed at larger meetings with Heads of National TB Caucuses and members of national TB Caucuses. Members of this platform will identify gaps and opportunities to build greater focus and coherence regionally, including incorporating the capacity-building efforts of key partners.

How does it work?

Expected participants are experts, policymakers, and practitioners directly involved in engagement with members of the Global TB Caucus and considered as focal points of the GTBC. The size of the group is limited to 20 experts to encourage active discussions. The format of the platform of experts will be flexible and be adjusted to regional needs and contexts.

The on-line platform of experts will bring together focal points to exchange ideas that contribute to the achievement of the UN High Level Meeting on TB targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

It will strive for sharing knowledge that is both applicable and practical for members of national Caucuses and relevant to TB stakeholders who are working directly with them. By fostering an inclusive and safe learning environment, it will inspire a collaborative spirit and joint problem-solving.

This also includes cross-sectoral learning, such as TB patients learning from CSOs coalitions about how to advocate for the fight against TB, etc.

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The way forward

In moving forward, the Global TB Caucus will continue to provide our focal points and partner organisations with the technical and coordination support that has helped build and strengthen our global network. The Secretariat of the Global TB Caucus will also actively explore avenues for resource mobilization with the specific end-goal of ensuring civil society organisations are sufficiently and sustainably funded to continue the work that they do with elected representatives.

Since the UN High Level Meeting on TB in 2018, there has been a marked uptick in the prioritisation of the engagement of elected representatives. Still, this has not been backed with adequate funding. With the findings of the survey, conducted by the Global TB Caucus and launched in May 2021, the GTBC hopes to substantiate and provide data that will help address this financing gap.

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Q & A

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