



Stop TB Partnership, IFRC and Communities discussions in South Africa locking in the next steps on the road to UN HLM on TB.

Stop TB Partnership and partners complete a successful tour of the Africa Region to Mobilize TB Affected Communities for the UN High-Level Meeting (HLM) on TB

30 May 2018, Geneva: The Stop TB Partnership, International Federation of Red Cross ([IFRC](#)) and the Red Crescent Societies together with more than 200 affected community partners concluded a series of five regional workshops in Johannesburg and Cairo aimed at building partnerships and mobilizing community as a lead up to the [UN HLM on TB](#) on 26 September at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Stop TB and IFRC were joined by the African Coalition on Tuberculosis ([ACT](#)) for the workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa from 22-24 May 2018. For the Middle East North Africa (MENA) workshop, held during 9-10 May in Cairo, community partners from ITPC MENA and the Tunisian Center for Public Health were instrumental in bringing together civil society partners, in what was a first for the MENA region.

The objective of these workshops, which took place over a period of six months, including the Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, and the Latin America regions, was to strengthen community coordination and strategic advocacy capacity, combined with a strong and effective collaboration.

Speaking at the workshop, Thoko Nkhoma, a TB survivor from Malawi, emphasized that “2018 is our year. A year for TB survivors and allies to take center stage. A year when our political leaders will hear our voices and step up their commitment to end TB”. David Mametja, NTP Manager South

Africa, applauded the “tireless work of TB affected communities in South Africa,” adding that “meaningful changes will be because of continuous efforts to build effective partnerships.”

Participants at the Johannesburg meeting committed to finalize an African community position paper, guided by the five [Key Asks](#) from the TB stakeholders and communities asking Heads of State and Governments to accelerate progress towards ending TB, as well as an advocacy roadmap, guiding in-country actions in the lead up to the UN HLM on TB. In Cairo, the foundations were laid for the emergence of the first regional TB civil society network in the Middle East North Africa.

Dr. Scader Soufi, a TB survivor from Algeria, said that “as a collective, we can help people through one of their greatest struggles, while preventing others from ever having to experience TB treatment.” Viorel Soltan from Stop TB Partnership emphasized that the spirit of partnership and innovation will lead to a more targeted TB response, enabling us to find the missing people with TB. The meetings concluded on a positive note and high expectation from the upcoming UNHLM on TB.