



...Promoting Human Rights

LAWYERS ALERT AND TUBERCULOSIS WORK

"Eliminating TB is not just about health; it is about dignity, justice, equality and ending stigma. Together, we can end TB by 2030."

Dr Rommy Mom, Lawyers Alert

Introduction and Background

Lawyers Alert works at the intersection of law, health, gender, and access to justice, addressing a wide range of issues, including access to healthcare, gender equality, the rights of people affected by TB, and the rights of key populations. Through our network and partnerships with community-based organisations, LA provides free legal services to individuals whose rights have been violated, particularly in the context of health-related stigma, discrimination, or denial of services. Lawyers Alerts also documents and analyses data on rights violations and conducts evidence-based advocacy, which informs both its laws and policy reforms.

The human rights-based TB approach, the basis of Lawyers Alert TB interventions, recognises and upholds the fundamental rights of all people affected by TB, including the right to health, non-discrimination, confidentiality and participation in decision-making. The approach is founded on the dignity and autonomy of people affected by TB and the critical role they must play in all aspects of the disease response. In 2018, the Stop TB Partnership supported Nigeria's TB Legal Environment Assessment (LEA). The LEA evaluated the legal and policy framework related to TB and its impact on persons affected by TB. The LEA findings highlighted issues ranging from restricted physical access to TB care, a lack of privacy in obtaining TB services; extensive discrimination against people affected by TB in employment, health care, and education; a lack of counselling for people diagnosed with TB; the proliferation of TB drugs at private chemists; and a lack of mobilisation of people affected by TB in the disease response. The Nigeria LEA also made a series of detailed and targeted recommendations for reforms in Nigeria. Undoubtedly, Global interventions in TB have evolved from exclusive medical approaches to broader themes that focus on communities, human rights, and gender considerations.

The Lawyers Alert Community, Rights, and Gender approach is multifaceted, as is the practice. It seeks to understand the underlying factors, influences, and impact of rights and gender considerations in the TB response in Nigeria. In carrying out this work, we prioritised the experiences and participation of communities affected by TB, including key and vulnerable populations. The Nigeria TB situation, as highlighted in the data above by Stop TB, underscores the state and gaps in CRG in Nigeria. These factors significantly influence TB prevention, treatment, and care. By incorporating the CRG approach into TB interventions, policymakers and healthcare practitioners can address the underlying social, economic, and cultural

determinants that fuel the TB epidemic. This strategy recognises that TB is not solely a medical issue but also a social justice issue, requiring interventions that respect the dignity, autonomy, and rights of individuals and communities. Furthermore, by incorporating the experiences and voices of those most affected by TB, including marginalised populations such as prisoners, migrants, and people living with HIV/AIDS, interventions can be tailored to address their specific needs and challenges. By adopting a CRG approach, the global response to TB can become more inclusive, equitable, and effective in achieving sustainable TB prevention, treatment, and care outcomes.

Lawyers Alert's work on TB has been supported by the Stop TB Partnership Geneva under the Challenge Facility for Civil Society, Rounds 10, 11, and 12, and the Gender Equality Fund.

Lawyers Alert's tuberculosis efforts in Nigeria.

1. Provision of Reliable and Variable Data on Tuberculosis in Nigeria.

Lawyers Alert provided the first data on Human Rights violations associated with tuberculosis via our web-based rights tool, styled Lawyers Alert Documentation Tool – “LadockT,” for systematic documentation. We monitored and documented reported instances of rights violations to address the gap in reliable, verifiable data and to provide evidence-based advocacy interventions to improve the rights-based TB response in Nigeria. To achieve this, Lawyers Alert organised an all-inclusive stakeholders' consultative meeting (media, lawyers, PATBs, State Program, Healthcare Practitioners, and CSOs) to identify and map rights-based violations associated with TB in light of the recent Stigma Assessment on TB conducted in Nigeria. A broader spectrum of human rights violations in both informal and formal sectors associated with TB was mapped, and key indicators were identified to support the expansion of Lawyers Alert's online documentation tool, LADOCT, used to capture violations.



Fig 1: Participants noting their observations of the LadockT tool during the consultation meeting

Lawyers Alert LADOC-T was expanded to include rights-based violations associated with TB. Lawyers Alert trained affected communities and key stakeholders to share experiences of rights violations associated with PATBs, tailored to evidence-based

advocacy that addresses remedial measures & the challenges encountered. The tool was disseminated to community members to document violations.

These violations were captured across all states in the country, as well as in the project states (Lagos and Abuja). The tool captures and documents PATB experiences involving rights infractions. The tool is also tailored towards evidence-based advocacy addressing remedial measures & the challenges encountered. The violations report revealed that Stigma and discrimination take the lead among other TB violations at 53%. The violations report has been validated as a national

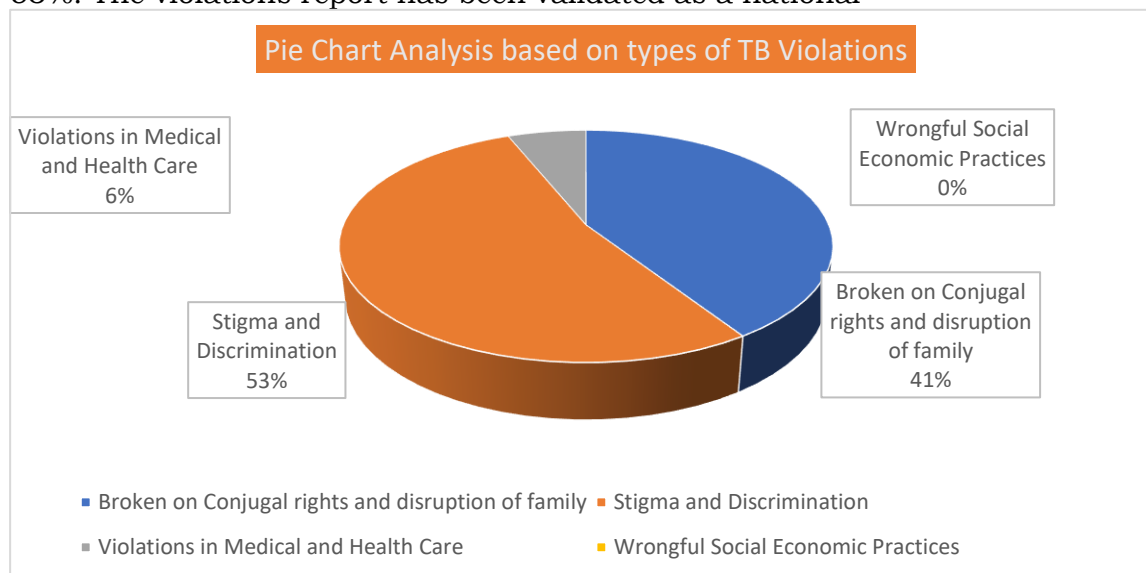


Fig 2: Pie Chart analysis of TB violations.

The violation analysis represents documented incidents from February 2023 to March 2024. The report is accurate, credible, and a valid representation of the state of human rights violations associated with TB in Nigeria. Networks and Coalitions have embraced this initiative, consistently reporting violations to collect data and evidence for effective advocacy. Our work strongly aligned with this STP area by introducing and scaling innovative tools and approaches to enhance the rights-based TB response. The data generated informed evidence-based advocacy, coalition action plans, and stakeholder engagements, effectively generating demand for legal reform, improved service delivery, and policy change. Documenting human rights violations is a huge resource for evidence-based advocacy efforts to end stigma and discrimination for PATBs and TB Survivors in Nigeria. This has been one of the resources that have helped engineer the National TB Bills and the TB Bills before the Benue State and Akwa Ibom State Houses of Assembly.

2. Movement Building

In 2022, with the Support of the Stop TB Partnership, Lawyers Alert facilitated the creation of a coalition of PATBs, media, Lawyers, health workers, CSOs, and state actors. The coalitions in Lagos and Abuja are thriving in terms of networking among PATBs, the media, lawyers, and health workers. Communication platforms for networking, communication, and exchange to strengthen the coalition were also established. These platforms have served not just as a medium of communication between the agencies but also as a continuous hub for capacity building on TB and rights. Several virtual meetings have been held to address issues related to

relationships with lawyers, the media, and PATBs, including the development of a roadmap for providing free legal services as needed. It is safe to say that the Coalitions are vibrant and active. Continuous capacity building will occasion active advocacy by these coalitions. Members are now actively engaged in and contributing to the platforms' efforts to eradicate tuberculosis in Nigeria. Furthermore, the partnership has established direct links between PATB and lawyers. The coalition developed and implemented action plans to facilitate the CRG TB response.

	Actions	Objectives	Activities Tasks - Tasks/ steps that need to be carried out to reach the goal	Success criteria Measures of progress	Time frame When will these tasks be completed (deadlines and milestones)	Resources Resources needed to complete the tasks	Person Responsible - People who will be in charge of carrying out each task
1	Develop policy briefs, guidelines and information packages on improving community gender and rights of the TB patient.	Ensure the existence and implementation of laws, policies, guidelines and systems which facilitate an enabling environment by 2025.	Conduct workshop with stakeholder to develop policy briefs, guidelines and information packages on improving community gender and rights of the TB patient.	copies of the Policies brief, guidelines, and information packages developed available	August 2023 to June 2024	Workshop Consultants fee Printing of developed documents	NTBLCP/Lagos State TB Program Lawyer Alert STPN TB Survivors
	Dissemination of policy briefs, guidelines and information packages on improving community gender and rights of the TB patient.	improved knowledge of the federal, State and LGAs stakeholders about the existence and uses of policies	Organise Workshop with the following groups: Media Community Health Facility and NGOs	Number of meeting held Number of participants who attended the meeting.	July 2024- December 2024	Financial and Technical resources including Workshop Material and Facilitators	NTBLCP/Lagos State TB Program, Lawyer Alert STPN TB Survivors, TB coalition
2	Enhance the Judiciary and the legal	To strengthen the legal system on right approach to support		Directory of organization working on Human rights, gender			

Fig 3: A snapshot of the TB Coalition's Joint Action Plan

The coalitions actively engaged key stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organisations, healthcare providers, and media representatives, through advocacy visits, sensitisation sessions, and awareness campaigns to promote a rights-based and people-centred TB response. Policy briefs were disseminated to facilitate dialogue and influence decision-making at the state and national levels. These efforts contributed to the successful implementation of joint advocacy plans, with strategic actions aligned with the coalitions' CRG priorities.

Furthermore, in 2025, with support from the Gender Equality Fund, Lawyers Alert facilitated the formation of two women-led movements in Akwa Ibom and Benue States. These movements comprise women leaders and women-led organisations mapped in Akwa Ibom and Benue (about 15 women leaders and women-led CSOs per state). These movements are called the Akwa Ibom State Gender Equality Movement and the Benue State Gender Equality Movement. These movements were equipped with advocacy capacity through structured training sessions. They are strengthened with the capacity for sustainable advocacy efforts that address the systemic barriers women and marginalised groups face in accessing TB, HIV, and Malaria services.

Each state has successfully developed a comprehensive advocacy plan tailored to its unique context and challenges. These state-specific advocacy plans guide coordinated advocacy to address gender inequities and promote an inclusive, people-centred HIV, TB, and Malaria response. The developed advocacy plans support gender-responsive access to health care. It focuses on revising the HIV workplace policy, passage of TB

laws, and strengthening TB, HIV, and Malaria services by addressing gender-related barriers.



Fig 4: Akwa Ibom State Gender Equality Movement and the Benue State Gender Equality Movement.

3. Free Legal Representation and Strategic Impact Litigation



Fig 5: Beneficiary reporting rights violations to a Lawyer during an awareness campaign in Lagos State.

Lawyers Alert's provision of free legal representation for human rights violations associated with TB in Nigeria reflects a commitment to ensuring access to justice, particularly for vulnerable persons. This aligns closely with Lawyers Alert's vision of a world free from injustice. Lawyers Alert offers pro bono legal services to persons on TB treatment who have suffered human rights violations. [Link](#). A key case involved the unjust discrimination and

harassment of a PATB undergoing treatment; the authorities were involved in the harassment, and she was granted access to justice following intervention, highlighting the power of legal action to combat stigma.

Furthermore, Trained lawyers brainstormed and carried out Strategic Impact Litigation (SIL) to further expand the frontiers of PATB Rights and address issues of stigma and discrimination. The action was instituted at the Federal High Court, Abuja. The court case seeks to change the narrative on the right to health in Nigeria and on discrimination based on health status (TB Status), and to generate demand for the CRG TB approach through the court. Trained lawyers brainstormed to



Fig 6: Lawyers Brainstorming on TB Strategic Impact Litigation.

Expand the frontiers of PATB Rights and address stigma and discrimination.

The SIL filed to challenge discrimination based on TB status and reinforce the right to health in Nigeria, which has opened avenues for expanding CRG approaches through the judiciary.

Four innovative strategies emerged from brainstorming sessions among lawyers to improve the legal response to TB-related cases.

4. Advocacy and awareness campaigns

TB communities have been intensively engaged and sensitised by Lawyers Alert under this project. This engagement has impacted TB Communities, prompting them to take charge of the advocacy process under the developed action plan, lead community engagements, and improve access to rights-based TB responses and legal support. For example, referrals for legal support and reporting of rights violations were coordinated by TB people in Nigeria.

Lawyers Alert carried out a series of advocacy activities within the Federal and State Tuberculosis Control Programs to further its interventions towards a TB rights-based approach. In collaboration with the NTBLCP, we have built capacity among NTBLCP Officials and health care workers for a rights-based, people-centred TB response.



Fig 7: Training of NTBLCP Officials of HR TB response.

Additionally, Lawyers under the TB Coalitions in Abuja and Lagos conducted human rights sensitisation and awareness-raising at the community level during the National TB Testing Week. They engaged with the National and Lagos State TB Programs on effective human rights-based TB response in their interventions. Lawyers Alert's engagement with the Media, who are also members of the TB coalition, has increased the Media's awareness and ability to inform the general

public about TB prevention and care. The media have also shown interest in stories about Lawyers Alert and other stakeholders' TB work, reporting them as editorials and development issues rather than as event reports.



Fig 8: Pictures from TB awareness campaign.

5. Legal Score Cards

TB LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS SCORECARD
Measuring legal and human rights environments & promoting social accountability

COUNTRY
Insert country name

Key Dimensions of the Right to Health

1 Availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality (AAAQ) TB health services, goods, and facilities must be available, accessible, acceptable, and	28.13
2 Non-discrimination and equal treatment Discrimination against people affected by TB must be prohibited.	50.00
3 Health-related freedoms Health-related freedoms like privacy and informed consent must be protected.	50.00
4 Gender perspective Countries must integrate a gender perspective in their TB laws, policies, and programs.	100.00
5 TB Key and vulnerable populations Countries must pay special attention to TB key and vulnerable populations in their TB laws, policies, and programs.	50.00
6 Participation People affected by TB and civil society must have opportunities and support to participate in all aspects of the TB response.	50.00
7 Remedies and Accountability People affected by TB must have access to legal remedies and accountability.	50.00
Overarching Themes	
8 Social Protection People affected by TB must have access to social protection.	50.00
9 Governance TB programs must be well governed, prioritizing transparency and community and	50.00
OVERALL SCORE: (Total score/9)	53.13

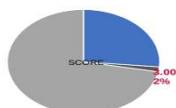


Fig 9: Results from the Legal Scorecards Deployment used To guide stakeholder engagement and policy dialogue.

The TB Legal Environment and Human Rights Scorecard was used as an assessment tool to evaluate the legal, policy, and human rights landscape shaping Nigeria's TB response. While initially conceived as a diagnostic tool to identify gaps and strengths across nine CRG (Community, Rights, and Gender) themes, including availability, accessibility, non-discrimination, participation, and governance, we adapted its

This assessment was carried out using the scoring matrix and a desk review, as well as field-based data from Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with diverse actors: TB-affected communities, CSOs, and government agencies. The scorecard process led to strengthened partnerships between TB-affected communities, legal actors, and policymakers. The findings provided an evidence base for inclusion in Nigeria's National Strategic Plan for TB and catalysed discussions around legal and policy reforms.

The deployment of the scorecards among stakeholders, particularly NTBLCP, has heightened awareness of CRG issues in the country and initiated action to implement the CRG action plan. The results from the evaluation conducted with the scorecard provide indices on the impact of the National Human Rights Action Plan for TB care and Prevention. The Nigeria TB Legal Scorecard Assessment marked a critical milestone in the institutionalisation of a rights-based, people-centred TB response. The assessment provided a structured and participatory review of Nigeria's legal and

policy frameworks across nine thematic areas, including non-discrimination, access to justice, legal aid, confidentiality, participation, and gender responsiveness. The participatory approach enriched the findings with both legal analysis and community experiences. The Scorecard served as a powerful advocacy tool: its findings also informed the draft TB legislation currently before the National Assembly, shaped the advocacy agenda of TB coalitions, and guided policy discussions with the National TB Program.

Legislative engagement, law, and policy reforms

In line with the *National Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Buruli Ulcer Control Programme Human Rights and Gender Action Plan for TB Care and Prevention in Nigeria 2021 – 2025*, which calls for the implementation of laws, policies, guidelines, and systems that facilitate an enabling legal environment to end TB, engaging laws and policymakers. This includes engineering the process for the passage of a TB-specific law and policies promoting human rights and gender in the Nigerian disease response. The Nigerian National Assembly (Parliament) and some state houses of assembly are being engaged for this purpose. The capacity of MPs, particularly the Committee on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, was built on the importance of a legal framework that is both rights-based and aligned with international standards. Through a tailored two-day parliamentary retreat and training modules, MPs were engaged on the need for legislative reform that protects PATBs' rights while advancing national health goals. A core team of legal experts was assembled to lead the drafting process. This team worked in close consultation with key stakeholders, including TB-affected communities, to ensure the draft law reflected lived experiences, addressed gaps, and promoted accountability. A series of brainstorming sessions and community consultations informed the content of the initial draft TB law, which is before the National Assembly for passage.



Fig 10: Photos of Lawyers' Engagement with the National Assembly

A TB Law, co-developed by legal professionals, civil society, and PATBs, represents a major milestone. With growing MP awareness and stakeholder buy-in, the project has laid the foundation for drafting and eventual passage of a comprehensive TB Law in Nigeria at the National Assembly. This effort marks a pivotal step toward securing an all-encompassing, rights-based TB legal framework in Nigeria.

Furthermore, Lawyers Alert engaged with State legislative bodies in Benue and Akwa Ibom States on laws and the presentation of a draft Bill on TB at both State Houses of Assembly (a TB Anti-Stigma Bill was drafted for each state, and the network has since commenced advocacy to the State Houses of Assembly towards its passage)



Fig 11: Presentation of Draft TB Bill to the Benue and Akwa Ibom State Legislators

Key Impact of the National work

Lawyers Alert's TB interventions have produced a transformative and measurable impact at the national level, repositioning tuberculosis as not only a public health issue but also a human rights and justice concern. Some of the impacts are:

- Lawyers Alert institutionalised the documentation of TB-related human rights violations in Nigeria through the expansion of its LADOC-T platform, generating the country's first structured and validated body of evidence on stigma and discrimination against persons affected by TB (PATBs). This evidence base has shifted advocacy from anecdotal reporting to data-driven reform and has directly informed the drafting of national and state TB legislation. The documentation system is now recognised as a credible accountability tool that supports policy reform and legislative processes.
- Through sustained legislative engagement, Lawyers Alert has significantly advanced the development of a rights-based TB legal framework in Nigeria. A draft national TB Bill was co-developed with lawmakers and stakeholders and is currently before the National Assembly. At the sub-national level, draft TB Anti-Stigma Bills have been presented in Benue and Akwa Ibom States. These efforts represent a structural milestone toward institutionalising legal protections on confidentiality, non-discrimination, workplace safeguards, and access to remedies for PATBs.

- The organisation successfully built and strengthened multi-sectoral TB coalitions in Lagos and Abuja, creating sustainable platforms that link affected communities, lawyers, media, civil society, and government actors. These coalitions have improved referral pathways for legal support, enhanced coordinated advocacy, and embedded Community, Rights, and Gender (CRG) priorities within TB governance discussions. TB-affected persons are now active contributors to advocacy and policy dialogue rather than passive beneficiaries.
- Strategic impact litigation filed at the Federal High Court, Abuja, has opened judicial pathways for challenging discrimination based on TB status and advancing the constitutional right to health. This marks a pivotal shift toward using the judiciary as a structural accountability mechanism within Nigeria's TB response. Individual pro bono interventions have also secured remedies for victims of stigma and harassment, reinforcing the enforceability of rights protections.
- The deployment of the TB Legal Environment and Human Rights Scorecard strengthened institutional accountability by systematically assessing Nigeria's TB legal and policy environment across core human rights indicators. Its findings have informed the National Strategic Plan for TB and legislative drafting processes, embedding rights standards into governance frameworks.
- The formation of women-led Gender Equality Movements in Akwa Ibom and Benue States strengthened gender-responsive advocacy within TB, HIV, and malaria programming. These movements have developed actionable advocacy plans that address systemic barriers faced by women and embed gender equity in health policy reform efforts.

REGIONAL WORK

Legal Landscape Analysis in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Malawi and Nigeria:

Lawyers Alert, with the support of the Stop TB Partnership, implemented a regional project in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Malawi, and Nigeria. A tool was developed to support legal and policy research and analysis. The legal landscape analysis conducted in these countries documents TB legal frameworks and the availability and accessibility of legal and other remedies for people affected by TB in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Malawi and Nigeria. Country partners conducted research and produced the Legal Landscape analysis for each project country. The Legal Landscape Analysis contains key takeaways and action items that represent concrete actions to be taken and fed into the Roadmaps. The Legal Landscape Analysis also contains a comprehensive list of practical actions to improve access to remedies for people affected by TB. It outlines the TB legal framework in the countries, analysing constitutional law, legislation, administrative law, and other instruments to identify legal remedies and accountability mechanisms available to people affected by TB. The analysis further considers whether TB laws and policies adopt a human rights-based approach, fulfilling the right to health, prohibiting TB-based discrimination, and protecting privacy and confidentiality, among other things.

The Legal Landscape analysis, conducted and documented for each project country and the country-specific action plans, serve as a resource document on TB laws and remedies for project countries even beyond the lifespan of the project. The legal landscape analysis also serves as a CRG Assessment result, leading to intensive country engagement and the development of a regional roadmap for TB human rights,

laws, and remedies in Anglophone Africa CRG Action Plans. Additionally, the regional roadmap and the country action plans are tailored to address gaps in TB laws and remedies in each country. This was especially helpful not just for the in-country implementing partners but also serves as a powerful advocacy tool across the region that any stakeholder can deploy to advance a rights-based approach to TB interventions.

Development of TB Laws and Legal Remedies Anglophone African Regional Roadmap and Country Action Plans for Kenya, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Nigeria:

Consultation meetings were convened to craft a comprehensive roadmap for tuberculosis (TB) laws and legal remedies. This collaborative effort involved analysing the legal landscapes of various countries and mapping out stakeholders to ensure a targeted approach. The resulting country action plans and regional roadmap were tailored to tackle specific challenges identified through this process. In-country partners shared insights gleaned from their stakeholder mapping and legal landscape analysis, informing the tailored actions outlined in their respective country action plans. These plans are designed to address any gaps identified, ensuring a cohesive and effective approach to combating TB. Emphasising structured engagements, the regional roadmap aims to advance a human rights-based TB response by shaping laws and remedies that better serve affected communities. Continuous support to country partners to advocate for greater accountability, enhanced access to legal remedies, and rights-based laws.

These roadmaps outlined strategic actions to promote legal literacy, reduce TB-related discrimination, and engage policymakers on reform. In Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and Malawi, partners led advocacy meetings and media engagements. These successes were driven by strong partner capacity and established networks contributing meaningfully to promoting rights-based, people-centred TB responses. The roadmaps and advocacy actions that have enhanced access to remedies represent a solid foundation toward achieving equitable TB laws and justice for affected communities in Anglophone Africa.

Sensitise and encourage judges and other judicial authorities to adopt a rights-based, people-centred approach in their decisions.

Judicial dialogues were held in each project country, Kenya, Ghana, and Zimbabwe,

Malawi and Nigeria, bringing together judges, magistrates, lawyers, legal experts, civil society actors, and PATBs. These dialogues provided a platform to deepen understanding of the intersection between TB and human rights, with a focus on addressing stigma, discrimination, and access to justice. Through these efforts, a total of five judges per project country were sensitised, meeting our target. The sessions promoted critical discussions on how the judiciary can play a proactive role in protecting PATBs' rights and emphasised the importance of treating TB not only as a health issue but also as a justice issue. In Nigeria, Lawyers Alert met with the President of the Federal High Court towards advancing CRG TB legal remedies. JWHO in Zimbabwe also carried out advocacy with the Judicial Services Commission to

lobby for their involvement in the policy dialogue towards advancing access to TB legal remedies.



Fig. 12: Dr Rommy Rommy holding a judicial dialogue with the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court of Nigeria

As a result of these engagements, initial commitments by judges to advance a rights-based TB response were evident, with some judges demonstrating greater awareness of and empathy for PATBs' rights and lived experiences. In Kenya, PATBs had the opportunity to present their challenges to the judges, who, in turn, committed to safeguarding their rights to non-discrimination, reflecting an emerging alignment with rights-based principles. Before this intervention, there were few deliberate efforts to engage the Judiciary in these countries in the CRG TB response.



Fig 13: Policy Dialogue In Pictures Hon.

Susan Matsunga, Member of Parliament for Budiriro and Hon. Daniel Molokele sharing insights during the meeting



Fig. 14: Zimbabwe Policy Dialogues with MPs.

This intervention provided the first opportunity to engage with the judiciary on TB issues. Engaging these stakeholders has therefore heightened their knowledge of the CRG TB response and the need for extensive legal and policy reforms on TB that address emerging rights violations and provide access to legal remedies.

This work laid the foundation for a long-term impact: promoting judicial environments in which human rights, public health, and social justice inform decisions regarding PATBs.

Technical support for Members of Parliament (MPs) to develop and adopt rights-based, people-centred TB laws and policies

Through a series of structured engagements, including high-level meetings and group dialogues, MPs were sensitised to the human rights dimensions of TB and the need for legal and policy reforms to address stigma, discrimination, and lack of access to remedies for people affected by TB (PATBs). Partners in project countries carried out CRG advocacy to members of parliament. Notably, in Nigeria, Lawyers Alert engaged with the House of Representatives Committee on TB/HIV/Malaria to ensure collaboration and support in advancing community rights and a gender-focused TB response in Nigeria. The chairman of the committee pledges the committee's commitment to advancing advocacy for domestic funding for TB and to examining relevant legislation to strengthen remedies for TB-related rights violations in Nigeria. JHWO in Zimbabwe also engaged with parliamentarians to raise awareness of TB legal issues, advocate for policy changes, and mobilise support to strengthen the legal landscape for the TB response. The Chairperson of the Parliament Portfolio Committee on Health was engaged and sensitised about the linkages between TB and the country's legal landscape.

Furthermore, an achievement was the development of five legislative briefs, tailored to national contexts, which served as advocacy tools and reference materials during parliamentary sessions. MPs responded positively, demonstrating increased interest in aligning TB laws with international human rights standards. In Nigeria, a legislative instrument on TB was drafted with MP involvement, addressing key issues such as confidentiality, workplace protections, and non-discrimination. These efforts contributed to a notable outcome: greater engagement by MPs in the TB response, with early implementation indicators emerging in some countries. Additionally, media coverage and public dialogue on lawmakers' role in TB legal reform increased significantly, enhancing transparency and political will. Ultimately, this work strengthened the legislative environment for TB response, paving the way for the establishment and full implementation of rights-based, people-centred TB laws in the target countries.

Engagement of TB Communities

Lawyers Alert and country partners in project locations actively engage TB communities to advance rights-based TB laws and legal remedies. In Kenya, KELIN facilitated two Community Dialogues in Kisumu and Makueni Counties, engaging stakeholders in dynamic discussions concerning community health and legal rights. The Dialogues brought together a diverse array of stakeholders, including members of the Court Users Committees, TB champions, County TB Coordinators, Sub-County TB Coordinators, prison department representatives, and health advocates. Community members were empowered with knowledge on how to identify and report violations, reinforcing the importance of ensuring the rights of individuals affected by TB.

In Ghana also, Score TB engaged with people affected by TB, people who have been treated for TB and their families to solicit the exact challenges they face regarding TB Treatment or services rendered to them, discrimination they face in the community or their workplaces. The National TB Program, Lawyers, civil society, Security service, Ghana Army, Prison service, and TB-affected people were also engaged in knowledge sharing on Ghana laws that may be availed to persons affected by TB whose rights are violated.

Key Impact of the Regional work:

The regional work has facilitated a unique multisectoral platform where lawmakers, judges, people affected by TB, CSOs, NTPs, lawyers, and health workers in the region are in conversation about human rights remedies and TB-related laws. Scaling up this process in other countries within the region will create a unique regional platform where Parliamentarians, Judges, lawyers, people affected by TB, CSOs, and health workers can directly engage with and influence laws and policy reforms to advance a people-centred, rights-based TB response within the region.

This intervention includes the legal component of conducting a country-level legal landscape analysis. Not all in-country partners are legal organisations with lawyers working within them, making the issue of rights and the law “alien” to these organisations. In navigating this legal landscape, Lawyers Alert received interesting

feedback from Jointed Welfare Hands in Zimbabwe, one such organisation. In their own words, ***“We were enlightened on the legal framework of our country and its impact on TB response. The process also enabled us to work closely with legal experts to review the document, thereby nurturing a relationship we intend to continue to use as we do our TB work.”*** This has undoubtedly improved and changed the organisation's situation: ***“This opened our eyes to ensure we continuously engage them and work with them, especially in advancing the rights of people affected by TB”***.

Additionally, the project facilitated coordination and networking among CSOs, CBOs, and partners working on TB in the region, thereby improving organisational capacity to advocate for a people-centred and rights-based TB response and access to justice, as was evident during the UNHLM on TB.

The Anglophone African regional road map can be deployed for continuous engagement in the region to influence lawmakers and judges in the region and in countries towards Human rights-based TB response, laws, and remedies. This project also has the potential to improve CRG Assessment results, leading to intensive country engagement beyond the project countries.

The MPs and Judiciary should better recognise the role they play in ensuring that TB laws and policies are people-centred and rights-based, and in ensuring that access to legal remedies for violations is restricted. Notably, this intervention served as an eye-opener, heightening awareness among relevant stakeholders of CRG TB issues and their role in advancing a rights-based and people-centred TB response, thereby ensuring access to and availability of legal remedies.

As a result of this intervention, there is enhanced coordination between CSO partners and Parliamentarians at the country level under the Global TB Caucus. This is unique, as CSOs in the countries are now poised to engage parliamentarians to demand accountability for the UNHLM declarations.

Conclusion

Lawyers Alert's TB work has fundamentally strengthened the legal, policy, and institutional environment surrounding tuberculosis in Nigeria and across Anglophone Africa. By embedding community rights and gender into the TB response, Lawyer Alert's work has helped shift the narrative from a purely medical approach to one grounded in justice, accountability, and dignity. The impact of this work is reflected in strengthened legislative momentum, increased political and judicial awareness, improved access to legal remedies, and the meaningful inclusion of persons affected by TB in governance and advocacy processes. TB is now more widely recognised as both a health and human rights issue, requiring structural reform and sustained accountability.

Overall, Lawyers Alert has laid a durable foundation for a people-centred and rights-based TB response, one that advances equity, protects against stigma and discrimination, and promotes access to justice as an essential component of ending TB.

