



...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 organizations, 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 document and analyzing 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 mobilization of people affected by TB in the disease response. The Nigeria LEA also made a series of detailed and targeted recommendations for reforms to Nigeria's. Undoubtedly, Global interventions in TB have evolved from exclusive medical interventions to broader themes focusing on communities, human rights, and gender considerations.

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 prioritized the experiences and participation of communities affected by TB, including key and vulnerable populations. The Nigeria TB situation, as highlighted in the data by Stop TB above, highlights 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 recognizes 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 Stop TB Partnership Geneva under the Challenge Facility for Civil Society Round 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 the systematic documentation. We monitored and documented reported instances rights violations violations to address the gap of lack of reliable and verifiable data and to provide evidence-based advocacy interventions aimed at improving right based TB response in Nigeria. To achieve this, Lawyers Alert organized an all-inclusive stakeholders consultative meeting (media, lawyers, PATBs, State Program, Healthcare Practitioners and CSO's) to identify and map right-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 were mapped, and key indicators were identified towards the expansion of Lawyers Alert online documenting 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 towards evidence-based advocacy addressing remedial measures & the challenges encountered. The tool was disseminated to community members to document violations.

These violations were captured across all the states in the country, in addition to the project states (Lagos and Abuja). The tool captures and documents experiences of PATBs 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 takes the lead among other TB violations at 53%. The violations report has been validated as a national

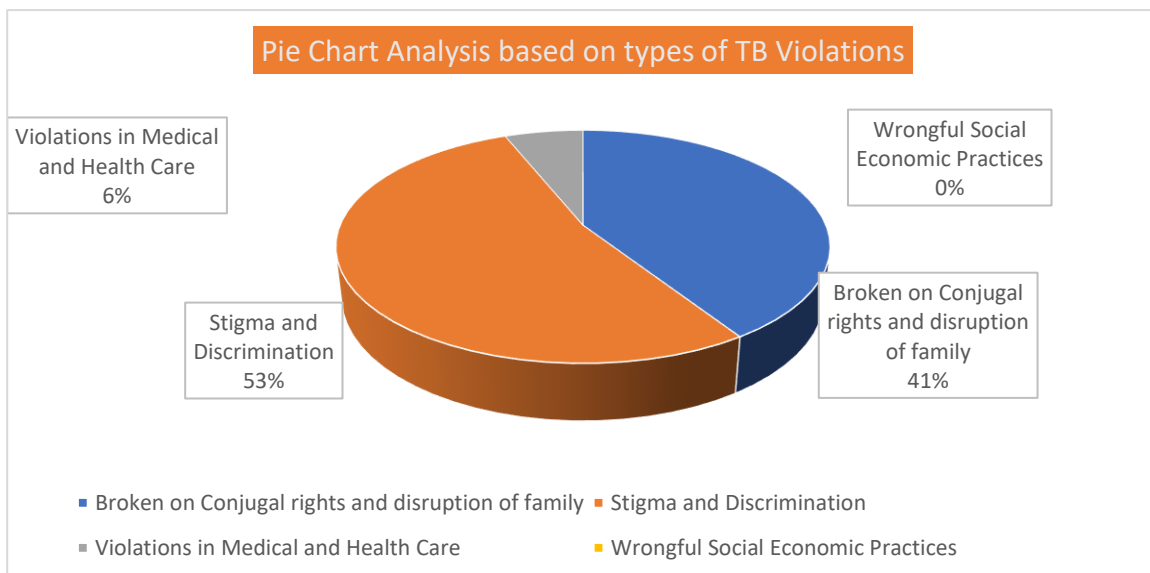


Fig 2: Pie Chart analysis of TB violations.

The violation analysis is a representation of documented incidents from the period of 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, constantly and reporting violations with the resultant effect of gathering data and evidence for effective advocacy. Our work aligned strongly with this STP area by introducing and scaling innovative tools and approaches to enhance 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 a resources that has engineered the National TB Bills and the TB Bills before the Benue State and Akwa Ibom State house of assembly.

2. Movement Building

In 2022 with the Support of Stop TB Partnership, Lawyers Alert facilitated the creation if 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, communications, and exchanges targeted at strengthening the coalition was also established. These platforms have served not just as a medium of communication between the agencies, but also as a continuous capacity-building hub on TB and rights. Several virtual meetings have been held in trying to address issues of relationship with lawyers, media, and PATBs, including the development of a road map on how lawyers can provide free legal services when the need arises. 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 action plans which it implemented to facilitate 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 Polices 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	Organize 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 TBProgram, 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 TB Coalitions Joint Action Plan

The coalitions actively engaged key stakeholders including government agencies, civil society organizations, healthcare providers, and media representatives through advocacy visits, sensitization sessions, and awareness campaigns to promote a rights-based and people-centered TB response . Policy briefs were disseminated which were used 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 the support of the Gender Equality fund, Lawyers Alert engineered the formation of two women-led movements in Akwa Ibom state and Benue State. These movement are made up of women leaders and women led organisations mapped in Akwa Ibom and Benue (about 15women leaders and women led CSO's per state). These movement 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 capacity for sustainable advocacy efforts that address the systemic barriers women and marginalized 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 guides coordinated advocacy to address gender inequities and promote an inclusive, people-centered HIV, TB, and Malaria response. The developed advocacy plans support gender-responsive health access. 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

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 who was undergoing treatment, the authorities were involved regarding the harassment and she was given access to justice following intervention, highlighting the power of legal action in combating stigma.



Fig 5: Beneficiary reporting right violations to a lawyer during an awareness campaign in Lagos state.

Furthermore, trained lawyers brainstormed and carried out a 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 case in court seeks to change the narrative on right to health in Nigeria and discrimination on the basis of health status (TB Status) and also generate the demand for CRG TB approach through the court. Trained lawyers brainstormed to further expand the frontiers of PATB Rights and address issues of stigma and discrimination.



Fig 6: Lawyers Brainstorming on TB Strategic Impact Litigation.

The SIL filed to challenge discrimination based on TB status and reinforce the right to health in Nigeria, has opened avenues for expanding CRG approaches through the judiciary. Four innovative strategies emerged from lawyer brainstorming sessions to improve 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, making them take charge of the advocacy process under the developed action plan, lead community engagements, and aid access to rights-based TB responses and legal support. For example, referrals for legal support and reportage of rights violations were coordinated by TB people in Nigeria.

Lawyers Alert carried out a series of advocacy at the Federal and State Tuberculosis Control Program to further its interventions towards a TB right-based approach. In collaboration with the NTBLCP, we have built capacity building for Officials of the NTBLCP and health care workers on rights-based, people-centered TB response.



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

Additionally, Lawyers under the TB Coalitions in Abuja and Lagos carried out human rights sensitisation and awareness at the community level during the Nation TB Testing Week and engaged with the National and Lagos State TB Programs on effective human rights-based TB response in their interventions. Lawyers' Alert engagement with the Media who are also members of the TB coalition has increased the awareness of the media to inform the general public on TB prevention and care. The media have also shown interest in stories around Lawyers Alert and other stakeholders' TB work and have reported the same as editorials and development issues as against the practice of reportage around events.



Fig 8: Pictures from TB awareness campaign.

5. Legal Score Cards

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 use to guide stakeholder engagement and policy dialogue.

This assessment was carried out through the scoring matrix and via desk review, field-based data via 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 catalyzed discussions around legal and policy reforms.

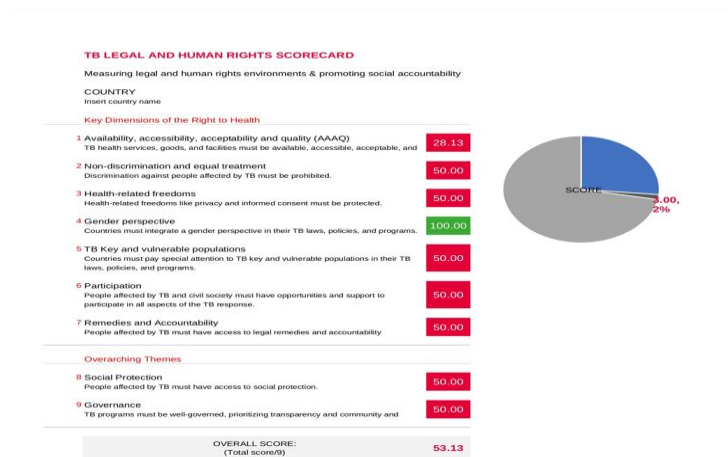


Fig 9: Result from the Legal Scorecards Deployment

The deployment of the scorecards amongst stakeholders, particularly NTBLCP, has heightened awareness of CRG issues in the country and the initiation of actions towards implementing the CRG action plan. The results from the evaluation conducted with the scorecard provide the 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 institutionalizing a rights-based, people-centered 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 laws and policies engaging lawmakers 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 State on laws and presentation of a draft Bill on TB at both States Houses of Assembly (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 a human rights and justice concern. Some of the impacts are:

- Lawyers Alert institutionalized 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 recognized as a credible accountability tool supporting 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 institutionalizing legal protections on confidentiality, non-

discrimination, workplace safeguards, and access to remedies for PATBs.

- The organization 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 addressing systemic barriers faced by women, embedding gender equity within 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 conduct the framework for legal and policy research analysis. The legal landscape analysis conducted in these countries documents TB legal frameworks and the availability and accessibility of legal and other kinds of 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 realistic actions to be taken to aid access to remedies for people affected by TB. It outlines the TB legal framework in the countries, analyzing 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 serves 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 results leading to intensive country engagement and development of a regional road map 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 for not just the in-country implementing partners, but serves as a huge advocacy tool across the region, which can be deployed by any stakeholder for 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 analyzing 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. Emphasizing structured engagements, the regional roadmap aims to influence a human rights-based TB response, shaping laws and remedies to 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 have enhanced access to remedies, representing a solid foundation toward achieving equitable TB laws and justice for affected communities in Anglophone Africa.

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

Judicial dialogues were held in each project country, Kenya, Ghana, 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 sensitized, meeting our target. The sessions promoted critical discussions on how the judiciary can play a proactive role in protecting the rights of PATBs and emphasized the importance of treating TB as not only a health issue but a justice issue as well. 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 to the Judicial Services Commission to lobby for their involvement during 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 an outcome of these engagements, initial commitments of judges to advance a right based TB response were observed, with some judges demonstrating improved awareness and empathy toward the rights and lived experiences of PATBs. In Kenya, PATBs had the opportunity to present their challenges to the judges, and the judges, in turn, committed to safeguarding their rights to non-discrimination, reflecting an emerging alignment with rights-based principles. Prior to this intervention, there were few interventions deliberately targeted at engaging the Judiciary in these countries on the CRG TB response.



Fig 13: Policy Dialogue In Pictures Hon. Susan Matsunga, Member of Parliament for Budiroiro 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 CRG TB response and the need for extensive law and policy reforms on TB, which address emerging rights violations and provide access to legal remedies.

This work laid the foundation for a long-term impact: promoting judicial environments where decisions concerning PATBs are informed by human rights, public health, and social justice.

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

Through a series of structured engagements, including high-level meetings and group dialogues, MPs were sensitized on 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 commitment of the committee in advancing efforts to advocate for domestic funding for TB and to examine relevant legislation towards enhancing remedies for rights violations associated with TB in Nigeria. JHWO in Zimbabwe also engaged with parliamentarians to raise awareness about TB legal issues, advocate for policy changes, and mobilize support for strengthening the legal landscape for the TB response. The Chairperson of the Parliament Portfolio Committee on Health was engaged and sensitized about the linkages between TB and the country's legal landscape.

Furthermore, an achievement was the development of five legislative briefs on laws, 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 TB response, with early indicators of implementation emerging in some countries. Additionally, media coverage and public dialogue around the role of lawmakers 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 towards advancing 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, Score TB also 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 towards knowledge sharing on Ghana laws that may avail to persons affected by TB whose rights are violated.

Key Impact of the Regional Work:

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

This intervention has the legal component of carrying out a legal landscape country analysis. Not all in-country partners are legal organisations that have lawyers working within, making the issue of rights and the law “alien” to the organisations. In carrying out this legal landscape, Lawyers Alert had an interesting feedback from Jointed Welfare Hands in Zimbabwe, one of such organisations. 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 closely work with legal experts to review the document thus nurturing a relationship which we intend to continue using as we do our TB work***”. This undoubtedly has improved and change the situation of the organization as “***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 amongst CSOs, CBOs, and partners working on TB in the region, thereby improving organisational capacity in advocating for a people-centred and rights-based TB response and access to justice, which was evident in the process at 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 a 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 project countries.

The MPs and Judiciary should better recognize the role they play in ensuring that TB laws and policies are people-centered and rights-based, and ensuring restricted access to legal remedies for violations. Notably, this intervention served as an eye opener and heightened awareness of these relevant stakeholders on CRG TB issues and their role in advance, rights-based, and people-centered TB response, which will ensure access and availability of legal remedies.

Courtesy of this intervention, there is enhanced coordination between CSO partners and Parliamentarians at the country levels under the Global TB Caucus. This is unique as CSOs in the countries are now poised to engage parliamentarians in demanding accountability on 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 recognized 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-centered 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.

ABOUT LAWYERS ALERT

Lawyers Alert is a Justice Sector Civil Society Organization that is Non-Profit, Non-Partisan, and Non-religious, working in six African countries: Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. It is made up substantially of Lawyers and other professionals committed to the entrenchment of democracy, rule of law, and socio-economic development of citizens, with particular emphasis on women. With over two decades of existence, the organization has actively served its target beneficiaries. They include Women, Female Sex Workers, Sexual Minorities, Persons affected by TB, People Living with HIV, People who use and Inject Drugs, and People Living with Disabilities (PWDs), amongst others. Lawyers Alert Nigeria is committed to empowering women and other vulnerable groups with the knowledge of their rights and ensuring access to effective, affordable mechanisms for enforcing those rights. Through legal education,

representation, and strategic advocacy, we aim to transform the lives of individuals and communities by promoting community rights and gender TB response.

We envision a just and inclusive society where persons affected by TB, women, and all vulnerable populations live free from injustice, discrimination, and violence, empowered to know their rights and seek legal remedies. To realize this vision, Lawyers Alert partners with a robust network of pro bono lawyers across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones. These dedicated professionals lend their expertise to advance strategic litigation and public interest cases that challenge systemic human rights violations and promote legal reform.