



# RIGHT TO BREATHE

SCALING UP HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

AMONG PEOPLE WITH AND AFFECTED BY

TUBERCULOSIS IN ASIA-PACIFIC



In 2018, Member States committed to ambitious targets to end the TB pandemic. The Political Declaration to Ending TB sets key commitments and targets around intensive case finding, prevention, treatment and post-treatment care and support, and financing. However, no specific strong targets were adopted around addressing human rights issues on TB, stigma and discrimination, and meaningful engagement of key populations to TB as well as TB survivors. Despite this, the advocacy has already shifted to change the paradigm of the global TB response with a greater focus towards people and communities. Similarly, efforts around rights-based approaches to TB have started to gain global traction. This shift needs to rollout and formalise at the regional and country levels by mobilising and building the advocacy of people with TB, TB survivors, and those most affected by the epidemic. Presently, however, this level of awareness and understanding of human rights principles remain relatively low among populations living with and affected by TB. Efforts towards integrating and operationalizing human rights principles in national TB responses are also further challenged by restrictive political environments in most parts of the region.

To address these gaps, APCASO, in partnership with the Activists Coalition of TB - Asia Pacific (ACT! AP), with support from the Stop TB Partnership Challenge Facility for Civil Society (CFCS) 2019, USAID, and the Global Fund, will implement the "RIGHT TO BREATHE" project beginning August 2020 to July 2021. This grant aims to scale up human rights advocacy within the TB response by establishing an Asia Pacific human rights advocacy agenda for TB that will provide APCASO and ACT! AP a framework for advocacy for as we engage with the national,

regional, and multilateral bodies including international funding donors such as The Global Fund. RIGHT TO BREATHE project will also provide in-country support in the rollout and implementation of national TB and human rights advocacy plans in Nepal, Papua New Guinea, and Viet Nam. By the end of this grant, a regional human rights advocacy agenda complemented by an advocacy roadmap, and a national-level commitment as an outcome of a regional dialogue will be produced. Civil society organisations, TB-affected communities, and TB survivors will become more aware of their human rights and can identify and document human rights violations, and link to appropriate legal and paralegal services as necessary. Through advocacy-related efforts in this grant, national governments will be guided in shifting towards a more human rights-based approach to addressing TB in their respective countries.

RIGHT TO BREATHE will be a pathfinder for Asia Pacific towards a more human rights-based, people-centered TB response. It is expected that by the end of this grant, shift in the paradigm of the current national TB responses and regional approach to the TB responses - will transform these responses to be more responsive to the issues and challenges faced by key populations and people with tuberculosis. At the same time, this will also fill the gap of facilitating civil society and TB-affected communities, using the human rights advocacy agenda for TB that will be developed that is contextual to the region, to engage with UN, The Global Fund, and other multilateral decision- and framework-setting bodies.

## GOAL

To establish an Asia Pacific human rights advocacy agenda that will influence national TB responses and align with the regional and global TB agenda for a rights-based TB response.

TB



## OBJECTIVES

1. Support civil society, TB-affected communities, and TB survivors groups in the rollout of the TB and Human Rights Training Manual and in the implementation of their advocacy plans
2. Lead the development of a regional human rights advocacy agenda for the TB response
3. Advocate and influence inclusion of human rights agenda into the regional and national TB responses

Q3 2020

Online regional TB and Human Rights Training of Trainers (ToTs)

Q4 2020 - Q2 2021

In-country work (Nepal, Viet Nam, & Papua New Guinea) and technical support to national TB and Human Rights advocacy plans

Q1 2021

Community-led Asia-Pacific advocacy agenda and roadmap development

Q2 2021

Virtual Regional Dialogue between NTP and civil society on the regional advocacy roadmap

## OUTCOMES

TB-affected communities & TB survivors are aware of their rights and can identify human rights violations  
Asia Pacific TB & human rights advocacy agenda and roadmap adapted into national TB and human rights priorities, and regional TB processes & strategies



[APCASO](#) is a regional network of community-based organizations and nongovernment organizations working on HIV, health, and social justice. As the secretariat of the Activists Coalition on TB - Asia-Pacific (ACT! AP), it facilitates the coordination and communication among TB-affected communities, TB survivors, and civil society organizations working on TB in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Activists Coalition on TB - Asia-Pacific (ACT! AP) is the first regional coalition of TB activists. Emerged as an outcome of a regional TB activists' meeting led by APCASO and the Global Coalition of TB Activists (GCTA) in 2016, ACT! AP focuses its work around five commitments to action: (1) giving TB the political attention it deserves; (2) presenting an alternative model to the pervading biomedical approach; (3) overcoming barriers to TB treatment & diagnostics; (4) advocating for an adequate and strategic TB investments; and (5) supporting a coordinated and capacitated TB community and activist movement in the Asia-Pacific region.

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