

GOVERNMENT, LABOUR AND BUSINESS UNITE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO REDUCE TB IN MINING

INTRODUCTION

When then Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa launched a major anti-tuberculosis campaign in SA on World TB Day in March 2015, the country's mining sector and regions were always going to be an important part of it. The theme of the national campaign is "Ending South Africa's TB epidemic: Accelerating our response in Key Populations". Tuberculosis (TB) prevalence on mines and in surrounding mining towns is higher than the national average.

That is why the departments of Health and of Mineral Resources, the four primary mining unions - Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU), the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM). Solidarity, UASA - and the Minerals Council South Africa (then Chamber of Mines) in December 2015 launched Masoyise iTB, a major TB screening campaign in South Africa's mining sector.

THE GOALS AND TARGETS OF MASOYISE ITB

The Masoyise iTB initiative is planned to run over three years from 2016-2018. The ultimate goal is to reduce TB incidence on mines and in mining regions to below the rate for the general population. Of course, it is hoped that the national campaign will reduce TB incidence in the country as a whole in that period too. To achieve that goal we have the following targets:

TARGET 1

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Every mine employee to be screened for TB each year

TARGET 2

Every mine employee to be offered voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) for HIV each year

TARGET 3

Extend contact tracing

into mining communities

TARGET 4

Support to small mines



Support to mine contractors







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WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The companies affiliated to the Minerals Council South Africa already run extensive TB screening and VCT programmes and offer comprehensive treatment services for employees.

Although as much continues to be done to address TB and HIV in mining, a key challenge has been the plateauing percentage of employees counselled for HIV

These are the key statistics for 2017.

EMPLOYEES SCREENED FOR TB



90%

431 622 Total employees

388 460 Screened for TB

EMPLOYEES COUNSELLED FOR HIV



72%

431 622 Total employees







Solidariteit Solidarity





FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

Mine Health & Safety Council: http://www.mineralscouncil. org.za/work/health-and-safety/ masoyise-itb/masoyise-itbresources

THESE NUMBERS SHOW:

- Minerals Council members are close to meeting the targets in their own ranks. A final push is required to get there.
- Small mines and contractors require help and persuasion to embrace the campaign targets.
- Development of a contact tracing programme into communities is another of Masoyise iTB's big challenges.





