

# Vuka! Let's unite towards a TB-free world!

9th SA  
**TB**  
Conference  
8 - 11 June 2026



## The role of Faith Based Organisations in HIV & TB Response: A Theological and Public Health Response to Tuberculosis and HIV Co-Infection in South Africa

***Boitumelo Moloisane<sup>1</sup>, Kacey Sbusiso Biza<sup>2</sup>, Phumla Mamsabe Jonas<sup>3</sup>***

**Affiliation:**

*<sup>1</sup>-Reach what you preach, South Africa*

*<sup>2</sup>-Lisoletu Community Outreach Projects, South Africa*

*<sup>3</sup>-Mogale City Local Aids Council, South Africa*

*<sup>4</sup>-Civil Society Forum Faith-Based Organisation sector, South Africa*



# BACKGROUND

South Africa is stated to be among the top eight countries with the highest burden of tuberculosis (TB) alongside substantial HIV co-infection; significantly increasing vulnerability, mortality and treatment complexity, these factors necessitating urgent interventions.

With a surging estimation of 270,000 new cases and 56,000 deaths in 2023, TB is still found to be shaped by stigma, poverty, delayed care-seeking, and non-adherence to treatment.

The Christian Faith communities, been deeply embedded within South African Societies, represent a critical yet underutilized resource in the TB response.

As a foundation, the Christian Theology affirms healing and compassion as central to human dignity, as reflected in Christ's mission "to heal the sick and restore their health" (Mathew 4:23), framing TB not only as a medical condition but as a communal and moral concern.

# METHODOLOGY



This study does not only investigate South Africa's continued TB burden surge as well as epidemiological analysis and trends thereof, but also adopts a qualitative, interdisciplinary approach integrating theological reflection and public health analysis.

The compound of Biblical texts on healing, stewardship and shared responsibility such as the body personified as 'God's temple' (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) and the call to "carry each other's burdens" (Galatians 6:2) are examined alongside South Africa's TB-HIV public health frameworks and established faith based health initiatives.

Secondary data from peer-reviewed literature and policy documents inform the analysis.



# RESULTS



The findings reveal a solid alignment between Christian Theological Ethics and Public Health Objectives and more effectively in stigma reduction, health education, early referral, and treatment adherence.

In resonance to faith-inaction adaptability concerning community health and sustainability; James 2: 17 urges that; “Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead” thus Faith-based spaces were identified as effective platforms for promoting health-seeking behaviour and reinforcing adherence among TB-HIV co-infected populations.





# LESSONS



The study accentuate that TB is not solely a biomedical issue but a social and spiritual issue.

The Church's calling to compassion and restoration (Mathew 9:35) positions faith communities as influential agents in shaping health-related attitudes and behaviours.



# RECOMMENDATIONS



Public health programmes should formally integrate Christian Faith communities through structured training, partnerships and referral pathways.

Theological Institutions are encouraged to incorporate Public Health Literacy into ministerial training, discipleship, outreach evangelism, enabling Churches to contribute to meaningfully to sustainable, community-centred TB control efforts.

