7TH GLOBAL FORUM ON TB VACCINES | 8-10 October 2024 | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Driving innovation from discovery to access

The TB Vaccine Advocacy Roadmap (TB Vax ARM): A global case study of advocacy best practice

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Background: The TB Vaccine Advocacy Roadmap (TB Vax ARM), formed in 2021, is the first globally coordinated advocacy coalition committed to advancing TB vaccine research and development. The network includes affected community, civil society and nonprofit representatives and leads collaborative, global advocacy initiatives aligned with ongoing research and policy efforts.

Approach: The core group conducts activities across the following domains: convening (webinars, regular meetings, conference programming); analysis (policy briefs); advocacy (campaigns, targeted bilateral engagement with decision makers, civil society input to consultations); and capacity building (research literacy, fellowships).

Results: The TB Vax ARM, selected as a WHO TB civil society best practice, comprises over 200 members. The webinars routinely reach 150 people and the core group has contributed to the 6th Global Forum and 2022 and 2023 Union Conference programming. The network has published two T20 policy briefs proposing recommendations to enhance G20 leadership through joint, sustained, scaled up investments. The TB Vax ARM informed the vaccine commitments at the 2023 TB UN High-Level Meeting (HLM), including via an open letter campaign to member states endorsed by almost 1200 signatories from 90 countries. Previous campaigns targeted G20 Ministers of Health and Finance (2021) and European leaders (2022) with the former profiled by the Guardian Global Development. Two online fellowships with community members, advocates and early career researchers from high burden countries have been conducted, with the most recent leading the HLM letter campaign.

Discussion: The TB Vax ARM represents a unique and valuable addition to the field, raising awareness about urgent priorities and informing decision making through evidence-based policy proposals. The network offers a dedicated platform to engage diverse partners around the world to amplify global advocacy calls and strengthen capacities.