

Preparing the landscape for TB vaccines: South Africa's strategic planning

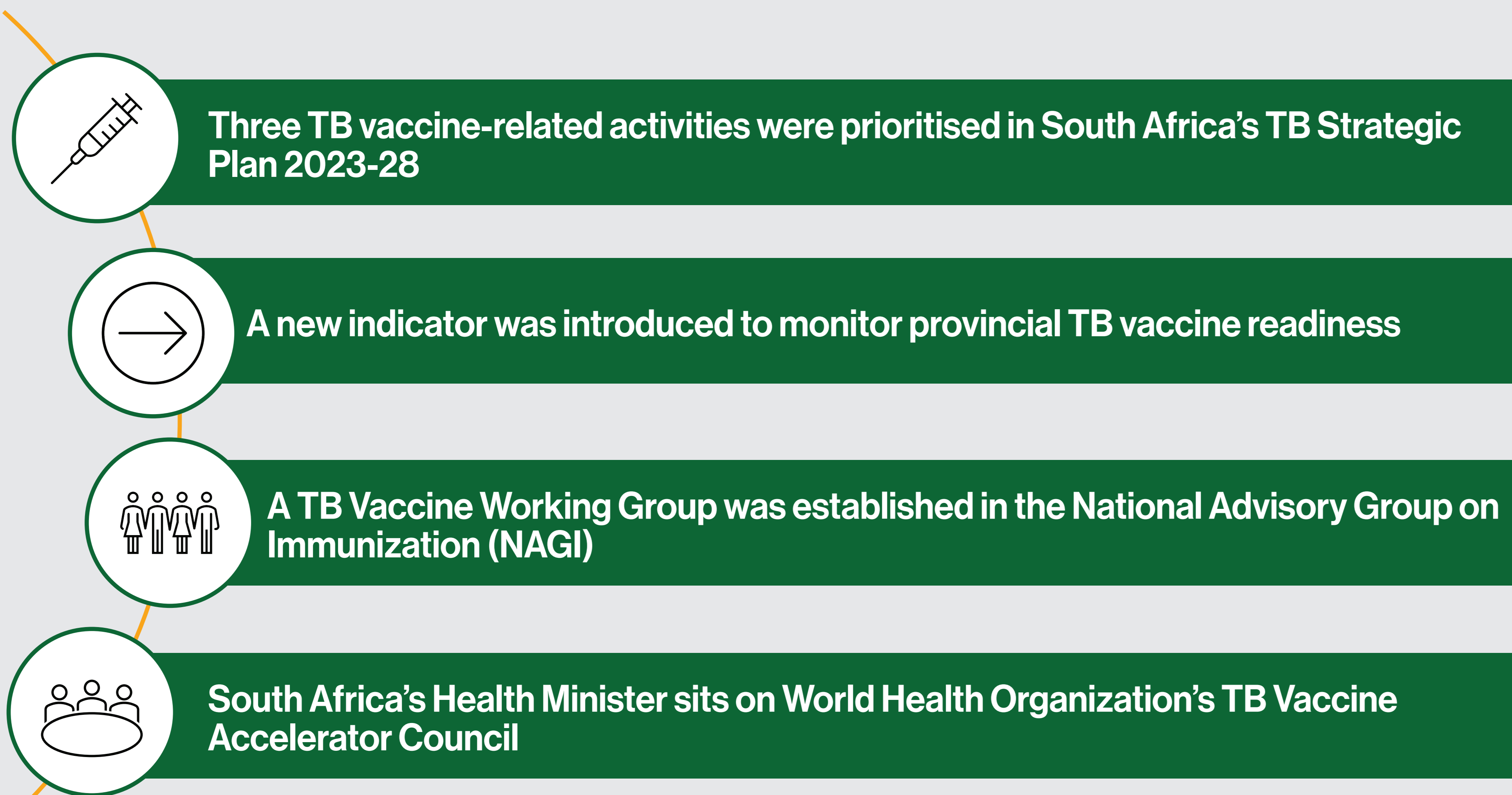
N Ndjeka, L Mvusi, P Ximiya, T Sole Moloto, N Mkhondo, D Goldberg, W Jassat, AS Karat, J Boffa, M Dube, P Subrayen

Background & Methods

To support the national TB vaccine initiative, the TB Think Tank, a national collaboration of TB stakeholders, worked closely with South Africa's national TB programme (NTP) to provide evidence-based guidance to prepare for TB vaccines in the planning cycle 2023 – 2028.

Members of the TB Think Tank consulted with national and provincial TB programmes, reviewed World Health Organization recommendations, liaised with experts in TB vaccine research and development, and considered COVID-19 vaccine facilitators and challenges. Working closely with the NTP, the TB Think Tank put forth recommendations that were formalised in the country's national TB Strategic Plan 2023 – 2028. In addition, the NTP prioritised TB vaccine preparedness within existing Department of Health structures.

Results



Vaccine-related activities in TB Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028

Pillar I: Communicate and Advocate

Activity: Develop a strategy to combat misinformation to reduce TB vaccine hesitancy

Pillar IV: Prevent and Prepare

Activity: Engage with national and global programmes to monitor TB vaccine candidates

Activity: Prepare a TB vaccine implementation plan

Conclusion

Role of national stakeholders

National TB Programme	TB Think Tank	NAGI TB Vaccine Working Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop national TB vaccine implementation plan Provide guidance to provinces Roll out vaccines, once available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesise evidence to support policy and implementation Investigate vaccine acceptability Provide scientific support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate efficacy, safety, and cost effectiveness Identify priority groups Develop recommendation for TB vaccine introduction Inform TB vaccine service delivery strategies

South Africa has prioritised vaccine preparedness as reflected in the NTP Strategic Plan, 2023-28. In collaboration with the national TB Think Tank and NAGI, preparatory work for the introduction of TB vaccines is currently in progress.