

ORGANIZATION PROFILE



PARADISO
TB PATIENTS TRUST



Reach, Treat, and Cure

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Background of the Organization

Paradiso TB Patients' Trust is a community TB initiative, functioning as a Non-Governmental Organization existing according to the laws of Malawi, with its offices in Lilongwe. Founded in 2000 but officially registered in 2003; Paradiso is led and supported by people living with HIV and those affected by tuberculosis. It runs programs in Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS in nine districts of Malawi namely Lilongwe, Mchinji, Dowa, Dedza, Zomba, Phalombe, Neno, Nsanje, and Chikwawa.

The Organization established local TB clubs composed of TB survivors and people living with HIV (volunteers) that are housed within the Ministry of Health's Community Health Centres which are core to the program implementation of the organisation. The organization uses the TB Clubs to implement various activities in the communities we work in. Currently, the organization works in nine districts in which it directly delivers TB and HIV/AIDS programs in sixty health centres and Zomba maximum prison with a membership base of over one thousand volunteers across the sixty health centres. In addition, Paradiso works in HIV and AIDS programming, disseminating HIV and AIDS information, referral for HIV Testing and Counselling Voluntary Counseling and Testing, follow up of patients diagnosed with HIV, initiate them on treatment, and support them to live positively through our support groups of people living with HIV called Paradiso Support Groups (PASUGOs). The organization also works and supports orphans and vulnerable children whose parents died or are affected by HIV and AIDS, and TB with school fees, nutrition, and school supplies. In addition, we work with pregnant women living positively to encourage and ensure they access prevention of mother to child transmission services especially in Ngwenya area in Lilongwe. The volunteers do assist pregnant women with transportation to and from the hospital in the process. Pregnant women living positively whose children are positive are given counseling and guidance, and some trained in vocational skills such as tailoring.

The organization has core competencies and a seven-member board that provides oversight and policy direction. The members are experts in their various fields of finance, community programming, TB, HIV and AIDS, and governance. The secretariat has 23 members of staff, who are qualified and experienced in their respective fields. In addition, we have vibrant structures serving in the communities we work in the 60 health centres in the 9 districts.

Paradiso strongly believes in partnerships and continuously engages with other stakeholders such as Ministry of Health, Department of HIV and AIDS, National TB and Leprosy Elimination Program, Traditional Leaders, Parliamentarians, Ward Councilors, donor community, Civil Society and Advocacy Forum (CSAF), and other organisations such as MANASO, MANET+, NONM, FACT, COWLHA, MANELERA in a bid to get support and advocate for TB, HIV and AIDS, at community, national, regional, and international platforms.



Vision, Mission, Values



VISION

A well-informed/enlightened and supported community on TB, HIV/AIDS issues.



MISSION

To provide people infected and affected by TB, HIV and AIDS the best services and information required for informed health-care seeking decision through capacity building and collaboration with relevant stakeholders from a rights based perspective.



VALUES

1. Volunteerism
2. Discipline
3. Professionalism
4. Integrity
5. Inclusiveness and Diversity
6. Innovation



Our Approach

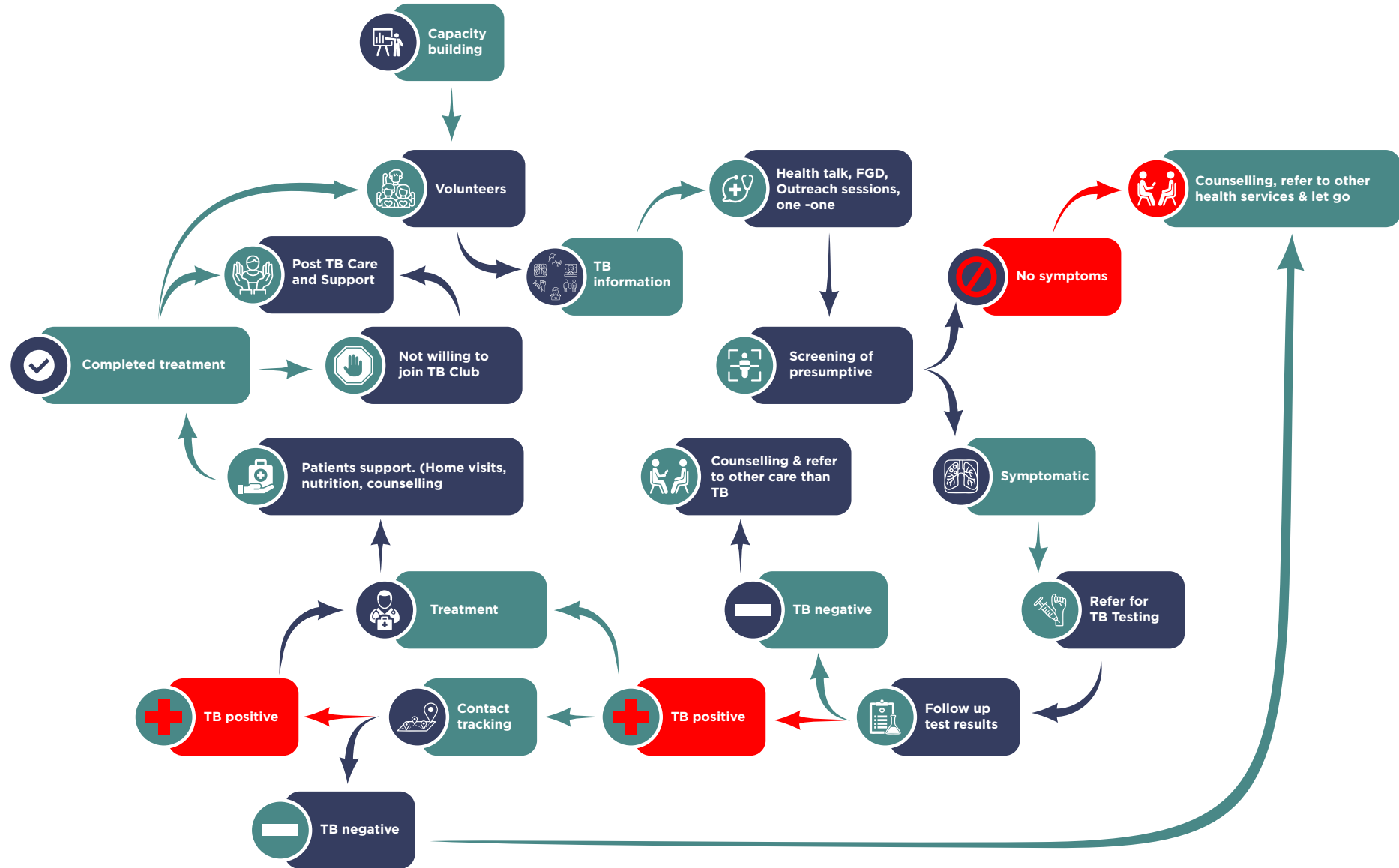
The TB Club members/volunteers disseminate TB information in the communities, screen for symptomatic cases using the four cardinal TB questions, and refer presumptive cases to health facilities for TB testing using a coded card. Volunteers then follow up on test results of symptomatic(s) and give feedback to clients regardless of the results. Those diagnosed with TB are put on treatment; the Volunteers follow them up for treatment adherence up until the patients successfully complete treatment. Patients who have completed treatment and are willing are encouraged to join the TB club. With the Post TB disability project, the scope of care now continues to former TB patients facing disabilities/activity limitations after completing treatment.

Currently, the organization organization is implementing its programs in nine districts in which it directly delivers TB programs in 60 health centres with a membership base of one over a thousand volunteers across the 60 health centres but we expect to expand significantly in the coming years. In addition, Paradiso works with Paradiso Support Group (PASUGO), a group of people living with HIV where they share experiences and conduct awareness raising sessions including advocating for their rights at the community level.

Paradiso TB Patients Trust has played key role in advocating for TB and HIV and AIDS in Malawi. The organization played a major role in facilitating the establishment of the parliamentarian TB Caucus committee in Malawi, which is key in policy change regarding TB Health care services. The organization is involved in the planning, organization, and actual event of the national world stop TB Day commemoration in the country. Paradiso TB Patients Trust is an active member of the Civil Society and Advocacy Forum (CSAF) and the TB Civil Society Organisations Network in Malawi and has been part of key advocacy undertaking by the two fora and these include the establishment of the “Liu Lathu” under PEPFAR projects and Community-led monitoring” under the global fund and PEPFAR in the country. Lastly, we engaged key stakeholders (DHMTs, DEC, MOH, NTLEP, UNILIA) to advocate and get buy-in on the issues affecting TB survivors with post-TB disabilities. Through these efforts, we have managed to advocate the inclusion of post-TB management in the TB National Strategic Plan (NSP) and added post-TB disabilities as an emerging issue in the curriculum at the University of Livingstonia.



Theory Of Change



Reach, Treat, and Cure

Our Programs

TB



The organization works with communities to raise awareness, screen for TB, refer presumptives to the health facility, support patients during treatment until they are cured, and support TB survivors after they are cured. The organization utilizes the TB club structure which is composed of TB survivors as role models and implementors of the interventions mentioned in the communities it implements its activities. In regard to TB, the organization serves the general community, the elderly, children, prisoners, miners, ex-miners, families of miners and ex-miners, and TB survivors with impairments. In 9 districts across 60 health facilities.

TB IN MINES:

This project was conducted in Neno and Phalombe districts. In the pilot phase, we implemented TB in mines in Neno and Phalombe while in the second phase of the project we implemented the intervention in Phalombe District only. The aim of the project was to reach artisan miners with TB information and raise awareness of the health hazards they face in regards to their health and TB. In Addition, Paradiso engaged with Mining companies to educate and encourage them of the importance to provide safety gear to their workers. Though the project phased out, we are still working in the 2 districts engaging and disseminating TB information to the artisan miners and general population.



TB IN PRISONS:

As part of our partnership with the extraordinary LHL International (LHLI); one of the key indicator is to have a sustainable CSO in place. LHLI has employed several activities to help Paradiso grow as an organization from administrative to programmatic support (technical and financial) from 2006 up to the present. One of the approaches encouraged by our partner organization LHLI was exchange visits between partners they are supporting which include countries such as Zambia, Tanzania, Sudan, Romania, and Russia. One of the exchange visits was made in 2017 to Zambia where a partner organization; the Community Health Education Program (CHEP) is implementing a project in prison called “in but free”. The visiting team learned a lot from this visit on TB in prison which became the basis for our approach to the TB in prison program. In 2018, to bring context to what we learned, we conducted research at Zomba maximum prison entitled: Implementing successful tuberculosis (TB) control program in prisons in Malawi: A case of Zomba Prison. Based on the Results of the research, we have been implementing TB programs such as peer educators training, TB information dissemination, periodic mass screening, and capacity building of health workers at Zomba Maximum Prison since 2019 to present.



Our Programs

POST TB MANAGEMENT

Recently the organization implemented a project titled Filling the Gap: Finally Addressing Post TB Disability in Malawi. Through the project, we assessed 2011 TB survivors for various Post-TB Complications, including their lives before TB, during TB, and after TB, measuring health, social, and economic perimeters. We collaborated with Physiotherapists to develop and established low-cost lung rehabilitation Programs in 9 health centres reaching 467 beneficiaries in the 7 implementation Districts. In addition, we supported 90 TB survivors with nutrition packages, and trained 1050 TB survivors and Nurses in inclusive health communication and post-TB disability management.



HIV AND AIDS



Founded as a community-based organization providing home-based care, catering to people with HIV, the CBO turned local NGO still runs programs in HIV and AIDS. The organization works on-demand creation of HIV and AIDS in the communities we serve, providing psycho-social counseling, a support group for people living with HIV, support, and access to PMCT for pregnant mothers with HIV, nutritional support especially to children living with HIV, school funds and fees support to children living with and affected by HIV and AIDS in the communities.

ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS

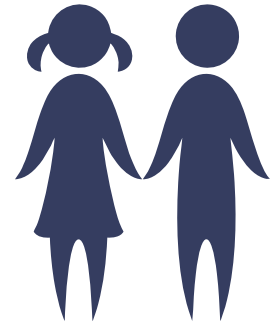
Paradiso TB Patients Trust strongly believes in communities taking part in raising awareness of issues and challenges they are facing and taking part in advocacy work the same. The organization utilizes its network of more than a thousand TB survivors and people living with HIV to advocate for different agendas they are facing. The organization has been instrumental in advocating for the establishment of the parliamentarian TB caucus and the addition of post-TB management in the TB national strategic plan revision.



Our Programs

OVC AND PEN-PAL PROJECT:

Paradiso supports Orphans and vulnerable children whose parents were infected and affected by TB and HIV/AIDS with education support; school fees, and school materials such as school bags, shoes, uniforms, school fund for primary school students. The pen-pal project connects 120 children coming from vulnerable homes in Ngwenya area with counterparts/pals from Norway. Each child has been connected with a pal and they write each other back and forth: due to the relationship, children from Malawi have been able to benefit from not only the culture and learning but materials such as toys, blankets, uniforms, school shoes, and bag.



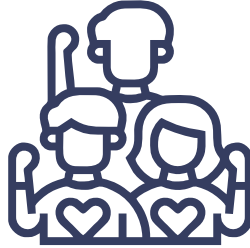
COMMUNITY/SOCIAL MOBILIZATION:

PTBPT main goal is to disseminate TB and HIV/AIDS information to communities especially the underserved. Community mobilization and engagement to raise awareness of TB and HIV/AIDS is very fundamental to all the work of the organization. Volunteers disseminate information through different mediums such as health talks, focus group discussions, outreach sessions, one on one sessions, distribution of information education communication (IEC) materials such as booklets, and use of media platforms such as the radio in some districts. The volunteers do these activities at different platforms in the communities we serve such as at funerals, health centres/facilities, schools, churches, marketplaces, and other community gatherings. They actually create demand for TB services at the health centres they are housed due to the awareness campaigns. It is at these information dissemination activities that the volunteers screen, identify, and refer TB symptomatic(s) to the facility.





Our Membership



1091 VOLUNTEERS



16 STAFF MEMBERS



7 BOARD MEMBERS



Our Impact



526,058 people
reached with TB/HIV
information



82,734 People
out of the 505,424
screened for TB



23,600 People
out of the screened
identified as
presumptive(s)



1,420 People
out of the presumptive(s)
diagnosed with TB



140 MDR-TB Patients
assisted with nutrition
support



805 People
people underwent
VCT



398 Mothers
accessed EMTCT



94 Children
living with HIV
supported



868 Children
children supported
with Nutritional
support



400 People
supported with psychosocial
counseling



2,011 TB Survivors
assessed for Post-TB
Disabilities



467 TB Survivors
with PTLD
participated
in the LRP