

OUR BOARD



Board Chairperson: **Michael Macharia - Public Health Clinical Specialist**

Michael is a seasoned public health professional with over 14 years of experience in tuberculosis (TB), HIV/AIDS, and other infectious diseases. A skilled leader in public health programming, policy development, and community engagement, he has dedicated his career to advancing equitable, evidence-based healthcare interventions for vulnerable populations.

As a key member of Kenya's TB Committees of Experts (COEs), including the Drug-Resistant TB COE and the TB Health Sector Working Group, Michael has been instrumental in shaping national TB strategies and guidelines. His contributions include playing a pivotal role in the development of the Kenya National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis, Leprosy, and Lung Health 2024–2028, as well as the Multi-Sectoral Accountability Framework for TB, among other critical policies.

Currently, Michael serves as the regional lead for Western Kenya at the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB), where he oversees TB service delivery across supported health facilities in four counties. Under his leadership, TB treatment success rates have consistently ranged from 90–92%, and TB mortality has been reduced by 40%.

Michael is also experienced in resource mobilization and grant management, having been integral to the successful application and implementation of the Challenge Facility for Civil Society Round 11 grant in Bungoma and supporting STOP TB-K in securing funding for Round 12.

In addition to his technical expertise, Michael is deeply committed to strengthening community health systems and promoting human rights-based approaches to healthcare. His work emphasizes collaboration with civil society organizations, government agencies, and donors to ensure person-centered care and scalable impact.

Michael holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Health from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and has completed various professional certifications, including Leadership and Management in Health and Economic Evaluation in Global Health from the University of Washington.

As a trusted advocate and technical expert, Michael continues to be a leading figure in Kenya's fight against TB and other infectious diseases, leveraging his strategic insight, technical skills, and passion for health equity.

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Board Vice Chairperson : **Erick Okioma - Social Media / Communication Specialist**

Erick Okioma is a dynamic TB-HIV grassroots campaigner, community health advocate, and transformative leader whose ability to bridge gaps between communities and policymakers has brought impactful change in Kisumu County and beyond. With over 19 years of experience in Kenya's civil service, managing construction projects in the Ministry of Public Works, Erick transitioned to full-time community service, dedicating over two decades to advocacy, capacity building, and resource mobilization for vulnerable populations affected by TB and HIV.

Erick holds a Graduate Diploma in Community Development and Resource Mobilization and a Diploma in Project Management, alongside specialized training in HIV/AIDS program management, HIV testing and counseling, research ethics, and resource mobilization. This solid educational background complements his practical efforts in addressing complex community challenges.

As the Chapter Lead for the Network of TB Champions Kenya, Kisumu Chapter, and Team Leader of the Nelson Mandela TB HIV Information CBO, which he co-founded in 2014, Erick has spearheaded initiatives that support youth, adolescent girls, and persons with disabilities. He has also coordinated impactful projects like the Wezesha Dada Project, empowering adolescent girls through digital literacy and media advocacy, and mobilized communities as the National Coordinator for the AIDS Candlelight Memorial in Kenya to combat stigma and raise awareness about HIV.

Erick is a passionate human rights advocate, with extensive training from organizations like KELIN and ARASA. He champions the rights of people living with HIV and actively campaigns for equitable healthcare access. His contributions to research and policy advocacy are strengthened by his membership in multiple Community Advisory Boards (CABs), driving evidence-based solutions to health challenges.

A strong proponent of community-led solutions, Erick is dedicated to ensuring that health interventions are inclusive, sustainable, and informed by the realities of those they aim to serve. His leadership has been pivotal in developing Kisumu County's Digital Health Roadmap, coordinating the HIV Stigma Index Survey, and organizing major health-related events such as World AIDS Day and TB Day. His skills also extend to sports coaching, farming, and mentorship, which he uses to inspire and engage youth.

Erick's advocacy extends to the global stage, where he represents Kenya in forums addressing human rights, digital health, and community empowerment. Recognized for his leadership and impact, he has received numerous awards and certificates of appreciation for his contributions to HIV research, stigma reduction, and public health campaigns.

With a vision for sustainable change, Erick continues to lead impactful initiatives and empower communities, creating ripples of transformation in Kisumu County and beyond.

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National Coordinator / Secretary to the Board : **Stephen Anguva Shikoli - Human Rights Activist**

Stephen holds multiple roles in various organizations, demonstrating his extensive commitment to advocating for tuberculosis (TB) patients and combating stigma. He serves as the National Coordinator of the Network of TB Champions Kenya and is actively involved in global and national working groups such as The Global Coalition of Tuberculosis Activists. Stephen represents TB-affected persons in the Kenya TB Health Sector Working Group and contributes to the Kenya Human Rights Technical Working Group.

Stephen's journey began in 2009 when he battled TB amid stigma and discrimination, which inspired him to establish the Pamoja TB Group. As the Executive Director, he leads advocacy efforts for improved TB services and addresses stigma issues in Nairobi. Stephen's leadership led Pamoja TB Group to implement the Impact4TB TPT Advocacy Project, supported by Treatment Action Group Grants since 2020. His dedication was recognized with the PEPFAR Heroes Award in 2021 for ensuring uninterrupted TB services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stephen has been instrumental in planning the World TB Day National events since 2015, focusing on integrating TB-affected communities into TB control efforts. He played key roles in international events, including attending UNHLM on TB in New York in 2018 and 2023 and participating in the first TB Survivors summit in Hyderabad, India, in 2019.

Currently, Stephen works as a Data Manager and Lead Field Assistant for Malteser International's Global Fund TB project in Nairobi. He was part of the delegation that attended the Multi-Sector Hearing on TB, UHC, and PPPR in New York in May 2023, advocating for TB awareness globally.

Stephen's involvement extends to various committees and panels, including serving as Chair of KAVI-ICR Kangemi CAB and representing Kenya in the SMART4TB Afro CAB under a USAID project. He is also a member of the National Steering Committee for PLHIV Stigma Index 2.0 and contributes to the development of TB legal frameworks and human rights assessments in Kenya.

Throughout his career, Stephen has used his platform to amplify the voices of TB patients globally, advocating for better health services and human rights protections

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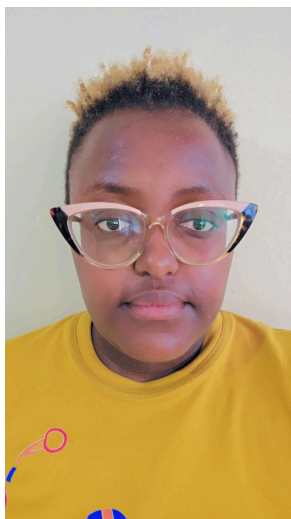


Treasurer to the Board : **Timpiyan Leseni - Project Management Specialist**

Timpiyan Leseni is a Tuberculosis advocate with an ongoing bachelor of art degree in community development before being a TB advocate, she was trained as a computer technician maintaining and optimizing computer systems both hardware and software.

Timpiyan current responsibilities include educating the community on the signs and symptoms of tuberculosis both pulmonary and extra pulmonary (Zoonotic TB) and the importance of adherence, forming psychosocial support groups for TB patient, contact tracing, lost to follow up, strengthening community health facility linkages on TB/HIV, educating the Maasai community on the importance of building their traditional houses with proper ventilation. She was involved in reviewing the National strategic plan for Tuberculosis, leprosy and lung health, trained on human rights, gender and data for key population tools for TB/HIV. 2015-2017 an alternate member for TB constituency in Kenya Coordinating Mechanism for Global Fund and in 2016 she was selected a member of WHO Civil Society Task Force and a member of the WHO guideline development group.

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Member: **Maryann Wambugu - Certified Public Accountant**

Maryann Wambugu is a dedicated Certified Public Accountant (CPA) student at an advanced level and a passionate youth leader committed to advancing health issues related to HIV, tuberculosis (TB), sexual reproductive health and rights, and mental health. She represents Adolescents and Young People at the Kenya Coordinating Mechanism (KCM) for The Global Fund, where she advocates for the inclusion and prioritization of youth health issues in national health strategies, ensuring that the voices of young people are central to decision-making.

In her role as Assistant Team Lead at ALFAJIRI, a community-based organization, Maryann actively promotes mental health awareness among young people, and she leads discussions on the need for adequate health financing to support youth-centered interventions. Her work in these spaces focuses on both improving the mental health of young people and addressing the systemic barriers they face in accessing care.

As Board Treasurer of Y+Kenya, Maryann combines her financial management skills with her advocacy efforts. Her role involves overseeing the organization's budgeting, financial planning, and resource allocation, all while ensuring transparency and accountability. Her ongoing CPA studies at an advanced level further strengthen her capacity to manage the financial operations of Y+Kenya, supporting its mission.

Maryann is dedicated to ensuring access to treatment and support services, promoting body autonomy, and empowering young people to make informed decisions about their health. She champions youth-led and youth-centric programs and interventions, emphasizing the importance of youth voices in health policy and programming. By aligning her financial expertise with her advocacy work, Maryann plays a key role in driving sustainable and impactful youth health initiatives across Kenya.

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Member : Jackson Agufana - Rights Activist for Differently Abled Persons / International Relations Expert

Agufana Jackson is a disability advocate who is passionate about promoting the rights of visually impaired people. Jackson currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya Union of the Blind, the national organization of the visually impaired, whose mission is to advocate for social inclusion of the visually impaired. As a Rise Up Leader, his aspiration is to champion the mainstreaming of political, economic, social, technological, environmental and legal issues of women and girls with disabilities.

Jackson serves as the regional President of the Africa Union of the Blind (AFUB), overseeing policies and programs of associations of the visually impaired in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Djibouti, Somali, Sudan and Seychelles. He holds a B.A in French and International Relations, and a post-graduate diploma in Community Development Studies.

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Member : **John Beku – MPH | Public Health Specialist**

Mr. John is a distinguished public health specialist with a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Nairobi and over 15 years of extensive experience in strengthening health systems, empowering community systems, and shaping health policy development. His career spans a diverse portfolio of initiatives that have enhanced healthcare delivery, improved community health outcomes, and fostered organizational growth across Eastern and Southern Africa.

John brings a unique blend of technical expertise, strategic insight, and leadership acumen, with a proven track record in organizational development, governance, and capacity building. He has consistently demonstrated the ability to lead multidisciplinary teams and collaborate with diverse stakeholders to achieve impactful and sustainable health solutions.

Professional Experience

Health Systems Strengthening

John has played a pivotal role in advancing health systems by leading strategic planning initiatives that have improved healthcare infrastructure and optimized resource allocation. His contributions have enhanced service delivery in various health facilities across the region.

Community Systems Strengthening

Recognizing the importance of community engagement in healthcare, John has been instrumental in empowering local communities to actively participate in shaping their health outcomes.

Health Emergencies

John has demonstrated exceptional leadership in health emergencies, emphasizing preparedness, resilience, and rapid response.

Organizational Development, Governance, and Leadership

In addition to his technical expertise, John has substantial experience in organizational development, governance, and leadership. He has guided organizations through capacity assessments, governance reforms, and strategic realignments to enhance efficiency and accountability. His unwavering commitment to advancing public health, coupled with his expertise in organizational leadership and development, has positioned him as a leader in driving impactful health and development interventions. His contributions continue to inspire progress and resilience across communities and institutions in Africa.

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Member: **Nkirote Mwirigi - Public Health System Specialist**

Nkirote is a dynamic leader in TB control, serving as the TB PPM, Human Rights, and Gender Coordinator at the National TB Program in Kenya. With over a decade of experience in TB programming and health systems management, she has significantly advanced TB initiatives across the country.

Nkirote's educational background includes a Master's Degree in Public Health Systems Management and a Bachelor's Degree in Medical Laboratory Sciences, equipping her with a robust foundation in both technical and managerial aspects of healthcare.

Her career is marked by her pivotal role in developing and implementing effective TB policies and guidelines, particularly within the private sector. Nkirote's strategic approach has fostered robust public-private collaborations, enhancing the accessibility and quality of TB services. These partnerships have been crucial in expanding TB care, ensuring that more Kenyans receive timely and effective treatment.

A staunch advocate for human rights and gender-sensitive TB programming, Nkirote has worked tirelessly to create inclusive health strategies that address the needs of vulnerable populations. Her efforts have led to more equitable TB services, aligning with global health standards and improving outcomes for all affected communities.

Nkirote's expertise in TB policy, health systems strengthening, and public-private partnerships makes her an invaluable asset in the fight against TB. Her commitment to innovative and inclusive approaches ensures that TB control measures are both effective and sustainable, particularly in engaging the private sector to achieve comprehensive health solutions.

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Member : Rosemary Kiige - Clinical Officer

Rose is a Clinical Officer with over 10 years of experience in tuberculosis (TB) care. Passionate about clinical work, advocacy, and early diagnosis, she is dedicated to offering expertise both in professional settings and within the community.

With a strong commitment to patient-centered care, Rose treats clients with dignity and empathy, providing health education to patients, their families, and the broader community. She values teamwork and continuously seeks to enhance skills and knowledge.

Currently serving as the Subcounty TB Coordinator in Murang'a County, she plays a key role in managing TB care at the local level and remains enthusiastic about collaborating with teams and learning new approaches to improving TB outcomes

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Member : **Rashid Mohamed Diis - Social Worker**

Rashid Mohamed Diis is from the pastoralist community, born and bred in Mandera county of Kenya. Rashid is a social justice community development practitioner and is the Executive director of Arid lands action forum, a community based pastoralist grassroots organization in the arid County of Mandera.

Rashid Mohamed Diis is a dedicated and compassionate social worker with profound commitment to fostering positive change in individuals and communities.

Rashid has sharpened his skills in addressing complex social issues and providing support to those in need. His passion for social justice and advocacy is evident in his tireless effort to empower marginalized communities and promote support for humanity.

Throughout his career, Rashid has demonstrated exceptional proficiency in case management and community outreach, his is firm and solid to build collaboration and synergy as prelude to design and implement programs that address the unique challenges faced by vulnerable communities.

Rashid's expertise extends to areas such as human rights, governance and democracy, Health rights advocacy, climate justice and community land rights. His advocacy – centered approach and ability to establish partnership and networking is a milestone which has contributed to the success of numerous intervention and initiatives.

Rashid's Devotion and dedication to interminable learning and professional development is mirrored in his zestful participation in workshops, seminars, and training opportunities within the field of social work .Rashid Mohamed embody the principles of empathy, zeal, and resilience, making a lasting effect on the lives he touches and epitomize the literal ethos of social work.