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The South Africa Knowledge Hub was formed in April 2013 by the Government of South Africa in cooperation with the World Bank. The Hub supports implementation of development goals by sharing successful examples of service delivery, developing solutions to prioritized development challenges, and facilitating the scaling up and delivery of solutions and lessons learned. It also supports knowledge sharing between South Africa and other countries within the Southern Africa region and beyond. The work of the Hub focusses on three main areas or pillars: Health, Education, and Cities Support.

The Hub follows a particular process in order to achieve its goals. These goals include learning from practical know-how of development practitioners in peer countries, adapting these insights to local conditions to ensure optimal delivery outcomes, and facilitating continuous learning and testing of results.

The Hub draws from South Africa’s unique development experience and leverages the combined strength of the World Bank Group and its ability to partner with the public and private sectors to deliver customized development solutions backed by finance, world class knowledge and convening services. The aim is to create a virtuous cycle of growth and development to foster evidence-based policy development and effective service delivery.

The Hub works collaboratively with partners including national governments, private sector, civil society, research institutions, and development partners etc., to:

- Highlight and share learnings and successful examples of service delivery from the national and international sphere in order to facilitate knowledge-sharing between South Africa and other countries;
- Develop solutions to prioritised development challenges through an open and organic network of practitioners;
- Apply rigor to the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of solutions; and
- Facilitate the scaling up and delivery of solutions within South Africa and beyond.

By fostering multi-country and multi-stakeholder consultation and dialogue, and by making use of insights gained from past delivery interventions, the Hub is helping to develop the most suitable solutions, thus optimising success.

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A KNOWLEDGE HUB?**

A Knowledge Hub enables countries to learn systematically by sharing and exchanging development experiences and models with domestic and international partners, in order to accelerate development.

The purpose of each country-led Hub, as the World Bank perceives it, is aligned to the needs of the country or sub-region. In South Africa, the Hub will evolve based on the ever-changing needs of the country. Currently, it supports implementation of development goals by sharing successful examples of service delivery, developing solutions to prioritized development challenges, and facilitating the scaling up and delivery of solutions and lessons learned. It also supports knowledge sharing between South Africa and other countries within the Southern Africa Region and beyond.

“In other words, the biggest challenge [for South Africa] right now— they feel that they have very good political processes, they feel that they have great policy, but they want to get better at actually implementing and delivering results for their people.”

Dr. Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank
The objective is to:

Support sustainable health reform focusing on three main areas:
Reducing the disease burden;
Supporting the pathway to universal health coverage; and
Resolving service delivery challenges.

The initial focus of the Hub’s work has been reducing the disease burden through regional action against Tuberculosis and HIV/TB in the mining sector, and resolving service delivery challenges. It has more recently been expanded to cover activities supporting the pathway to universal health coverage.

Mineworkers in South Africa are three times more likely to be infected with TB than the general population. Mineworkers have a TB incidence rate of 2,500-3,000/100,000 people, which is 10 times the level that the World Health Organization classifies as an emergency. With about half a million mineworkers in South Africa and an estimated two million ex-mineworkers spread across South Africa and three neighbouring labour sending countries (Swaziland, Lesotho, Mozambique), the scale of the problem cannot be understated.
KEY FOCUS AREAS OF THE TB IN THE MINING SECTOR INITIATIVE

Support for better analytical underpinnings for implementation

In response to requests from ministers of health and minerals and mining companies in Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland, the World Bank has undertaken a series of analytical studies in order to generate a strong evidence base on the causes and challenges of the TB epidemic among mineworkers, ex-mineworkers and mining communities. This evidence base is necessary to inform the design of new and innovative solutions to a century-old challenge.

Innovation and Collaboration

The Bank is mobilizing new resources to pilot cutting edge projects and is engaging stakeholders including national governments, private sector, civil society, research institutions and development partners (the Stop TB Partnership, DFID, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, etc.), to tackle the drivers of TB among mineworkers: living conditions, lifestyle factors, high-risk status, and limited service access.

Harmonization of protocols and funding to address the challenge

A critical function reflecting the Bank’s coordinator role has been the stewardship of multi-donor funds for efficient and non-duplicative use in mining-related TB activities, as well as the signing of a declaration on TB by the Heads of States of the Southern Africa Development Community and the development and endorsement of the framework for harmonized management of TB in the mining sector which has provided an important proof-of-principle for the harmonized regional approach.
KEY MILESTONES: TB IN THE MINING SECTOR INITIATIVE

1. A groundbreaking Declaration by the Heads of States of the Southern African Development Community to eradicate TB in the mining sector.

2. Two successful pilot projects of cross-border tracking of mineworkers with TB to ensure continuity of care.

3. A geo-spatial mapping of all mineworkers, ex-mineworkers, their families, and health services in South Africa.

4. Launch of South Africa ‘90-90-90’ initiative by the Minister of Health. The initiative aims to screen 90 percent of all mineworkers, put 90 percent of those infected with TB on treatment, and lastly, ensure that 90 percent of those are successfully treated.

5. Two new model occupational health centers are providing services to ex-mineworkers and improving access to compensation.

6. Mobilization of resources. The UK Department for International Development has provided a £2 million grant for the TB in the mining sector initiative. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has approved $30 million to scale up the TB response in ten countries: South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The resource mobilization has also included preparation of $120 million World Bank Group regional project to scale up TB prevention and treatment in the mining sector in four SADC countries: South Africa, Lesotho, Mozambique, and Swaziland.

7. A regional Harmonized Framework for the Management of TB has been developed and endorsed by countries. Comprehensive training modules for service providers and health workers are being rolled out in countries to facilitate the implementation of the framework.
What is a Knowledge Hub?
Knowledge Hubs are institutions or networks that enable countries to learn systematically by sharing and exchanging development experiences with domestic and international partners in order to accelerate development.

Why create a Knowledge Hub?
Building a Knowledge Hub is a practical way for countries to respond to the increased demand for knowledge exchange worldwide. Enhancing knowledge exchange, especially between emerging markets, is expected to have a direct impact on sustainable development and poverty reduction.

What is the role of Knowledge Hubs?
Each Knowledge Hub evolves differently. However, Knowledge Hubs may cover five “functional areas“:

- Build support among policy-makers for knowledge exchange as a tool for accelerated development
- Systematise knowledge and solutions available for critical sectors in a country
- Engage with partners abroad and connect them to national institutions
- Provide tools for making knowledge happen, for example, through modalities such as dialogues, expert visits, twinning arrangements, etc.
- They facilitate access to funding

Who owns The Knowledge Hub?
Each Knowledge Hub is structured differently but it is typically a joint initiative between the World Bank and a nation state.

Where else in the world do Knowledge Hubs exist?
Brazil, China, Indonesia, Mexico, Singapore, South Africa, Poland and several other countries. There is significant political will from a wide range of countries expressing interest in the creation of Knowledge Hubs.

Who funds Knowledge Hubs?
Knowledge Hubs are funded through a mix of national resources, international support, cost-sharing models and private sector engagements.