

## Masoyise Health Programme Q&As

### 1. What is the Masoyise Health Programme?

The Masoyise Health Programme is a Minerals Council-led multi-stakeholder programme focussed on leading the mining industry's commitment to the fight against TB, HIV, occupational lung diseases and non-communicable diseases. The vision of the programme is **“A mining industry that protects and maximises the health and wellness of its employees.”** Its goal is **“To reduce the impact of TB, HIV, OLDs and NCDs as occupational health threats in the mining sector”**.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) - such as cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), including hypertension (HPT), cancers, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes - are the leading cause of mortality and disability globally.

### 2. When was it established and why?

The programme was established in 2018 and aligns with the country's focus on wellness. Its predecessor was the Masoyise iTB project which ran for three years from 2016 to 2018. The project was a response to then Vice President Cyril Ramaphosa's call to decrease TB in high risk sectors. It formed part of the broader national campaign he launched in 2015.

After a review in November 2018, both the Masoyise Steering Committee and the Minerals Council Board decided to extend the project's work as the Masoyise Health Programme, for a further three years (2019 -2021). The programme has a wider focus beyond TB and HIV. It has adopted a wellness approach that incorporates TB and HIV, non-communicable diseases (diabetes, hypertension, mental health) and occupational lung diseases (silicosis, coal worker's pneumoconiosis, among others).

### 3. What is the programme's target population?

Masoyise targets people in mine communities especially employees and groups that are particularly identified as high risk; some of the focal populations, depending on the disease are:

- young women,
- sex workers,
- older women,
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer (LGBTIQ+),
- men who have sex with men, and
- men.

#### **4. Given Masoyise's new focus on non-communicable diseases what plans are in place to make improvements in this area?**

Masoyise is committed to improving the overall health of its targeted population and will continue to align its work with that of its stakeholders. In a study conducted with Minerals Council member companies between 2009 and 2014, diabetes increased on average by 22.02 % per annum, hypertension increased by 25.05 % per annum and people living with HIV increased by 16.2 % per annum. Employees diagnosed with TB showed an average decrease over the same period.

As a tripartite initiative, under the Mine Health and Safety Council (MHSC), the mining industry set the following HIV and TB targets/milestones to curb TB, HIV and OLDs in mines, which Masoyise has adopted:

- Offer HIV Testing Services to 100% of employees annually and link those who test positive to an ART programme;
- Reduce TB incidence in the mining sector to or below the South African national TB rate by 2024;
- By December 2024, 95% of all exposure measurement results will be half the legislated exposure limits for crystalline silica and coal dust;
- No new cases of pneumoconiosis reported amongst previously unexposed individuals (previously unexposed individual is individuals unexposed prior to December 2008. i.e. equivalent to a new person entering the industry at 2009.

#### **5. Does Masoyise support any government led initiatives?**

Masoyise works closely with government departments such as the Department of Health's TB and HIV Directorates as well as the MBOD/CCOD, and the Department of Mineral Resources. It aligns some of its targets with those of South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) for HIV, TB and

STIs; honouring goal six of the NDP which requires that plans of government and non-government sector are aligned with the NDP and the strengthening of collaboration with government.

The NDP recognises the need to ensure service delivery is integrated, comprehensive and focused. It significantly increases the focus on prevention, treatment uptake, coverage and adherence, and ending discrimination and stigmatisation. At the same time, it recognises the need to direct specific programmes to those areas with the highest burden and to those populations that are disproportionately affected.

South Africa has now committed to a National Wellness Campaign which will run between 2018 and 2020, which was launched on World AIDS Day 2018. The campaign includes all sectors of society and promotes screening for HIV, TB, STIs, hypertension and diabetes.

## **6. Who are Masoyise's stakeholders?**

Although the programme is Minerals Council-led, it has been, from the very beginning, a collaborative multi-stakeholder initiative. It is made up of representatives from Minerals Council member companies, trade unions (NUM, Solidarity, AMCU, UASA), government (Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Mineral Resources (DMR), the Mine Health and Safety Council (MHSC), National Health Laboratory Service and National Institute of Occupational Health), SABCOHA and multilateral organisations including UNAIDS, ILO and WHO.