

## Benvie, Ruth

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**From:** APOPO - Hero Rats <herorats@apopo.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 12:00 PM  
**To:** Benvie, Ruth  
**Subject:** MARCH 2021 IMPACT UPDATE: CAROLINA THE HERORAT

The latest news about your HeroRAT adoption.

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Hello Ruth,

It's time for the latest Impact Update from Carolina, your adopted HeroRAT! Carolina spent March sniffing through **2,450 samples**. With an **accuracy rate of 81%**, she found an **additional 59 cases of tuberculosis (TB)**. HeroRATs like Carolina use their incredible noses to detect the unique organic compounds specific for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, and our HeroRATs improve clinic detection rates by as much as 40%!

**Your continued support of Carolina makes a huge difference - thank you so much.**

## GOT TO STAY FOCUSED



*Carolina's hard work is rewarded with a tasty snack!*

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## WORLD TB DAY - MARCH 24



On March 24th, APOPO joined our global partners to recognize and raise awareness for **World Tuberculosis Day**. We stood in solidarity with the global fight against COVID-19 and asked for renewed commitment to end TB by 2030.

The Stop TB Partnership announced that “12 months of COVID-19 eliminated 12 years of progress in the global fight against tuberculosis”. They shared new data showing that nine of the countries with the most tuberculosis (TB) cases saw drastic declines in TB case detection in 2020, bringing the overall number of people diagnosed and treated for TB in those countries to 2008 levels, **a setback of 12 years!**

How is it that the emergence of a new respiratory disease has such an impact on the ‘old’ respiratory disease TB with its established control programs and a global goal to eliminate TB?

[Find out more](#)

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## FIGHTING THE STIGMA OF TB

In many areas of the world, diseases like tuberculosis are still poorly understood. Those who fall sick can face discrimination and stigma due to their illness. In addition to helping partner clinics increase their detection rates, APOPO works to raise awareness about tuberculosis and remove the stigma that prevents many from seeking treatment.



While Abdulrahman's wife was pregnant, he began to feel ill. A local clinic was unable to find out what was causing his pain and weight loss. Too sick to work and scared for his unborn child, Abdulrahman moved away. His co-workers avoided being near him, worried that they might be at risk. Sick and missing his wife's pregnancy, Abdulrahman worried about losing his job and being unable to feed his children.

Despite the clinic's negative TB result, HeroRATs like Carolina confirmed that Abdulrahman did have tuberculosis and he was able to start treatment right away. Now, he is reunited with his family and able to live a full and healthy life.



[Read Abdulrahman's story](#)

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