

News from the partnership...

Partners Speak

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From our desk...

"Seeing is believing" - The recent visit to the districts of Bishnupur and Churachandpur, Manipur were an eye-opener for me. The partnership between the community support groups, NGOs (ESEWOSSA and AIGUPTA) and the District TB officer has been formalized. Community support group members now refer chest symptomatic (TB suspects) to the DMCs with a referral slip provided by the NGOs and sometimes also accompany the TB suspects to the DMCs. The results of sputum microscopy are conveyed to the NGO representative and they pass it on to the person tested. The defaulter list also collected regularly by the NGO representative from the DTO and defaulter retrieval is done by the community support group members. Coordination meetings are held regularly with the DTO and the NGO through the District Advisory Committee. I am sure that similar activities and progress is evident in other states. This is really a great beginning and efforts need to be strengthened by all of us in this partnership.

Happy Reading...

Write to Win!

Prizes for the best TB reporting and messages

REACH and the Lilly MDR-TB Partnership will be awarding prizes for the best reports, radio and TV spots and cartoons, in English, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada and Telugu. You can send in your entries throughout the year, up to March 1, 2010. Apart from prizes in each category, the best media person for TB reporting for the year will be awarded a grand prize on World TB Day March 24, 2010. Blogs will also be included for consideration by the judges, so start sending in your entries now! Please send in your entries to media4tb.org

“Regional partnerships will evolve and depend greatly on what services are being offered and whether in-country programs or CCMs have a willingness to purchase these services. In this respect, regional organizations have a wonderful opportunity to market their local knowledge and expertise contributing to genuine 'south-south' collaboration.”

Mr. William Paton,
Director of Country Programs, GFATM
in a message to APACHA with his perspectives
of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS,
Tuberculosis and Malaria.

"From their own Experience"

World TB Day in Manipur

On 24th March world TB day was observed at district and sub-district level at Bishnupur district, Manipur by Emmanuel Hospital's Association. The theme was 'I AM STOPPING TB'. A street play was performed by the cured TB patient and patient currently



on treatment, community and ASCM project staff. The messages included tuberculosis symptoms, the ways TB is spread, the diagnostic process. The DOT component of the RNTCP was given special focus in the street play which was specially acted out by the cured TB patients. They shared their own experience of the effectiveness of DOT which had a strong impact on the crowd. The programme was facilitated and attended collectively by the Government and other civil society stake holders.

TB Jump Start... with Folk Media



To address TB Related issues and concerns in eight districts of Bihar ADRA-India is using Strategic Behaviour Change Communication which includes one to one communication, one to group communication, interpersonal communication, intrapersonal communication, mass communication, folk dances, folk art, wall paintings on various themes like early treatment, complete treatment, reduction in loss to follow up, patient charter, cough hygiene, rallies, video shows, group meetings, focus group discussions, small meetings, street play, flip charts through agency settings like NGO's, CBO's, CSO's, FBO's etc. These programmes will be part of the "TB Jump Start Project" funded through the USAID world Vision grant.





Patient Chapter Started in Orissa

World TB Day News 2009

World TB Day was observed in the State of Orissa at Hotel

Presidency, Bhubaneswar by the Department of Health, Government of Orissa and civil society stakeholders.

Ms. Anu Garg, Commissioner cum secretary to Govt. of Orissa Health & Family Welfare Department

inaugurated the function. Senior officials from the State Health

Department also participated actively communicating strong administrative will in the state to empower

communities in TB control. Civil society representation included LEpra, consultants from WHO, UNICEF,

officials from other department, NGO partners from 18 districts and most importantly persons cured from TB

from 18 districts. DOT providers from different districts of Orissa also participated in the function. The STO

highlighted availability of RNTCP services and urged the community to utilize these services. The get together

of partners provided the opportunity to form a state level "Rajya Rogi Adhikar Mancha" (State level Patient Chapter) which will partner role with

the health system in improving RNTCP

ACTION Project marked World TB Day 2009 on March 24th by kicking off a unique campaign. While it is an accepted fact that Political Will is an integral component of any successful national response, ways to measure it have been much harder to come up with. ACTION Project's Six C model does exactly that. The model proposes that Political Will to control TB can be measured in six key areas: Consciousness, Communication, Campaigning, Cooperation, Championing and Capacity Building. Three questions in each of the six areas will enable one to gauge the level of commitment any politician has to TB control. ACTION Project is working with the Indian Network for People Living with HIV AIDS (INP+) to roll out this campaign. Grass root workers from INP+ in 24 states plan to take the Six C Questionnaire to the current MP's in an effort to determine Indian Political Will to control TB.

Information desk

- The first day of the Stop TB Partners' Forum was the official launch of the TB Advocacy Toolkit at www.tbtoolkit.org created with support of TBCTA and USAID. The Toolkit is the first completely digital, user-friendly and interactive resource designed specifically for TB control and advocacy efforts. Equipped with a variety of pre-produced templates, materials and tools, it allows you to choose the information most valuable to your programs and create your own advocacy materials instantly. The tool kit can be explored at www.tbtoolkit.org.
- American scientists have found that a combination of two FDA-approved drugs Clavulanate and Meropenem, meant for fighting other bacterial infections like ecoli, completely blocked the growth of 13 strains of XDR TB, isolated in the lab. If the results are successful, a trial involving thousands of XDR-TB patients will be conducted. This is a ray of hope for the survival with XDR-TB. (Reported in Times of India, March 3, 2009)
- Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO) and others, especially those affected by M/XDR-TB, met at Beijing, China, on 1-3 April 2009, to address the alarming threat of M/XDR-TB. While there have been major achievements over the past decade in TB control, they noted with grave concern that M/XDR-TB poses a threat to global public health security and severely undermines the efforts to implement the Stop TB Strategy and dramatically reduce the global burden of TB. More than half a million new MDR-TB cases are estimated to emerge annually as a result of inadequate treatment and subsequent transmission. The 37% of estimated incident cases who are currently not reached globally by the Stop TB Strategy are especially affected. XDR-TB, a sub-set of MDR-TB caused by highly drug-resistant strains, with significantly worse outcomes, is now reported by more than 50 countries. Yet only some 3% of cases of MDR-TB are being treated according to WHO standards. (source: Global Tuberculosis Control & Patient Care; ministerial Meeting of High M/XDR TB burden Countries, Beijing, China, April 2009)
- The civil society PRs met the JMM ACSM team consisting of Ms. Victoria Francis, Ms. Young-Ae Chu, Mr. Guy Patrick Massolaka, and Ms. Nalini Krishnan on 23rd April'09 to get their feedback on the civil society component of the GF Round 9 proposal.
- On the invitation of Dr. L.S. Chauhan (DDG, TB), the Partnership Secretariat made a presentation on the Partnership to the JMM team on 25th of April.
- The first steering committee meeting of Partnership will be held on 15th of May'09 at the Union South East Asia Office.

We would like to thanks all our partners
for sharing their stories, information and news.

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