



Cross learning visit of the Afghanistan STOP TB National Partnership to the Partnership for TB care and Control in India, New Delhi Summary

Background and Objectives:

The Secretariat of Partnership for TB Care and Control in India coordinated with the STOP TB Partnership Afghanistan and WHO Afghanistan office, for a cross country learning visit of The Afghanistan Stop TB National Partnership team. The objective of the visit was to learn about the partnership initiative in India and share best practices. They met with various stakeholders and shared views and experiences learnt to enhance Partnerships efforts.

Composition of the team was:

- Mr. Mir Haidar, Vice chair of stop TB Partnership and Journalist
- Dr. Marghanlary Sakhi Khara, member of Stop TB Partnership, Director of social affairs of Woman Ministry
- Miss Rana Tarin, Parliamentarian and member of Stop TB partnership
- Mr. Mohammad Khalid Sadiq, NTP Manager
- Dr. Malalai Nejaby WHO /STB officer
- Miss. Nooria Ab Wahid, Vice chair of TB patients association

The **itinerary** followed was:

16th April 2012 - Day 1 = Consultation with the Secretariat, Working group of the Partnership & The Union South East Asia Office

- 09.30 – 10.30 = Meeting with the Working Group of the Partnership
- 10.30 – 12.00 = Presentation on the process, structure, functions and achievements
- 12 .00 –13.00 = Meeting with Project Axshya (Global Fund) team
- 13.00 – 14.00 = Lunch with USEA
- 14.00 – 16.00 = The Afghanistan experience.

17th April 2012 - Day 2 = Consultation with National TB Programme (CTD)

- 14.15 – 16.00 = Meeting with the DDG TB, CTD
- 17.00 – 18.00 = Meeting with Dr. Giuliano Gargioni, Stop TB Geneva

18th April 2012 – Day 3 = Consultation with WHO SEARO, & 2 NGO partner in Delhi

- 10.00 – 10.30 = Meeting WHO SEARO
- 11.30 – 12.30 = Meeting with ADF - CBO
- 13.00 – 14.00 = Lunch with ADF
- 14.00 – 16.00 = Meeting with MAMTA - NGO

Presentation from the Stop TB Afghanistan partnership:

Objectives

- ▶ Sustained political Commitment to Fight against TB in Afghanistan
- ▶ Resource mobilization
- ▶ Promote wider use of the Global Stop TB Strategy with emphasis on advocacy, communication and social mobilization



Purpose

The purpose of the Afghanistan Stop TB Partnership is to achieve the goal of elimination of TB as a public health problem and, ultimately, to obtain an Afghanistan free of TB

Mission

- ▶ To ensure that every TB patient in Afghanistan has access to effective diagnosis, treatment, and cure.
- ▶ To stop transmission of TB in the country;
- ▶ To reduce the inequitable social and economic toll of TB

First meeting of the group

- Hosted by WHO in September 2008
- Chaired by Dr. Faizullah Kakar (Deputy Minister of Public Health)
- Brief by Dr. Karam Shah (WHO Medical Officer)
- Decision points:
 - A committee (core team) formulated to draft TORs for the members and election process
 - Taekwondo athlete Rohullah Nikpa made history when won bronze during the Beijing Olympics 2008, the first medal in Afghanistan's Olympic history, was selected as goodwill ambassador.
- ▶ Meeting of the Core Team

Second meeting of the group

- Meeting chaired by Excellency Deputy Minister/Stop TB Coordinating Board Representative/EMRO
- The documentations (TORs) prepared by the core team discussed and approved
- ▶ **Outcome of the meeting**
 - Board Members finalized according to the constituencies
 - Chair/Vice Chair elected through transparent process
 - WHO was asked to host the secretariat and be the Executive Secretary.
 - Funding from Canadian international Development Agency (CIDA) secured through WHO
- ▶ Meeting of the Chair and the Executive Secretary with RD/EMRO
 - Briefing RD on the progress
 - Requesting continued support from WHO
 - Preliminary members identified
 - Institutional Framework

Structure

The Stop TB Partnership comprises the following components:

1. the Coordinating Board
 2. the Secretariat
 3. the Partners' Forum
- ▶ Sub-committees constituted



Achievements

- Official registration with MOJ.
- Establishment of regional STP.
- Participation of board members in Brazil Forum
 - Participation of board members in 4th Meeting of the Coordinating Board Eastern Mediterranean Partnership to Stop TB Cairo, Egypt.
- Certificate of acknowledgment and appreciation letters from EMRO.
- High level political commitment (PM).
- High level advocacy
- Establishment of financial system and bank account.
- Preparing advocacy kits.
- Integration of special TB subject to primary and secondary schools curriculum in Afghanistan (Ministry of Education).
- Commemoration of WTBD 2011 and 2012
- Conducting of TB awareness workshops for 3000 woman council of proveniences.
- Conducting of TB awareness workshops for religious leaders and school teachers.
- Establishment of TB patients Association in national and sub national levels.
- Zakat Campaign in Ramadan

Establishments of Sub National Partnership

- Sub National Stop TB Partnership Established in Kanadahaar, Herat and Mazar 3sheriff.
- Following this activities TB patients association also established in this provinces.

Future plans:

- Continue charity campaign.
- Establishment of Genital TB center in Malalai Maternity Hospital.
- Strengthening TB Patients association by providing incentives per completion of TB treated cases.
- Strengthening of financial system and bank account.
- TB awareness workshops.
- Preparing advocacy kits.
- Integration of special TB subject to primary and secondary schools curriculum in Afghanistan (Ministry of Education).

Lessons learnt from the Stop TB Partnership Afghanistan team:

- The composition of the partnership in Afghanistan is multi sectoral but having a majority of the public sector being represented. The public sector includes the national TB programme, parliamentarians and various ministries of the government of Afghanistan.
- Other partners include national NGOs, patient groups, media, business sector, bilateral organizations and international NGOs.
- Patient associations were formed in 3 provinces and included in the partnership and a representative is present at the governing body.

- Having wide public sector membership increases political commitment and policy changes keeping TB as a priority. There is high level advocacy for TB.
- TB is a notifiable disease in Afghanistan and cases being reported to the national programme.
- The ministry of education being a member have integrated TB awareness in schools, ministry of religious affairs have involve religious leaders in spreading the awareness on TB and its care and control during religious events and have linked all to the national program.
- Formations of sub national stop Tb partnerships have begun and are presently in Kandahar, Herat and Mazar-E-Sharif.
- Nutrition is being provided through the respective ministry giving wheat, oil and sugar to TB patients.
- The partnership is a legal entity hence can raise funds for their management and objectives. A common fund raising campaign is during Ramadan season known as the Zakat campaign.
- Presence of a goodwill ambassador for TB.

Requests and Action points:

- Request to The Union for inclusion into the operational research courses to participants from Afghanistan.
- Request for technical advice and support.
- Request made to the government for expertise on Genital TB.
- Suggestion on begin of collaboration between Afghanistan and India partnership
- Afghanistan to share best practices with India partnership for newsletter and website.
- As suggested by Mrs. Nigorsultan, WHO SEARO - The Union and WHO SEARO could look into possibly conducting a conference on collaboration for TB.
- Also the formation of state level partnership including the public sector could be explored. The process could begin during the Joint monitoring missions.

Thank you

