



Tuberculosis in India: Fighting the Epidemic

Award for India TB Champion of the year

Partnership Award for Champions of TB / name still being finalised

Background:

TB is one of India's greatest public health challenges. India has the highest burden of TB in the world, accounting for one-fifth of the global incidence – 2 million cases annually. TB is the cause of extensive economic losses and individual, family and community suffering. The direct and indirect costs of TB, in the case of India, stand at \$23.7 billion annually.²

TB is also highly stigmatized, often leading to discrimination within both the community and the workplace and even in healthcare settings. Such stigma and discrimination results in negative social and psychological consequences for the individual as well as his/her family and also affects how people seek treatment. TB also disproportionately affects the poor and disadvantaged leading to loss of livelihood and creating a cycle of poverty.

Despite being an enormous health challenge, TB continues to occupy limited amount space in the public imagination. Hence, it becomes critically important to recognize and honor the individuals as well as organizations that are working on issues around TB. There are countless efforts and action taken by many organizations and individuals to fight TB and empower affected communities but often go unrecognized and appreciated.

As the tubercular bacilli becomes ever more drug resistant, it is vital to improve communication on TB, to mitigate social isolation, rejection, and feelings of loneliness and hopelessness and to keep people motivated to seek TB services and complete treatment.

The Partnership for Tuberculosis Care and Control in India (Partnership) brings together civil society around a common platform to support and strengthen India's national TB control efforts. It has around 99 member organizations consisting of technical agencies, non-governmental and community-based organizations, affected communities, the corporate sector, professional bodies, media, and academia. Most of the TB Partnership members have a larger community network through which they reach people to prevent and treat tuberculosis.

To recognize/acknowledge the effort of individuals and organizations working for tuberculosis care and control in India, the Partnership for TB care and control in India proposes to institute an Annual award for TB Champion Individual and TB Champion Organization from across India. The award will be supported by Dr. Madhukar Pai and Global Health Strategies (GHS), for next five years (2013-2018), with the administrative costs being borne by the Partnership and/or from other donors. The Partnership will deliberate the ways to sustain the Annual Awards as a regular feature, and actively seek new donors. This award will motivate other TB Champions to increase their efforts to fight TB. The winners will become the "Champion of the year" for the Partnership, sharing experience and mentoring individuals and organization across the member organizations, support advocacy effort on Tuberculosis using the Partnership platform i.e National meeting, Regional meetings and other events organised by the Partnership.



Objective:

- To identify and award one TB Champion Individual for her/his work and TB Champion Organization for their work annually
- Document and disseminate the story of the awardees through the Partnership for TB Care and Control in India, Global Stop TB Partnership, and other forums (and media).

Methodology:

- The Secretariat of the Partnership will constitute a Selection Committee with representation of people from different sections of society/professions including persons affected by TB.
- The selection committee will develop the scope / criteria of this award, invite nominations annually 6 months ahead of the National Consultative meeting of partners and select the champion individual and organization and/or the validated nominations be voted for online through the Partnership website.
- The cash award of INR 50,000 for individual and INR 50,000 for organization will be a part of the National consultative meeting.
- The Secretariat will coordinate to document and disseminate the story of the awardees suitably through the Partnership and other forums.

Outcomes:

- TB Champion individual & organization identified and awarded for excellence in their work
- A pool of TB Champions both individual and organization are identified to inspire and motivate others.

Timeline:

Month	August 2012	September 2012	December 2012	January 2013
Formation of Selection committee				
Selection criteria				
Nomination request				
Identifying nominations of awardees				
Selection of winners and campaign through media to get people to vote from the website				
Award ceremony during the NCM				

