**Introduction**
As members of the communities affected by the worldwide pandemic of Tuberculosis, we have witnessed firsthand the unnecessary suffering and deaths from a curable disease. We are convinced that community activism, advocacy and participation can contribute dynamically to ensuring sustainable progress in the efforts to stop TB globally and in our communities, yet recognize that this can only be accomplished with a scale up of resources for building community capacities. Then, our collective energies can be brought to bear effectively in seeking advances in new drugs, diagnosis, vaccines etc.

**Summary**
Community empowerment is needed at all levels globally, regionally, nationally and even locally including support for TB literacy, involvement in planning, implementation and evaluation of TB services and policy changes. It’s important to note that community based care for TB is different from empowering persons living with the diseases. Along side D.O.T to be reflected to total support for the communities living with the diseases. Community involvement and empowerment in all levels of T.B. activities is vital and not just for advocacy, communication and social mobilisation.

**Decisions requested from the Stop TB Coordinating Board**
- That the Board endorse the addition of a Line Item to the Secretariat’s Biennium Work Plan to include:
  1. Permanent position for a community focal person at the secretariat. (PLWT)
  2. A support resource (2nd participant) to the community representative at each Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board meeting.
  5. Estimated Budgetary allocations of 500,000 USD for our activities 2006-2007

**Next steps and time frame**

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