The “Partnership for Tuberculosis Care and Control in India” (the Partnership) brings together civil society across the country on a common platform to support and strengthen India’s national TB control efforts. It seeks to harness the strengths and expertise of partners in various technical and implementation areas, and to empower affected communities, in TB care and control. It consists of technical agencies, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, affected communities, the corporate sector, professional bodies, media and academia.

In January 2009, a Secretariat was appointed and hosted in the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union). The Secretariat provides technical and administrative support to the Partnership. It works transparently as a coordinating mechanism, and is accountable to the Steering Committee. It regularly interacts with other stakeholders and the government to help achieve common goals, adds value to the work of the Stop TB Partnership, publishes monthly newsletters, maintains a website, disseminates TB information, and coordinates partner activities for events like the World TB Day. The Union, while hosting the Secretariat, also provides technical guidance and administrative assistance.

The Partnership’s Steering Committee is the advisory committee of the Partnership and comprises of members from various partner organizations, and standing invitees include the Deputy Director General (TB) of the Central TB Division (Government of India), a World Health Organization (India) representative and the Regional Director, Union South East Asia Office. Currently the Partnership includes more than 126 partners.

Expanding the partner and stakeholder base in India’s fight against tuberculosis is crucial to the Partnership’s strategy. Besides uniting for a noble cause, partners benefit by featuring their activities in the Partnership newsletter and website, invitations to working group meetings, use of a common logo and a directory to share ideas, best practices and resources, and access to relevant databases. Regional meetings for the southern, eastern, western, northern and north eastern regions were held. National meetings for all partners and large stakeholders are also held annually. The Partnership website (www.tbpartnershipindia.org) and its various other channels of communication are regularly updated.

In a short time, the Partnership has become a hub for disseminating information, creating visibility for India’s national TB programme, responding to TB related challenges and providing support to various stakeholders. There is still a long way to go but, with commitment from partners, donors and stakeholders, it will sustain and deliver results - and save many lives.
Progress of the Partnership - January - December 2012

Advocacy:

- Conceptualized and produced a statement “A plea from civil societies in India on behalf of the millions affected by TB: Do not withdraw your support to saving lives” in response to the recent decision by donors to cut their contributions to The Global Fund. This was released in the press and also sent to donor countries. Responses received from Head of States of UK and Germany.

- In response to the threat of “TDR-TB” scare in Mumbai, the partnership issued a “Call to Action” of all stakeholders to enhance their efforts for TB care and control in India. A total of 5 dailies published the statement.

- 2 partners from the Partnership as representatives of CSOs for TB in CCM i.e. TB Alert and LEPRA.

- Advocacy thematic group was formed to plan advocacy activities for the Partnership with funding received from Advocacy Partnership, UK.

- An Advocacy workshop was held along with Ms. Sheila Davie, Advocacy Partnership, UK for partners of the Partnership and distributed the Advocacy tool kit prepared by her organization in April.

- Partners in Uttar Pradesh along with The Union submitted a memorandum to the State government to improve TB Services in the state and also receive follow up action by the State Officials. The event was reported by Citizen New Service.

- Partners prepared a declaration from CSOs during the 43rd World Lung Conference of The Union held at Kuala Lumpur and are distributing the declaration widely.

Voicing affected communities:

- IHBP (Improving Healthy Behaviors Project) a partner in the Partnership with support from the Secretariat is implementing a project of developing a pool of TB Spokesperson.

- 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 had proposed to institute an Annual award for TB Champion Individual and TB Campion Organization from across India. The award will be supported by Dr. Madhukar Pai and Global Health Strategies (GHS), for next five years (2013-2018). A selection committee comprising of the following members was formed: (i) Dr. Nevin Wilson, The Union (ii) Dr. K.S.Sachdeva, CTD (iii)Ms. Blessina Kumar, Affected Community (iv)Dr. A. Sreenivas, WHO India (v) Dr. Vijay Edwards, Steering Committee PTCC, (vi) Ms. Sunita Prasad, Steering Committee PTCC,(vii)Mr. Chapal Mehra, Global Health Strategies
The first selection committee meeting took place on the 1st of October at Central TB Division to decide on criteria for selection of winners and call for application/nominations. The next meeting to select winners will be held in January 2013. Call for application/nomination for both categories was sent to partners, websites and other channels of communication on the 19th of October with a late date of submission of application on the 30th November. A total of 21 nominations/application were received of which 6 were for the individual category and 15 organization category.

- Compiled and submitted a list of potential representatives of affected community into the CCM, 2 members was shortlisted for final selection by CTD.

- Rainbow TB Forum a patient based organization and partner of the Partnership was selected to represent affected community for TB in the UNITAID meeting in Geneva.

- Inclusion of District TB Forums formed in Project Axshya as members into the Partnership.

Events:

- A National Consultative meeting for partners to define the role and status of the Partnership was held in April with meeting being sponsored by Advocacy Partnership, Eli Lilly and The Hindu. Total 60 partners attended the meeting at Gurgaon.

- World TB Day was celebrated by various partners with the slogan" Stop TB in my lifetime" and emphasis on childhood TB.

- Regional meetings for the North Eastern region and Eastern region were held at Guwahati and Bhubaneswar respectively. The objective of the meetings is to provide a platform for brainstorming among all stakeholders in finding collaborative solutions to various challenges in the field and chalk out state wise action plan on enhancing the RNTCP. Work plans were prepared and shared with members for follow up on collaborative measures. Reports available at http://www.tbpartnershipindia.org/Documents.asp

- Three Steering Committee meetings were held in 2012 with participation of the standing invitees and decisions on action for the Partnership for the year discussed. Some of the discussions included registration of the Partnership as a legal entity, formation of thematic groups (Advocacy, PPM, Service delivery, TB-
HIV, Women & Childhood TB, and Operational Research) in the Partnership who will be the technical units of the Partnership, Advocacy efforts of the Partnership, voicing the affected communities, etc. Minutes of meetings available at http://www.tbpartnershipindia.org/aboutcom.asp

- Meeting of the working group with Dr. Sreenivas, WHO India, on the 25th July to update him on the Partnership activities and its way forward. Dr. Sreenivas encouraged partners to apply for the TB REACH grant. Total of 5 proposals for the TB REACH grant from partners was sent to CTD for endorsement and submitted.

- Members of the Partnership along with Secretariat attending the 43rd Union World Lung Conference at Kuala Lumpur from the 12th to 17th November. They attending various sessions including events of national partnerships.

- Dr. Nalini Krishnan (REACH), Dr. Sachdeva (CTD), Mr. Subrat (The Union) and Dr. Vianca (Secretariat) had attended the first forum of National Partnerships held in Seoul, South Korea on the 22nd and 23rd November to share experience and also present their request for funding to national partnerships. This was organized by the Korea Stop TB Partnership and Stop TB Partnership Secretariat Geneva. A work plan of prioritised action for the India partnership was submitted. Focus would be on capacity building of partners to empower communities for TB care and control and increasing the involvement of private sector with the national TB program.

Visits to the Partnership:

- A cross country visit of the Stop TB Afghanistan to the Partnership for sharing of experiences was organised in April by the Secretariat. Visits included learning of RNTCP of India by Dr. Ashok Kumar, DDG TB.

- Dr. Gargioni, Team leader, Global and national partnerships, Stop TB Partnership Geneva visited The Partnership and met with members and advised on the way forward for the Partnership.

Communication:

- Editions of the newsletter of the Partnership “Partners Speak” were distributed and were well received by readers. The theme for the 3rd edition of the year
highlighted stories on Stigma and discrimination and last edition focusing on stories from tribal/hard to reach areas.

- The Partnership website has received about 23129 visitors with an average of 30-35 visits per day.

- Social network – Partnership’s Face book have a membership of 156, Twitter 121 followers and a YouTube channel for uploading videos. All are regularly updated.

**Project Coordination:**

The Union presented an opportunity to the Partnership so they could be more visible, build the capacity of Partners and engage them in a project sponsored by Eli Lilly. Intervention 3- training of traditional healers on TB and Basic DOTS and Intervention 4 – training of partners on engaging the media for TB was implemented in close coordination with partner agencies of the National Partnership.

- Intervention 3 was conducted in 4 States (Punjab, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh) in 4 districts (Kapurthala, Nandurbar, Theni and Unnao) by 4 implementing partners (VHAP, Inter Aide, Vasandham Society and SIR) in close co-ordination and collaboration of the District TB Officer and other RNTCP officials. The pilot intervention had its successes and challenges, different for each district but results are encouraging showing the active involvement of often the first point of contact to people in rural areas- traditional healers. Report is available on website.

- Intervention 4 was conducted by REACH and IMCFJ who trained partners of the Partnership from 4 zones (North, South, East and West). More than 50% of NGO partners were trained on how to engage with the media to increase reporting on TB. Out of the trained partners about 40% had submitted a media plan for the media year March 2011-12 and had their events on TB published in local dailies.

Please visit Partnership website: [www.tbpartnershipindia.org](http://www.tbpartnershipindia.org) for more information.