Civil society expands service delivery through Project Axshya in Andhra Pradesh
Submitted by TB Alert, India - September 2011

In India, partners of the Partnership for TB Care and Control (PTCC) began Project Axshya (meaning TB-Free) which involves civil society organizations for greater expansion in hard-to-reach areas. The project will reach 750 million in 374 districts in 23 states of India by 2015. Project Axshya in Andhra Pradesh began with a signing of a MoU between TB Alert India and World Vision for collaboration on 8 July, 2011.

In Andhra Pradesh, the Global Fund listed World Vision as principle recipient and TB Alert India as sub-recipient. The project aims to contribute to the efforts of national control programme to reduce TB-related morbidity and mortality, and to accelerate progress towards achieving the targets of the Global Stop TB Strategy for 2006-2015. The overall approach for all of India is to improve the reach, visibility and effectiveness of TB care and control through civil society support and engage communities and community-based care providers.

After the inauguration of the project and the signing of the agreement between TB Alert India and World Vision, the participants selected NGOs as sub-sub-recipients for implementation in 7 districts of Andhra Pradesh. With the NGOs selected, there was a workshop to finalize the Action Plan and create a budget and regular meetings were established to review progress. The national TB programme provides a State-level Training of Trainers on several topics, such as the national plan, Sputum Collection Centers & Transport and Soft Skills for NGOs/ CBOs and PHPs. World Vision regularly holds workshops for the NGOs involved in TB for example on M&E and single streamline of finding.

Project Axshya's accomplishments for this year include: reaching 21,278 people in TB awareness-raising activities; training of 201 local NGOs in 7 districts; Celebrating World TB Day in 7 districts; 21 workplace programs organized; 630 Gaon Kalyan Samiti (TB sensitization) meetings have been organized.