

THREE ZERO TB IMPLEMENTERS MEET TO INCREASE ACCESS TO TB SERVICES AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

Ho Chi Minh, Chennai, and Karachi Zero TB City implementation teams met in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam on 25 January 2018 for an information sharing session.

Leaders from the International Friends of TB Relief (FIT) presented on the Zero TB Viet Nam/IMPACT TB projects, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) presented on TB Free Chennai Initiative and the ACIS mHealth tool to facilitate household and community case detection and client referrals, and Interactive Research and Development (IRD) presented on Zero TB Karachi & the innovative Kiran Sitara initiative. Joining the implementers was Assoc. Professor Le Van Hoi of Viet Nam's National TB Program and other local TB stakeholders.



The three cities share a common “Search Treat Prevent” model, with an emphasis on active case finding, private sector engagement, improved coverage of latent TB infection treatment and pediatric TB. Notably, all three sites have launched or are launching mobile CXR screening and GeneXpert testing services, in order to increase access to TB services at the community level and introduce a more sensitive screening/testing algorithm at sites.

In Karachi, intensified case finding activities in the last two quarters of 2017 led to a 25% increase in overall notifications in the city from 2016 to 2017. Similar progress is expected in Ho Chi Minh City and Chennai as these activities are scaled up. The use of electronic data tools and close patient tracking and follow-up is another shared element across sites, which is expected to lead to improved retention of TB presumptives in the pre-treatment cascade and real-time monitoring of progress towards elimination goals.