

WORLD TB DAY 2008 CELEBRATION IN NIGERIA

The 24th of March every year has been set aside to mark world tuberculosis day. On this day, the world makes a worldwide call to action and mobilizes for political and social commitment for the control of TB. Nigeria marked the WTB day at the National level with a line up of activities that started from 20th March and ended with a Motor-Cade and Rally lead by the Honourable Minister of Health, Dr Hassan Muhammad Lawal on the 28th March 2008.

The theme of this years WTB day is “ **I AM STOPPING TB.**” *‘I refer every person with TB to the nearest DOTS center’*. The message calls for action by every individual in the fight against TB in the country.

The following were the activities carried out at the National level to mark the World TB Day 2008 in Nigeria.

- 1. Planning Meetings:** The National ACSM Task Force working with the NTBLCP Central Unit held two meetings on the 12th March and 27th March to plan and implement all the activities for the WTB day.
- 2. Mass Media activities:**
 - TV and Radio announcements on African Independent Television (AIT) and Radio on the planned activities for the WTB day and creation of awareness/mobilization of the masses for the various radio and television programmes planned for the WTB day on 20th and 27th.
 - Airing of Radio and TV Jingles: TB jingles were aired in National Television Authority (NTA), Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), African Independent Television (AIT) and Ray Power FM Radio covering the period of 20th to 28th March and the remaining days in the 1st quarter 2008.
 - News papers publications: Feature articles were published on TB, TB/HIV on Saturday Vanguard of 22nd March, ThisDay newspapers and Vanguard newspapers of Monday 24th March and Sunnews of 25th March. The ThisDay newspapers also advertised the planned activities



Honourable Minister of Health, Dr Hassan Muhammad Lawal with representatives of key TB Partners, WHO, USAID, CDC, CHAN, leading the 5km walk to mark the 2008 World Stop TB day



HMH delivering speech at the WTB Day rally at the Police Sport ground, Yanyan after the 5 km walk

for the WTB day celebration on the 27th March.

- Radio Link Programme on FRCN: The popular FRCN Saturday Radio link Programme featured the Director of Public Health Dr. N. Njebuome and Country Representative of GLRA Mr. Claus Gilgen on the 22nd March. They used the opportunity to enlighten the public on all TB control activities in the country and the significance of the WTB day celebration. Questioned were entertained from various callers on TB and TB/HIV issues and roles of partners supporting the National TB programme.
- “Burugamy” Radio Discussion on Vision FM: Dr Folashade Momoh, Director of Public Health FCT and Former TBL Control Officer FCT and Dr Odume B.B, Programme Officer from NTBLCP had a 1 hr radio discussion on 23rd March on the TB, TB/HIV , WTB day activities and other major issues relating to effective TB control in Nigeria.
- Kaakaki AIT Television Programme: The National Coordinator Ben Nwobi featured on the AIT Programme on the 25th March. The discussion centered on his stewardship at the National TB Programme and importance of the 2008 WTB day celebration.
- NTA mid day News Panorama: Dr Odume B.B, a Programme Officer from the National Programme was on hand to discuss various issues on TB, TB/HIV and the significance of 2008 WTB day on the NTA News Panorama of 25th March.

3. The World TB day 5km walk - Motor-cade and Rally

The hallmark of the activities marking the World TB day was the 5 km walk and motor-cade which ended up at a Rally at the Police sport ground, Yanyan in the outskirt of Abuja on the 28th March.

The Honourable Minister of Health of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr Muhamed Hassan Adamu led the 5km walk and Motorcade along with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry Dr Shehu Sule and the Director Department of Public Health, Dr Ngozi Njebuome.

Other participants included major stakeholders in TB control in Nigeria; the WHO Country representative, Dr Peter Eriki,(represented by the WHO NPO TUB, Dr A. O. Awe), the Secretary General of CHAN, the PR for R5 TB Programme, Barrister. Kwakfut, representatives of key

Partners such as USAID, CDC, CSOs, cured TB patients, Secondary Schools, health care workers, staff of the NTBLCP and Federal Ministry of health, the media and the general public.

The walk ended up at a Rally and with a reception at Yanyan Police sport ground, (in a suburb of the Federal Capital)

The HMH delivering his address for the WTB day used the opportunity to unveil the new plan for Logistic Information Management System at the National TB Programme which is geared towards improving the logistic system for TB drugs and other consumables.

Goodwill Messages were delivered by Major partners to the TB Programme in Nigeria which included messages from the WHO, USAID, CHAN and CDC.

The goodwill message from the WHO Regional Director was presented BY Dr A. Awe on behalf of the WHO Representative. In the goodwill message, the WHO pledge continued support to the government of Nigeria in ensuring that the accelerated progress is made towards meeting the set global targets, especially of case detection and treatment success rates.

The audience was entertained by a cultural dance performance by a dance group from Akwa Ibom State and drama sketch presented by the National Cultural center on the message of the World TB day.