

Two major events for TB in India

Joint Monitoring Mission 2015



The largest ever review of any TB program was conducted in India over 2 weeks, to review India's Revised National TB Control Programme with main objectives, to review India's progress on the implementation of the National Strategic Plan 2012-2017 and to review the progress of the country towards Universal access to TB care. The dissemination of the findings and recommendations took place in New Delhi on the 22nd of April 2015.

The Joint Monitoring Mission drew the expertise of more than 140 international and national experts including the Stop TB Partnership, Global Fund, USAID, WHO, Gates Foundation, The Union, Eli Lilly Foundation, Global TB Alliance, World Bank, Global Coalition of TB Activists and civil society together with technical experts, private sector, researchers and academia. The team led by Dr. Paul Nunn, visited more than six states and assessed the achievement, challenges and opportunities of the TB programme in India.

However the dissemination did not receive the much-needed attention from the leaders in country. The DDG Dr. Sunil Khaparde and Additional DG Dr. Ashok



Kumar were left listening to the presentation and answering questions. A group of 30 members was selected to present the same to the Secretary Health, who assured that all the recommendations would be implemented at the earliest

including the daily regimen and IPT. That evening, a smaller group of eight International heads of organizations were chosen to share the findings and the recommendations with the Health Minister. The civil society representatives were not invited to be part of this group. It is ironic that one of the biggest gaps identified by the JMM teams that visited the different states was the lack of community engagement.

Call to Action for a TB Free India

A bold Call to Action was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

The Call to Action initiative is supported financially by USAID and coordinated by the international NGO, The Union.

The Health Minister J.P. Nadda in his speech said, the Call to Action is not merely a slogan, "It is a movement to galvanize all stakeholders for a shared commitment." He appealed to various stakeholders across the private sector, civil society members, experts, doctors, patients and caregivers to be part of the movement to make India TB free.



Representatives of different stakeholders pledged their support to the call led by Deepti Chavan, who survived the battle against MDR TB. The civil society was represented by Blessina Kumar, Chair, Global Coalition of TB Activists. Ms. Kumar while pledging full support to the ministry and RNTCP said that it was a proud moment for the country and the civil society looks forward to ensuring that the dream of a TB Free India is realized with urgency.