Community Response for TB/HIV: lessons from the global engagement and other regions

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WHY communities?

- TB is in the communities

- But... as a disease and a risk factor for mortality, or as an opportunity for empowerment and collaboration?

- A real partnership on TB is not complete without communities
WHO is the community?

• The definition of “community” varies from culture to culture.

• More importantly than the different definitions of communities, we have to remember that communities:
  
  • Are not voiceless or powerless
  • Have local knowledge about the social fabric that creates TB vulnerability
  • Are dynamic
  • Are autonomous and need to remain so
  • Have an identity that needs respect
  • Have abilities beyond “the patient role”
  • Understanding of TB beyond “the microscope”
WHAT to do with communities?

Beyond the control of tests, adherence and case finding, with communities we can:

- Foster meaningful participation in the planning, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of the TB local response.
- Communities can reach places the National TB Program can’t.
- Fight stigma associated to TB
- Help in the resource mobilization for TB
- Lead the accountability of TB funds
- Learn of our experience
- Teach us your expertise
HOW?

A Partnership is NOT:

- A broken leg, unequal table
- A place for fights and squarrels
- A place with power imbalance
- A place to excercise power
- A place for a paternalistic approach
- A place for protagonism
HOW?
A Partnership is...

- A place with a leader, not a boss
- A place that values diversity of identities and contributions of all stakeholders
- A place with a unified goal
- Not imposing roles but promoting participation
- Some of its values are: Equity, Respect, Collaboration, Participation, Representation, Empowerment, Accountability, Free Will, Autonomy, Commitment
HOW with communities?

- NTP, NAP, etc
- UN
- COMMUNITIES
- DONNORS
- SCIENCE
- HEALTH SYSTEMS
Some of the participants of Civil Society from 17 countries who attend the meeting on Scaling up the implementation of TB-HIV activities in the region of the Americas (7-8 July, 2011 Panama)
The meeting had a one day meeting of civil society participants only
Examples of Africa Region

NEPHAK members on community dialog forum on TB in Kapsabet
Example to policy response

- KELIN, NEPHAK and NETMA+: Led the national campaign against criminalization of TB patients who stopped to take their TB medication in Kenya.
- Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues on HIV/AIDS (KELIN): Training community organization on TB, HIV and associated legal issues
- Kenyan NTP and NAP involved the community organizations in the development of their current National Strategic Plans
- Affected communities are now represented in the Global Fund oversight committees and the Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCM) in most countries in Africa.
Community training of TB case detection and defaulters tracing in GFATM
Scaling up TB/HIV Funding advocacy

Community advocating for HIV and AIDS Trust Fund in Nairobi
THANK YOU