

Monthly

NEWSLETTER

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Engaging local government and community for eliminating TB



Delhi team members IMPACT Project, participated in a three-day orientation and training from September 24 to 26, 2024 to prepare the rollout of the Project

Under its new TB elimination initiative, World Health Partners (WHP) has rolled out a decentralised operational model that emphasizes involvement and ownership of local Panchayati Raj Institutions to make TB free Gram Panchayats and identification of TB Champions from the community. This approach aims to identify and support TB patients who are at risk of missing care and treatment.

This intervention called 'Integrated Measures for Prevention and Care in TB' (IMPACT), aims to create 'TB Mukta Gram Panchayats' by empowering local governments and communities to lead the charge against TB and by leveraging TB survivors as champions at Ayushman Aarogya Mandir (formerly known as Health and Wellness Centres), to enhance community awareness, strengthen counselling, promote early detection, treatment adherence, reduce lost to follow-ups and ensure comprehensive care for affected individuals for reducing the burden of TB morbidity and mortality and boosting India's broader goal of eradicating TB nationwide.

WHP is implementing this initiative with support from Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT), the Principal Recipient of the Global Fund TB grant for 2024-27 across 27 districts of four states Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

A vital step for expediting treatment of Pediatric TB



Introductory meeting with Deputy Director, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) and Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) by State Team Haryana

WHP has recently launched an initiative to enhance the treatment of pediatric TB in Haryana, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh. In collaboration with Solidarity and Action against the HIV Infection in India (SAATHII), the principal recipient of the Global Fund TB Programs, WHP is implementing the project across these states in three models-intense, lite and technical assistance.

The primary objective of this intervention is to improve the access and uptake of pediatric TB diagnostics and treatment services, addressing a major challenge in achieving TB elimination by 2025. Pediatric TB identification remains a challenge, with only 5-6 percent of the estimated 3.42 lakh cases reported to the national program in the past decade. This intervention aims to significantly boost pediatric TB case notification and improve treatment success rates in the target regions.

For smooth roll out, the project team met senior government officials in Haryana and Punjab including State and District TB Officers, Director General of Health Services and concerned stakeholders – Integrated Disease Surveillance Program, National Urban Health Mission, World Health Organization to share project brief and seek their support and involvement.

Boosting coordination for enhanced project impact



News coverage on the fixed-dose combination services that began in Amritsar with support and intervention of World Health Partners' intervention

To ensure effective project implementation and collaboration, WHP conducted a joint training of Private Provider Support Agency (PPSA) staff and Randomized

Control Trial (RCT) field officers who are working with TB private providers in three Districts of Punjab – Amritsar, Ludhiana and Jalandhar.

This one-day sensitization was organized on 23rd September 2024 at Civil Hospital, Ludhiana with the support of District TB Cell to strengthen coordination among the field team and the working ties with government and other stakeholders. Facilitators included District TB Officer of Ludhiana and consultants of World Health Organization (WHO) who briefed participants about TB basics, treatment and diagnosis, treatment regimen and 4 fixed-dose combination (FDC) weight band chart, importance of sputum testing at the time diagnosis and at the end-of-treatment.

A number of other important issues were discussed such as Post-Treatment Follow up (PTFU), coordination with District TB Unit, monthly sharing of patient list for PTFU, direct referral of patients with microscopy test for CBNAAT, initiation of TB preventive treatment (TPT), data of pulmonary and extra-pulmonary TB, provision of medicine etc.

Community ownership helps improve visitor facilities at Ayushman Arogya Mandir

"Lack of clean drinking water and a protective space for visitors at the health facility had been a long due requirement despite several efforts. When we approached the senior influential community members, Mrs Jasveer Kaur, Chairperson of the Panchayat Samiti Nihal Singh Wala, and Mr Laxman Singh, a respected social worker from Himmatpura area, their response was positive and heart-warming. Mrs Jasveer Kaur and Mr Laxman Singh took it upon themselves to address the infrastructure issue at Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) and jointly invested 2 lakh rupees to install tin sheds and a water cooler at the facility for the benefit of people coming for treatment. The AAM staff acknowledged this generous contribution for improving facilities by showing their deep appreciation."

— District manager, SAMVEG Project, Moga, Punjab



World Health Partners (WHP) is a non-profit society that sets up programs to bring sustainable healthcare within easy access to underserved and vulnerable communities. It innovatively harnesses already available resources more efficiently by using evidence-based management and technological solutions.

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