THALI engages with Municipal Corporation civic workers for TB screening and sensitisation

THALI supported the State and District TB program in Bengaluru to roll out a system for 'Specimen Collection and Transportation' as a full-fledged patient support activity in January. THALI created route maps and identified and trained human resource to collect samples from designated microscopy centres, medical colleges and doctors networked with the District Tuberculosis Centres. The samples are delivered to five CBNAAT testing sites and to the National Tuberculosis Institute, Bengaluru, for CBNAAT and culture. The running costs for this system will be transitioned to RNTCP and the Global Fund JEEIT project.

Corporator steps forward to provide nutrition support to TB patients

The Councillor of BBMP Ward No 69, Ms. Hanna Bhuvaneshwari, pledged to arrange food packages every alternate day for 30 TB patients in her area. The package, composed of a loaf of bread, one egg and 250 ml of milk, will be provided for a period of six months. THALI is reaching out to local government representatives in other wards to follow her example, in order to leverage nutritional support for TB-affected persons.

Capacity building for health care providers in Telangana and Karnataka

THALI catalysed and supported the Telangana state RNTCP to facilitate two Training of Trainers (ToT) programs, covering 71 RNTCP project officers and District TB Control Officers on technical operational guidelines and the programmatic management of drug resistant TB (PMDT) in Hyderabad and Warangal. The funding for this was leveraged from Johnson & Johnson (J&J).

Similarly, THALI is catalysing the start-up of Training of Trainers programs for PMDT in Bengaluru and Karnataka in consultation with the RNTCP and State TB Task Force. With funds leveraged from J&J, KHPT will conduct 4 ToTs on PMDT in partnership with the State RNTCP and State TB Task Force.

Monitor, Evaluation, Research and Learning (MERL)

Review workshop on THALI MERL systems and tools

KHPT revised and refined its MERL system and source formats during a three-day MERL workshop in Bengaluru, in order to prepare for developing a patient treatment support system and expansion. The workshop involved the THALI program and M&E teams from both states, the project central team, technical specialists and Dr Amar Shah, ADR, TB.

Government Engagement

Government Engagement

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Micellaneous

• The module on technical operational guidelines (TOG) developed by St John’s Medical College, Bengaluru, was well received by the state RNTCP and is presently under review to be used by the state for conducting Continuing Medical Education (CME) programs.
• Judith Kallenberg, Program Lead of the TB focus area at Johnson & Johnson (J&J) visited Hyderabad to understand how J&J’s support for information, education and communication (IEC) activities is improving TB awareness in the urban slum community. The team met with officials at the State Tuberculosis Office.

Voices from the field

"I’ve worked so hard for TB, my family jokes that I’m no longer interested in my household! But it is important work, and I am proud to do it. People come together in the slums when I visit. They bring presumptive TB cases to me when they see symptoms! They trust us to help them.”

Parveen, community outreach worker, Hyderabad

"Sample collection by THALI has streamlined the system of samples being collected and tested for TB. It has helped decongest the high-load CBNAAT centres, and get samples from these centers to underutilised centers. There has been no complaint about the system from the RNTCP frontline staff.”

Dr Srinivas, District Tuberculosis Officer, Bengaluru Urban

"It’s not always easy to do this outreach. Sometimes I have to approach men to talk to them about TB, and women from my religion don’t usually do that. I do the work because I want to help, I have received so many blessings for the work that I do.”

Tajwar, community outreach worker, Hyderabad

For more information on the above activities, please contact Vrinda Manocha, Communications Officer, at vrinda.manocha@khpt.org