

INSTITUTIONAL UPDATE: TUBERCULOSIS THEME

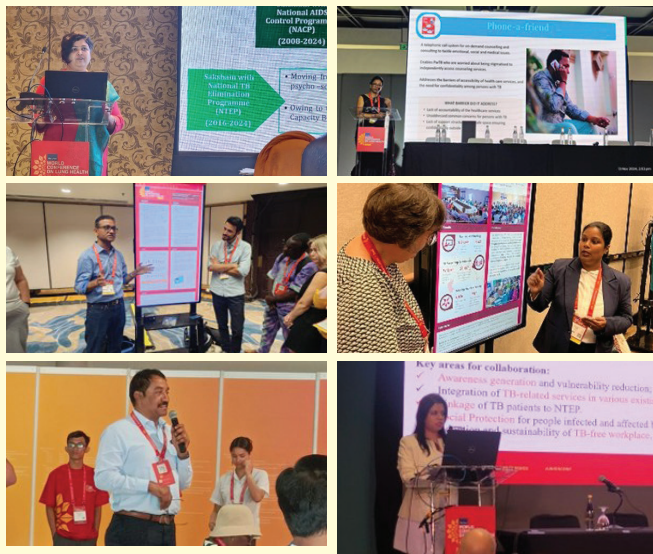
OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2024

Breaking the Barriers

The Breaking the Barriers (BTB) project, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has developed innovative and effective behaviour change models to combat tuberculosis among vulnerable populations across four states. Expanding its efforts, the project now aims to explore four new components in Karnataka and Assam. These include addressing the social determinants of TB, providing technical assistance to Government of Karnataka, packaging and disseminating behaviour change models, and demonstrating the development of TB-free wards. These components aim to expand the project's scope to encompass community and systems-strengthening initiatives at the grassroots, with a strong focus on knowledge codification and sharing.

TB Highlights

KHPT presents on six topics in The Union World Conference on Lung Health 2024 in Bali, Indonesia



From November 12-16, 2024, KHPT's TB team, Dr Rehana Begum, Dr Subramaniam Potty Rajaram, Mr Arin Kar, Ms Elizabeth Joy, and Ms Shweta Bajaj from KHPT's sub-recipient, TISS, participated in the World Conference on Lung Health 2024 in Bali, where they shared KHPT's work on evidence-based community-centred approaches to TB care.

During the conference, KHPT presented key initiatives such as the TB Careline, a free phone-based support service that guides individuals with TB and their caregivers. The team also highlighted the Grama Arogya initiative, which focuses on the role of grassroots action in improving TB detection and ensuring timely treatment in both rural and urban communities. Additionally, KHPT showcased Behaviour Change Solutions, aimed at reducing stigma and encouraging community engagement in TB care. The team also advocated for multisectoral collaboration, stressing the

importance of coordinated efforts across healthcare, education, and community sectors to achieve sustainable TB elimination.

The conference brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including civil society organizations, academic institutions, researchers, and government agencies, all working towards eliminating TB globally. Discussions focused on overcoming barriers to effective TB care, the role of emerging technologies in diagnosis and treatment, and the critical need for inclusive research that addresses the needs of all populations, including pregnant individuals.

KHPT's Community Engagement Model Recognised at the Fourth Anniversary of BTR Government Celebrations, Udalgiri, Assam

KHPT's Community Engagement Model received praise at a public function marking the 4th anniversary of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) Government in Udalgiri, BTR. The event, held at the Bhergaon Mini Stadium, was attended by over 10,000 people.

KHPT was one of the key organizations recognized for its service in the region. The Honourable Chief Executive Member of BTR Government, Shri Pramod Boro, and Principal Secretary Shri Akash Deep presented KHPT with a Certificate of Appreciation for its dedication and impact in the region.

The Certificate of Appreciation highlighted KHPT's organizational mantra of "Engage, Innovate, Empower," and commended the organization's role in multi-sectoral convergence, socio-ecological approaches, and empowering Village Council Development Committees (VDCs) and communities, leading to visible improvements in health outcomes.



BTB Assam team receiving the certificate of Appreciation by the BTR Govt in Udalgiri

KHPT Facilitates a Co-Design Session for Grama Drishti Fellowship in Samagra Arogya Cluster, Karnataka

On October 25, KHPT hosted a co-design session for the Grama Drishti Fellowship at the Hemmadi Library in the Samagra Arogya (SA) cluster. This collaborative session involved seven local mentors and aimed to fine-tune the fellowship's objectives and recruit local youth and adolescents for this certified program. The Grama Drishti Fellowship is designed to



Co-design session for Grama Drishti adolescent and youth fellowship with local community mentors held at the Hemmadi library, Karnataka

empower youth by equipping them with tools to explore and engage with social determinants of health within their own communities.

KHPT's role in the co-design session helped in aligning the vision of the fellowship with local mentors. These mentors, representing diverse community backgrounds, confirmed their commitment to the fellowship and agreed to nominate youth from their networks. The session fostered

an understanding of the fellowship's goals and allowed mentors to voice their thoughts on recruitment, selection processes, and expected outcomes for fellows. Following the session, KHPT is compiling a set of FAQs to assist with youth recruitment and utilising local events to raise awareness and generate community support for the fellowship.

KHPT convenes the Second Task Force Meeting with RDPR, Health Department Officials to plan the Community Palliative Care (CPC) Initiative in Udupi District, Karnataka

The second Task Force meeting for the Community Palliative Care (CPC) initiative was held on November 5 in Vandse, Udupi, Karnataka. The meeting brought together the



■ **Second task force meeting for community palliative care initiative ongoing with representatives of RDPR and Health, Udupi, Karnataka**

District Health Officer, program officers for TB, Leprosy, NCD, and mental health, four PHC medical officers, seven GPs from the Vandse cluster, local government members, Samagra Arogya team, and Grama Arogya representatives.

The meeting focused on finalising the needs assessment tools and teams, developing a care package for screened communities, and clarifying the roles of stakeholders like Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), RDPR, and Pallium India. Discussions also included plans to establish a Palliative Care Trust in Vandse to ensure sustainability and resource mobilisation.

Additionally, a learning visit was organised for Pallium India team members to Samagra Arogya cluster in Udupi, which provided insights for the CPC initiative. Future steps involve implementing the discussed actions and further collaboration.

KHPT conducts an awareness meeting and Arogya Sabha to promote community engagement in Kadamtola, Assam

On October 28, KHPT conducted an awareness meeting and Arogya Sabha at Kadamtola Jonaki ME School, in collaboration with Kadamtola AAM and Village Council

Development Committee (VCDC), Assam. The Territorial Council Level Coordination Committee (TCLCC) Chairperson, school teachers, the School Managing Committee, Matri Got (Mothers Group), parents, and community members attended the event. Health talks on TB and NCD followed by NCD screenings for **50** individuals and TB screenings for **22** people.



■ **Awareness meeting in progress at Kadamtola Jonaki ME School, Assam**

The model, including health talks, screenings, and TB Mukh Panchayat initiatives, will be scaled up across all **55** AAMs and **60** VDCs. Arogya Sabhas will also support the Central TB Division's intensified **100** days TB elimination campaign facilitating awareness, screenings, referrals, and TB testing in Assam.

Capacity Building

KHPT Conducts Health Member Training for Elected Representatives in Ballari, Karnataka



■ **Shri Rahul Sharanappa Sankanur, CEO of Ballari interacting with the Health member training participants, Ballari, Karnataka**

In December, KHPT conducted a pilot training program for **100** elected members from **100** Gram Panchayats (GPs) in Ballari district. The training, held in four batches of three days each, aimed to equip elected representatives (ERs) with the knowledge and skills needed to address local health issues and promote community health activities under the Gram Arogya initiative.

The ERs, selected based on their leadership qualities, were trained to bridge the gap between the community and health services. The training focused on health issues such as hygiene, sanitation, menstrual hygiene, child marriage, NCD screening, TB screening, malnutrition, and mental health.

The training also aimed to empower ERs with skills in communication, self-confidence, and influencing the community to improve health outcomes.

Key topics included prioritising health in monthly Gram Panchayat meetings, improving health facilities at the village level, and building partnerships with local healthcare providers. The training emphasized hands-on, interactive activities rather than presentations, fostering practical learning.

KHPT supports Urban Health and Sanitation Committees (UHSNCs) with Health Management Kits for Health Camps in Mysuru

From October 15 to 23, KHPT facilitated the distribution of Health Management Kits to UHSNCs across Mysuru. The kits were handed over during a series of seven meetings held at three Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs) in Mysuru City-Kumbaru Koppalu, Vishweshvaranagara, and Chamundipuram.

The objective of the activity was to support the establishment of mobile kiosks aimed at conducting screenings and raising awareness on key health issues. These kiosks, equipped with portable materials and internet connectivity, will serve as outreach points to display Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials while conducting verbal screenings for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCH), Communicable Diseases (CDs), and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

The initiative aims to facilitate point-of-care screenings, education, counselling, and referrals to at-risk populations. The distribution of the Health Management Kits will support UHSNCs in conducting health camps and strengthening local health interventions in Mysuru.

KHPT facilitates MLA Shri Bhupen Boro to become a Ni-kshay Mitra under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA), Assam

On December 9, KHPT engaged in an advocacy effort with Honorable MLA Shri Bhupen Boro to support the adoption of Persons with Tuberculosis (PwTB) and their caregivers under the PMTBMBA scheme and to gain support for the scale-up of BTB activities. After learning about the BTB project in Assam through his field

visits, the MLA interacted with the KHPT team and acknowledged the value of the activities in benefiting the community.

He also signed up to become a Ni-kshay Mitra and plans to adopt 80 PwTB and caregivers through the Nikshay Mitra initiative. Further, demonstrating his commitment, MLA Shri Bhupen Boro participated in a Food Basket Distribution Program at Baganpara TU on the same day, approving a budget of one lakh for the initiative in Baksa, Assam.

Principal Secretary of BTR Visits BTB Field Location, Assam

On December 10, Shri Akash Deep, Principal Secretary of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), along with DC-Baksa Shri Gautam Das and other officials, visited Subansree AAM where an Arogya Sabha was facilitated by KHPT. During the visit, Shri Akash Deep endorsed the concept behind Arogya Sabha and its potential to strengthen the VCDC/PRI structures.

Following the field visit, a meeting was held at the BTR Secretariat, where an update on BTB activities was presented. The Principal Secretary expressed his support for a non-financial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the BTR Government and KHPT and directed relevant functionaries to initiate the process.



■ **MLA Shri Bhupen Boro distributing a nutritional kit to Persons with TB in Baksa, Assam**



■ **Principal Secretary and DC in conversation with the BTB team, Assam**

KHPT Recognised as Distinguished Partner at Launch of Vision Document by BTR Government, Assam

KHPT was invited as a distinguished partner at the launch of the Vision Document for 26 ethnic groups and tribes in Bodoland, Assam, on December 10. The event was attended by the

Honorable Governor of Assam, along with state ministers, MPs, and other distinguished guests.

The Vision Document aims to ensure peace and prosperity for the 26 tribes and groups under BTR. This marks the first such attempt by the BTR Government, with KHPT being recognized as one of its key partners. The event was hosted by the Honorable Chief Executive Member of BTR and included a representation of all the 26 tribes.

KHPT collaborates with NTEP and NHM during Visit of CTD and MoHFW Officials to Baksa, Assam

On October 25, KHPT supported the District NTEP and NHM in a community engagement activity at Murmela AAM, Baksa, Assam, during the visit of high-ranking officials from the Ministry of

Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Dr K.K. Tripathy, Economic Advisor, Joint Secretaries, along with other officials, participated in a Joint Action for Sustainability (JAS) meeting at the AAM.

KHPT facilitated the event, ensuring that community members were engaged and that health awareness was raised. Ni-kshay Poshan Kits were distributed to people with TB and caregivers, in line with the PMTBMBA initiative.



■ **Dignitaries at the launch event of the Vision Document for 26 ethnic groups and tribes in Bodoland, Assam**



■ **Dr K.K. Tripathy along with the Baksa NTEP team, Assam**

IMPACT India

The Integrated Measures for Prevention and Care in TB (IMPACT) India project, supported by The Global Fund, is a three-year project (April 2024 - March 2027) that aims to develop and scale a decentralised operational model to rapidly enhance TB case detection, notification, and treatment outcomes in India. To bolster the efforts of the Central TB Division (CTD), the project aims to implement TB Champion Engagement initiatives across 14 states and one Union Territory (UT), support TB Mukh Grama Panchayat activities across 13 states, and offer technical assistance to the CTD for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (PMTBMBA) activities nationwide. Additionally, the project focuses on building the capacity of NTEP frontline staff to improve their ability to provide counselling support to persons with Drug-Resistant TB.

Technical Assistance to States

KHPT collaborates with Central TB Division (CTD) in the 100-day intensified campaign on TB Elimination

As part of the 100-day intensified campaign on TB Elimination, KHPT developed Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials in English and Hindi to support the CTD in their campaign. KHPT also

supported the CTD in documenting the campaign activities at the national level across participating districts.

The team has been assisting with field activities in all participating states, including enrolling Ni-kshay Mitras under the PMTBMBA initiative, distributing nutritional food baskets, creating audiovisual materials for TB

awareness, and ensuring that individuals with TB register for the Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana to receive financial assistance for nutrition throughout their treatment. Additionally, KHPT team has been accompanying the CTD on field visits to monitor and review the campaign activities across multiple participating districts.



■ **Dr Nishant Kumar, Deputy Director, Central TB Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India and KHPT team supporting a review meeting of DBT schemes at the state level in Jharkhand**

KHPT focuses on Capacity Building to establish the importance of PMTBMBA

KHPT conducted over **80** stakeholder meetings to strengthen program implementation of PMTBMBA across project states. Additionally, **95** DO letters were issued to reinforce the importance of PMTBMBA at various levels. The team also engaged in inter-ministerial advocacy, collaborating with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Heavy Industries, Ministry of Mines, and the Ministry of Power (including Power Grid of India) to integrate PMTBMBA into broader public health and infrastructure policies.

Community engagement efforts were further amplified by advocating for the inclusion of PMTBMBA in local initiatives, ensuring grassroots participation to end TB. The team further reached out to celebrities to leverage their influence in amplifying awareness and support for the program.

Additionally, several corporate entities, including Indian Oil, Apollo Tyres, Rotary International, Amazon, and Tata Steel, have agreed to become Nikshya Mitra partners. The National Safai Karamchari PSU also volunteered as a Ni-kshay Mitra during the 100-day intensified campaign on TB elimination. Through these efforts, pendency has decreased by nearly **60%** across project states, and consent pending cases have dropped by **50%**.

KHPT collaborates with NTEP in developing a Standard Operating Procedure for PRI engagement to strengthen the TB Mukht Panchayat initiative in all project districts

By December, KHPT recruited **99** Community Coordinators and district teams across **11** districts. State-level coordination with Health and PRI departments was also initiated to enhance local engagement efforts.

In this quarter, KHPT developed an official Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for PRI Engagement, which will serve as a guiding framework for implementing the TB Mukht Gram Panchayat (TBMGP) initiative in India. The draft SOP outlines roles and responsibilities for district teams, ensuring effective coordination between PRIs and Health Departments, and supports community engagement, capacity building, and integration of TB services at the grassroots level.

PRI engagement activities were rolled out in select districts such as mapping Gram Panchayats, identifying nodal PRI representatives, and training local leaders on the TB Mukht Panchayat initiative. A list of TB-free Gram Panchayats for 2023 was compiled, and collaboration with District TB Officers helped maintain panchayat-specific data and facilitate TB Mukht Panchayat claims for 2024.

Empowering TB Champions: Key Achievements in Strengthening Community Engagement and Awareness

In a significant move to enhance the effectiveness of community-driven efforts in the fight against tuberculosis (TB), the TB Champion Diary was introduced to streamline documentation and accountability. Launched in local languages, the diary offers a structured format for TB Champions to record key activities, including interventions, locations, and dates. This system ensures systematic tracking of their efforts and contributes to better monitoring of TB response activities. To further improve transparency and data management, the diary also features a digital reporting mechanism. District leads will transfer recorded data into an electronic format, facilitating efficient data collection and analysis. This innovation enhances community engagement, bolsters program transparency, and supports the overall goal of strengthening tuberculosis prevention and care efforts.



The TB Champion Diary was officially launched by Hon'ble Union Minister Sri G Kishan Reddy at the State TB Demonstration Centre (STDC) in Hyderabad, marking a milestone in the national mission to eliminate tuberculosis. This event was part of the 100-day campaign launch in the state, underscoring the pivotal role of TB Champions in the national TB elimination initiative.

Among the key achievements, **12,531** TB survivors were reached, with **9,469** agreeing to be trained, and **8,011** survivors (**85%**) were trained by December 2024. The project successfully trained **7,675** TB survivors across 281 batches, with **4,887** trained in December alone. Additionally, **3,337** Active Advocacy Members (AAMs) were activated, completing multiple activities within a three-month period. Finally, **4,274** TB Champions facilitated **4,245** community awareness events, engaging communities in TB awareness, early diagnosis, and stigma reduction. These efforts are essential in empowering TB Champions and advancing the national mission to eliminate tuberculosis.

KHPT also conducted PRI representative training sessions in Unnao, Chirang, Muzaffarpur, and Karimnagar, using a PRI Training Module developed in collaboration with CTD. Over **400** Gram Panchayat representatives were trained at the block level in this quarter.



■ **TB Pledge event during PRI training in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh**

Case Story

KHPT Launches Pilot Nutrition Initiative at Chakadal High School, Baksa, Assam

On November 27, KHPT launched a pilot program at Chakadal High School to address nutrition issues among school children. The Headmistress reported that some girl students come to school without breakfast and faint often. The objective was to identify these students and provide them with daily breakfast for three months, while finding a sustainable solution to continue the intervention.

A sensitization and screening session also were conducted with the AAM's involvement. The CHO identified girls with low BMI and haemoglobin levels. An advocacy meeting was held at the school with the School Management & Development Committee President, VCDC member, CHO, ANM, ASHA, and school staff to support of the initiative.

The next steps include piloting the program for three months, securing local support for long-term implementation, and integrating health talks and nutrition counselling. KHPT also plans to advocate for monthly satellite clinics by AAM for health screenings and monitoring of BMI and haemoglobin levels in the district.



Meeting in progress in Chakadal High school to address nutrition concerns among school students, Baksa, Assam

KHPT
engage, innovate, empower

Over 20 million lives touched!

In 2024, we advanced our mission to empower communities and improve their health.

We look forward to another year of collaboration, compassion, and shared success.

Wishing you and your loved ones a New Year filled with health and happiness!

With gratitude,
Team KHPT

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For more information on the above activities, please contact Neha Bhuvarahan, Communication Manager, KHPT at neha.bhuvarahan@khpt.org