



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Engagement of workplaces in TB care and control

First Consultation in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNAIDS, Global Business Coalition to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GBC), and the Global Health Initiative (GHI) of the World Economic Forum.

Monday, 12 October 2009

International Conference Centre(CICG), Geneva, Switzerland

Background

With 9.2 million new cases and 1.7 million deaths per year, Tuberculosis (TB) remains a top killer infectious disease in the world. Nearly 75% of those affected by TB are adult men and women in their productive years of life. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Stop TB Strategy is designed to address the global TB epidemic fuelled by the emergence of HIV. One of the key components of this Strategy is to engage all care providers in response to the epidemic. Businesses have great potential to contribute to TB care and control at and beyond workplaces.

According to the 2008 International Labour Organization (ILO) Global Employment Trends Report, there are currently 3 billion people in the world of work. Of these, nearly 1.3 billion do not earn enough to lift themselves out of poverty. It is often these poor workers and their families who get stuck in the vicious web of TB, HIV and other diseases. Studies suggest that on average, an employee with TB loses 3-4 months of work per year, resulting in potential losses of 20-30% of his annual household income¹. Further, some workplaces are a hotbed for disease transmission as employees spend long periods of time in close proximity. In addition, a lot of the barriers to accessing TB services are linked to work-related concerns such as loss of wages or job discrimination. Addressing TB in the workplace can help overcome these barriers and facilitate access to health care in general and TB care in particular. Tackling TB in the workplace can directly enhance company productivity and save costs, especially in high TB prevalence areas². In India alone, TB causes a loss of 100

¹ Rajeswari R, Balasubramanian R, Muniyandi M, et al. Socio-Economic impact of tuberculosis on patient and family in India. *Int J Tuberc Lung Dis* 1999; **3**: 869-877.

² Godinho J, Veen J, Dara M, Cercone J, Pacheco J (2005). Stopping Tuberculosis in Central Asia. Priorities for Action, Working Paper no. 56. Washington, DC: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/ The World Bank.

million workdays per year, this adds up to substantial costs for companies³. Involvement of the business community is thus crucial in the fight against TB.

The first consultation to promote the engagement of workplaces in TB care and control will be organized by the Stop TB Department of the World Health Organization in collaboration with key Stop TB Partners such as the Global Business Coalition to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the International Labour Organization, UNAIDS and the Global Health Initiative of the World Economic Forum , on 12 October 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Specific objectives

1. To review ongoing experiences of workplace engagement in TB care and control
2. To discuss the roles of businesses, national TB programmes, business coalitions and unions in setting up and expanding workplace-based TB care and control.
3. To present a guiding framework to engage workplaces in TB care and control
4. To discuss ways to advocate and help implement workplace based TB care and control.

Expected outcomes

1. Key lessons for implementation of TB workplace programmes extracted from a review of existing evidence and experiences.
2. Feedback on guidance framework on engaging workplaces in TB care and control

³ Global Health Initiative TB Management in the Workplace: An Introduction for Businesses in India

Agenda

12 October 2009		
8:30 - 9:00	Registration	
Session 1: Introduction Chair: Phil Hopewell, ATS		
Objective: <i>To present evidence base and draft guidance framework on engaging workplaces in TB care and control</i>		
9:00 - 9:05	Opening address	Mario Raviglione, Director, Stop TB Department, WHO
9:05 - 9:15	Background, objectives and agenda	Mukund Uplekar, Stop TB Department, WHO
9:15 - 9:30	Engaging workplaces in TB care and control- evidence base and draft guidance framework	Monica Yesudian, Stop TB Department, WHO
9:30 - 9:45	Discussion	
<i>Coffee Break 9:45 – 10:00</i>		
Session 2: Experiences of workplace engagement in TB care and control Chair: Shuma Panse, GBC		
Objective: <i>To review the existing evidence and experiences in the implementation of TB workplace programmes</i>		
10:00 - 10:15	Partnering for TB control in the garment industry: The Youngone model	N Islam, NTP Bangladesh
10:15 - 10:30	Engaging tea estates in TB control- experiences from Kenya	Joseph Sitienei, NTP Kenya
10:30 - 10:45	Involving businesses in TB control- Experiences from India	LS Chauhan, MTP India
10:45 - 11:00	TB control in the mines of South Africa	Salome Charlambous, Aurum Institute, South Africa
11:00 - 11:15	Discussion	
Session 3: Roles of Employers organizations, business coalitions and unions in workplace-based TB care and control Chair: Sophia Kisting, Director, ILOAIDS		
Objective: <i>To discuss roles of employer federations, business coalitions and trade unions</i>		

11:15 - 11:30	Business coalitions - Mediators for TB control	Shaloo Puri, WEF
11:30 - 11:45	Strengthening TB/HIV workplace programmes: a case study from Employers in Swaziland	Dr Bongiwe Radebe, Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation
11:45 - 12:00	The role of Trade Unions in the TB response	Esther Lynch, Irish Congress of Trade Unions
12:00 – 12:15	Discussion	
<i>Lunch Break 12:15 – 13:15</i>		
<i>Session 4: Group Work</i>		
<i>Chair: Alasdair Reid, UNAIDS</i>		
Objective: <i>To discuss in breakout groups the core aspects of the draft guidance framework</i>		
13:15 -13:20	Introduction to Group Work	Monica Yesudian
13:20 -15:15	Group work in five working groups	
<i>Coffee Break 15:15 – 15:30</i>		
15:30- 16:30	Group Work reporting back and discussion	
<i>Session 5: Closing Session</i>		
<i>Chair: Leopold Blanc, Coordinator, TBS, Stop TB Department, WHO</i>		
Objective: <i>To summarize the outcomes of the meeting and identify concrete next steps</i>		
16:30 - 17:00	Discussion : Next Steps	Leopold Blanc
17:00 - 17:15	Closing Remarks	Jean Francois de Lavison, PSC, Stop TB Partnership
17:15 - 17:20	Vote of thanks	Mukund Uplekar