

# WHO PLATFORM FOR COMMUNITY-BASED TB ACTIVITIES NEWSLETTER

March 2020



## Case studies - part 2

In July 2019, WHO Global TB Programme launched a call for expression of interest to submit case studies on best practices and lessons learned in implementing community-based TB activities. We received over 25 proposals, out of which 8 were selected for further development into case studies for publication.

Each case study outlines the epidemiological context and key barriers in finding the missing people with TB in the local context. They describe in detail the solutions that have been put in place to overcome these barriers and their key outcomes, with a focus on lessons learned and best practices that were instrumental to the success of the interventions.

We are now pleased to share with you two new case studies, which describe local solutions adopted for the delivery of community based TB services in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and in **Pakistan**.

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If you have missed any of the previous case studies, you can find them here:

[Mozambique](#)

[Myanmar](#)

# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), tuberculosis is one of the leading causes of death among people living with HIV (PLHIV). WHO estimates that 270 000 people fell ill with TB in 2018, out of which 31 000 were HIV-positive. Foundation Femme Plus (FFP) is a community-based organization supporting PLHIV through advocacy, community mobilisation and psychosocial support. Since 2015, FFP has adopted the WHO ENGAGE-TB approach and has integrated TB into his package of activities. Between January 2018 and March 2019, FFP has implemented active TB case finding and TB treatment support activities in two high-burden provinces in DRC, with particular focus on PLHIV and children. Working in close collaboration with local health authorities and health centres, they referred over 21 000 people with presumptive TB and contributed to 88% of the TB notifications in the targeted areas.

[Read the full case study \(English version\).](#)

[Lire la suite \(version française\).](#)



Photo: Foudation Femme Plus



Photo: Mercy corps

# PAKISTAN

Pakistan accounts for 6% of the total number of TB cases globally. In 2018, according to WHO estimates, out of 562 000 people who fell ill with TB in Pakistan, only 369 548 were notified by the national health system and approximately 44 300 people died from the disease. Improving TB case detection, treatment coverage and outcome is a public health priority in Pakistan, especially in rural communities where TB notification is particularly low. To respond to these challenges, Mercy Corps worked with the Lady Health Workers (LHW) Programme in the Sindh province to integrate community based TB activities into their portfolio. The intervention aimed at raising awareness about TB, increasing case finding and improving access to TB diagnostic services. Between April 2017 and September 2019, over 12 000 people with presumptive TB were screened and referred to health facilities by Lady Health Workers.

[Read the full case study.](#)





# New ENGAGE-TB training

21 - 24 September 2020

Turin, Italy

More information about the application and competitive selection process for participants will be available by June 2020. If you are interested in attending the training, you can contact us at [engage-tb@who.int](mailto:engage-tb@who.int).

The report from the pilot training that took place in December 2019 can be found [here](#).

For further information about WHO work on community engagement, please visit:

<https://www.who.int/tb/areas-of-work/community-engagement/en/>