• 5th amongst 30 high burden TB countries
• TB incidence rate is 268 per 100,000 of population
• TB prevalence rate is 342 per 100,000
• Only 70% were reported to NTP in 2017
• Around 160,000 cases are missing; probably in private sector – 5% of global volume of missing patients
• Substantial challenge of over the counter sales of anti TB medicines (Ref; W. Wells – 2011)

Hence, mandatory notification of TB is vital
• Three of Pakistan’s four provinces (Sindh, Punjab & KP) have made it compulsory by law to notify TB patients

• Fourth of the Provinces (Balochistan) and Federal Government is in process of finalizing appropriate legislation for respective jurisdictions

• Implementation By-laws and tools have been developed

• Electronic Mandatory Notification System & Web-based training portal is being designed for pilot testing
Features of legislation for mandatory notification

- Assigns key role to health practitioners and owners of private health facilities to notify
- Notification has to be within a stipulated time on standard formats & through identified means
- Data base is to be maintained along-with tracking of patients if they change abode
- Patient’s confidentiality has been ensured
• Incentivize practitioners for mandatory notification
• Sets penal clauses for non conforming entities
• Awareness about disease itself and possible health facilities in public sector are the hall marks
Expected outcomes

• TB control will gain due priority in health planning and its implementation
• Will help us find and treat missing TB patients effectively
• Rationalize use of anti TB drugs
• Will ultimately lead us to adopt a national and comprehensive multi-sectoral approach to contribute towards Global End TB Strategy by year 2035 including SDGs
Key challenges

• Costed National Strategic Plan for 2018 – 2020 – has a financial gap of 276 million USD

• Implementation of legislation on notification needs a high level of sensitization of health care providers

• Ensuring persistent and focused efforts for sustainable outcomes

• Presence of largely unregulated private health sector
Way forward

• Political consensus to declare TB as “Health Priority”
• Enhanced financial allocation by the Provincial Governments
• Current interventions to stay in line with National Health Vision
• Comprehensive multi-sectoral approach to End TB
Thank you