

## Promoting Intensified TB Case Finding Among PLHIV and Other Vulnerable Groups.

◆ **Tuberculosis (TB)** is the leading cause of death among People Living with HIV (PLHIV) and other vulnerable groups (drug users, alcoholics, migrant workers and sex workers), accounting for 1 in 4 HIV-related deaths in the world. This is also a challenge in Nepal, where many TB patients among PLHIV and other vulnerable populations often go undiagnosed and untreated. Even among those people who are diagnosed, the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV and TB can be a deterrent to accessing healthcare.

In order to reach out to more PLHIV and other TB-vulnerable populations, Nepal Naya Goreto (NG) in collaboration with Nepal Tuberculosis Center (NTC) and the Stop TB Partnership, launched a Wave 4 TB REACH project to promote intensified TB case-finding among these groups. The project goal of increasing early detection and treatment is being implemented mainly in ten districts of Nepal with high concentrations of these key populations: Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Rupandehi, Palpa, Kaski, Baglung, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Doti and Accham. Naya Goreto recruited PLHIV, other vulnerable groups, and their closely associated and trusted peer groups as project volunteers to implement early TB case-finding among their own populations. This targeted mobilization of volunteers is the major strength of this intervention, helping it to reach a population neglected by Nepal's regular TB program. After a formal orientation, volunteers worked in each district to enable early TB case-finding among their peer groups. DPHO worked closely

The target of the project was screening 7050 PLHIV and other vulnerable groups. To date, the number screened is 6619, as well as 170 family members of index cases. Through both active case-finding and contract tracing, NG was able to identify 287 TB cases from 6046 test within 15 months (June 16, 2014 to August 15, 2015) of project implementation. Among those tested 5430 were PLHIV, 309 were people Who Use Drug (PWUD), 122 were migrant workers, 15 were slum dwellers and 170 were family/peer group members of index cases.

Key-population mobilization has proven to be an effective strategy to achieve the project target. The lessons learned from this successful TB REACH project have helped develop a new approach to diagnosing and treating TB/HIV in Nepal.



# Nepal

Naya Goreto (NG)



with the volunteers throughout the project period and developed a system for early screening and testing, and the registration of those who proved TB positive at the nearest DOTs Centre. In addition, the NG volunteers stayed in regular communication with the referred and registered patients for follow-up on the treatment process, setting a new standard for individual health management in project districts. This strategic mobilization of volunteers has been found to be effective not only in expanding our screening services but has also been a means to channel this population towards other national healthcare services



# TB REACH

FINDING AND TREATING  
PEOPLE WITH TB  
IN THE WORLD'S POOREST  
COMMUNITIES



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

More than nine and a half million people around the world become ill with tuberculosis (TB) each year. About one-third of them fail to get an accurate diagnosis or effective treatment and are more likely to die from this curable disease.

By supporting the many partners working in the field, TB REACH offers a lifeline to these people by finding and treating people in the poorest, most vulnerable communities in the world. In areas with limited or non-existent TB care, TB REACH supports innovative and effective techniques to identify people who have TB, avert deaths, stop TB from spreading, and halt the development of drug resistant strains.

TB REACH has supported a total of 142 projects in 46 countries. To date, 33 million people have been screened for TB in project areas, of which, 1.7 million have received TB treatment, accounting for 856,000 lives saved. Some projects have seen increases in TB notifications of more than 100%.

Our partners are providing evidence for new case finding approaches and are working with community and policy leaders as well as donors such as The Global Fund to integrate those approaches into national strategies that improve TB case detection.

TB REACH was launched in 2010 thanks to a CAD\$ 120 million grant from Global Affairs Canada.

TB REACH acts as a pathfinder, providing fast track funding for innovative projects, monitoring effectiveness and leveraging funding for scale up.

**Stop TB Partnership**

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