

## Press Conference at Press Club Peshawar:

A press conference was conducted by the Provincial TB Control program, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014 with support of ACD to create awareness about the status of TB prevention and control efforts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The press conference was arranged at press Club, Peshawar. Amongst the prominent speakers, Dr. Ubaid Hussain (Project Director), Dr. Maqsood Ali Khan (Provincial Program Manager-GFATM) Dr. Akmal Naveed & Dr. Abdul Latif (ACD) highlighted key issues about TB and new initiatives taken by the program.



While updating the gathering, Dr. Ubaid Hussain (Project Director) informed that during 2013, the programme was able to register 38803 patients with 94 % treatment success rate for the registered TB patients. Quality assured anti-TB drugs and diagnostic facilities are provided free of cost. Since its inception in 2002, the programme has registered and successfully treated approximately 331969 TB patients till December 2013.



The Provincial TB Control Programme has laid the foundation of state of the art Bio Safety Level-III Laboratory at Hayatabad Medical Complex, Peshawar which is a vital initiative in health sector of Khyber Pakhtukhwa supported by German Government. Bio Safety Level-III Laboratory will be the most advanced diagnostic facility for TB in the province wherein wide range of tests including Drug Susceptibility Testing (DST), Culture



and diagnosis through GeneXperts will be performed. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is also the leading province in terms of functionalizing 10 GeneXpert sites. Sample transportation mechanism to these sites is ensured through OSC.

Programmatic Management of Drug Resistant TB (PMDT) is initiated at Lady Reading Hospital (Peshawar), Ayub Teaching Hospital (Abbottabad), Mufti Mahmood Memorial Teaching Hospital (Dera Ismail Khan) whereas, the 4<sup>th</sup> PMDT site has also been established at Saidu Teaching Hospital, Swat. Currently, 400 MDR patients are supported by Global Fund and 200 Patients are being enrolled through EPOS including SLDs (Second Line Anti-TB Drugs) and Social support.

The drug store/warehouse has been strengthened as a state of the art warehouse of the province which is the best warehouse among other provincial TB control programmes in Pakistan. Warehouse and Drug Management Systems (TB-DMIS) are also launched.

The Project Director also shared that the Programme has initiated a KAP survey on knowledge, attitude and practices of general population as well as of TB patients by using both qualitative and quantitative methods to find out the existing Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) of general population and TB patients. The Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization (ACSM) strategy is developed to assist in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of ACSM activities to influence behaviors and mobilize communities to create long term normative shifts towards desired behaviors.