

## WORLD TB DAY 2012

### MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON ACSM:

The Steering Committee Meeting on ACSM for Provincial TB Control Program, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was held at the office of the Director General Health, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, chaired by the Project Director, Provincial TB Control program, Khyber Pakhtukhwa on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012.

The objective of the meeting was to device strategy for planning World TB Day 2012 and to get onboard the Steering Committee for support and coordination.



The meeting discussed feasible activities to raise awareness on TB at both provincial and district level. Contributions by partners were also discussed at length along with a briefing on the progress and budgetary implications.

### TB AWARENESS CAMPAIGN: CRICKET MATCH BETWEEN PROVINCIAL TB CONTROL PROGRAM AND PICO

Provincial TB Control Program, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa commemorates World TB Day across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa every year in March. This year, as part of the TB awareness campaign, the program conducted a cricket match between Provincial TB Control Program and PICO (Hayatabad Medical Complex, Peshawar) on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at Sports Complex Hayatabad.

The activity was supported by Association for Community Development. All players were



provided cricket kits (trousers and shirts). The team of Provincial TB Control Program put on green while PICO in Blue. The match was won by PICO and received the winning trophy. Refreshments were also served at the end of the match.

TB awareness banners were posted around the ground and special announcements were made

to deliver key messages in relation to tuberculosis. Approximately 80 people related to PICO, HMC, TB Control Program and representatives of partner organizations attended the event.

### **PRESS CONFERENCE AT PRESS CLUB PESHAWAR:**

A press conference was conducted by the Provincial TB Control program, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012 to create awareness about tuberculosis for World TB Day. The press conference was arranged at press Club, Peshawar. Amongst the prominent speakers, Dr. Ubaid Hussain (Project Director), Dr. Abdul Latif (Program Officer-PTP) and Dr. Mohammad Yousaf Khan (Associate Professor-Lady Reading Hospital) highlighted key issues about TB and new initiatives taken by the program.



Dr. Ubaid Hussain shared that more than 2, 57,500 TB patients have been registered and successfully treated from 2002 to 2011. Free of cost diagnostic and treatment services are being provided to all patients as 220 Basic Management Units (BMUs) and 806 functional treatment centers have been established all over the province. Among them, 37 BMUs are effectively working in non-public sector, a successful step towards public private partnership.

Dr. Ubaid also highlighted that TB Control program has provided vehicles to the districts for monitoring and supervision as free provision of quality assured anti-TB drugs is ensured all over the province. A recent landmark achieved by the program is the establishment of Provincial TB Reference Laboratory at Hayatabad Medical Complex, Peshawar. Drug Resistant TB Treatment has also been initiated in the province and the initiative of Public Private Mix (PPM) expansion strategy is finalized with partners support at the provincial level to involve remaining districts of the province.



The press conference was attended by more than 50 professionals from TB Control program and its partner organizations as well as the media professionals.

### **ADVOCACY SEMINAR TO COMMEMORATE WORLD TB DAY:**

**Peshawar, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012:** An advocacy seminar was arranged by the Provincial TB Control Programme under the leadership of Mr. Syed Zahir Ali Shah, Provincial Minister for Health, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to commemorate Dr. Robert Koch's discovery of *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis*, the bacteria that cause TB.

The seminar was attended by representatives of Health department, National TB Control Programme, Tertiary care hospitals of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, parastatal hospitals, Heads of health programmes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, donor agencies, implementing partners, community representatives, teachers, students, TB patients and media personnel.

The Honorable Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mr. Ameer Haider Khan Hoti in his message on the World TB Day

reiterates that “TB is one of the major diseases affecting the health of our people. It takes a heavy toll on the health and economy of our province. The present Democratic Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is fully sensitized about the health of its people and is committed to thrust all resources for controlling this killing disease in the province”.

While commending the efforts of the Government, the Provincial Minister for Health Mr. Syed Zahir Ali shared that “the present Government has inaugurated Provincial TB Reference Laboratory at HMC on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012. This has created a new era of Quality service provision to Multi Drug Resistance TB patients in the province”.

Mr. Mohammad Ishfaq Khan, the Provincial Secretary Health informed the audience that, “new and more rapid methods of diagnosing TB have recently become available and other new technologies are on the horizon. Manufacturers, donors, technical agencies and countries need to work together to make these innovations a standard of care as quickly as possible”.

The Special Secretary Health Dr. Noor-ul-Iman said in his address “we can meet the Global Plan to stop TB targets (2006-2015) only if we put in place innovative approaches and work together in new and different ways. We must find new and innovative ways to leverage resources –at all levels – if we are to meet our targets to stop TB”.

Speaking of the key achievements made by the program, Dr. Sharif Ahmad Khan, the Director General Health Services Khyber Pakhtunkhwa shared that “Health Department has started TB Control Programme in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa since 2002. Today we have 220





functional diagnostic and 806 treatment centers all over the province. Quality assured anti-TB drugs and diagnostic facilities are provided free of cost all over the province”.

“TB Control Programme Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is entering a new era with the operationalization of a state of the art Basic Safety Level 3 Provincial TB Reference Laboratory at Peshawar. We hope that it would be a great help in the management of MDR TB, Dr. Ubaid Hussain, the Project Director, TB Control Program, updated the audience at the seminar.

The Provincial Minister for Health Mr. Syed Zahir Ali Shah also extended shields of acknowledgement among professionals for their contribution to control TB in the province. He also acknowledged the support extended by National TB Control Program, WHO, GFATM, AGEG/GIZ, KfW, ACD and ASD for their continued assistance and thanked AKHSP, PATA, Green Star Good life, and others who contributed substantially in case finding and case holding of TB patients in the province.

#### **TV AND RADIO TALK SHOWS:**

The provincial TB Control Program also arranged TV and Radio Talk Shows to create awareness about TB on World TB Day. The following prominent figures of the health



Department and medical experts on TB appeared on Radio and TV for supporting the campaign.