



Partners Newsletter Autumn 2011— *Integrating TB*

Welcome to the Autumn 2011 Target TB Partners Newsletter!

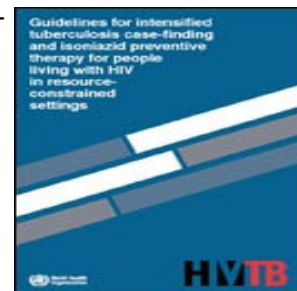
In this issue we will highlight the importance of integrated TB, HIV and Maternal and Child Health Services. We include evidence and recommendations from key global bodies, and look at how our partners around the world are working to put these recommendations into action.

TB and HIV

In many parts of the developing world, the epidemics of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis have combined, resulting in a deadly mix. People living with HIV are up to 30 times more likely to become ill with TB than those without HIV infection. They are also far more likely to die of TB, which, despite being both preventable and curable, is currently responsible for one in four HIV deaths.

NEW WHO Guidelines for TB prevention among PLHA

The World Health Organization (WHO) has released updated guidelines for preventing TB among persons living with HIV in resource-limited countries, including the recommendation that those presenting without active TB receive at least six months of isoniazid prophylaxis treatment (IPT).



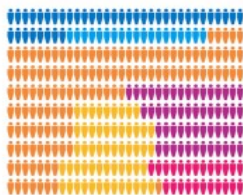
The guidelines show how people with HIV can be protected from tuberculosis with regular, low-cost preventive medication and present a set of recommendations that will help reduce TB disease in people living with HIV, their families and communities through a combination of screening for TB and provision of IPT.

Download the full here: <http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/tb/9789241500708/en/index.html>

Time to Act: Saving lives by preventing and treating TB in PLHA

A scientific model recently produced through a joint effort by the Stop TB Partnership, World Health Organization (WHO), and UNAIDS shows that scaling up on already available methods worldwide, we can save a million lives by preventing one million TB deaths among people living with HIV between now and 2015

Time to act
Save a million lives
by 2015
Prevent and
treat tuberculosis
among people
living with HIV



In order to achieve this goal, in countries where HIV and TB are prevalent, screening programs will need to provide testing for both infections every three years to everyone in the population. TB diagnosis, prevention and treatment for people living with HIV should be provided promptly.

For more details go to: http://www.stoptb.org/assets/documents/resources/publications/acsm/TB_HIV_Brochure_Singles.pdf



TB & HIV continued...

New UK Government policy on HIV in the developing world.



The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) has recently published 'Towards zero infections, The UK's position paper on HIV in the developing world'. The main focus is reducing new HIV infections among women and girls, ending paediatric AIDS, and addressing TB-HIV co-infection - TB is the leading cause of death among people living with HIV. Target TB is pleased that the UK Government is now recognizing the need to address the dual epidemic.

The position paper seeks to address the challenges in varying HIV and TB epidemics by:

Significantly reducing infections, particularly in women and children in populations with high HIV prevalence rate. In Africa, by concentrating efforts in high prevalent areas, and by focusing on HIV programmes in fewer countries where the impact is greatest while continuing to work through partners elsewhere, DFID aims to prevent HIV among women by at least half a million in Africa.

Increasing access to HIV and TB diagnosis, treatment, care and support, including early infant diagnosis within integrated services, and focusing on sustainability so that treatment for all is achievable.

Tackling stigma and Discrimination by working for policy change for most at risk populations and to empower women and girls, including with sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Download the full document here:

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications1/twds-zero-ifs-pos-paper-hiv-dev-wrld.pdf>

Web Platform providing Information on HIV/AIDs prevention and control in Southern Africa

The hivsouthernafrica.info web platform is a collaborative initiative of local and international partners working on HIV and AIDS in the Southern African region. It is a virtual community for health workers, development programmers, activists and advocates focused on accelerating HIV prevention in Southern Africa. The site is not owned by any one organisation, but is a collaborative effort of numerous stakeholders including; The Southern African HIV & AIDS Information Dissemination Service (SAfAIDS), UNAIDS, Population Service International (PSI), Soul City, AIDSPortal, International HIV/AIDS Alliance and Knowledge 4 Health.



TB and Maternal and Child Health

More than three million women and one million children are affected by TB every year. TB is a leading infectious disease causing the death of women worldwide, with the WHO reporting that in 2008 3.6 million women fell ill with TB and 700 000 women died, included 200 000 women with HIV. This is more than all causes of maternal mortality combined. Millions of children are left orphaned due to losing one or both parents to the disease.

TB is the leading cause of death among people with HIV, and pregnant women living with active TB and HIV are at far greater risk of maternal mortality than those without HIV infection. TB-HIV co-infection puts both mother and infant at increased risk during and after pregnancy. Studies have indicated that women with TB-HIV co-infection are 2.5 times more likely to transmit HIV to their babies than women without TB, and their infants are 24 times more likely to have neonatal TB.

Although there is strong evidence to suggest that screening and treatment for active TB within MCH services would be a beneficial intervention, both in terms of improving health outcomes and delivering value-for-money, this has not been adequately reflected in policy, either at a global or national level, nor in implementation on the ground.

To date there has been little evidence of countries developing strategies for integrating TB, MCH and HIV services as part of best practices. **We need to take action now to ensure that TB is properly addressed in the context of both MCH and HIV services.**

New WHO Guidelines on TB in pregnant women & children with HIV

As already mentioned, The World Health Organization (WHO) has released a new publication setting out guidelines to help tackle TB among people living with HIV in resource-limited settings. This includes specific recommendations relating to maternal and child health. The guidelines stress the importance of screening pregnant women living with HIV for active TB, and “strongly recommend that pregnancy should not exclude women living with HIV from symptom-based TB screening and receiving IPT” (Isoniazid Preventative Therapy). For children living with HIV, the guidelines recommend infants and children living with HIV should routinely be screened for TB as a part of standard clinical care, particularly if they have been exposed to an adult with TB.

Download the document here: <http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/tb/9789241500708/en/index.html>

Pasquela's Story: Pasquela da Silva is from East Timor. She is 22 years old, and has 3 daughters, the youngest of whom is aged 7 months.



In May 2011 Pasquela became sick with a persistent cough, and was diagnosed with a very infectious form of TB. As her young baby was at high risk of infection, in line with the National TB Programme guidelines, not only was Pasquela started on TB treatment herself, but her baby daughter also received isoniazid prophylaxis treatment to prevent TB in case she was infected. Pasquela is now feeling much better, and her baby is healthy.

Young children living in close contact with people with infectious TB are at particular risk of infection. Administering isoniazid prophylaxis treatment to children at risk such as Pasquela's daughter is an effective way of preventing infection.



More news.....

Target TB funded project in Uganda wins prestigious award

For the last 3 years the British Medical Journal (BMJ) has recognised excellence in Health-care with the BMJ Group Awards. This year, we are pleased to announce that a project funded by Target TB won the award for 'Getting Evidence into Practice' category.

The project was implemented by our partner International Medical Foundation (IMF). IMF works in collaboration with the Ugandan Ministry of Health in TB and HIV control programmes, focusing particularly on urban slum communities with high HIV prevalence.

The project aimed to investigate the effectiveness of a new technique, Microscopic Observation Technique (MOT), for TB diagnosis in low-resource HIV-prevalent settings, and is the first large African-based work to prove the efficacy of the MOT test, which is now being used routinely to investigate all clients from the outreach clinic (Touch Namuwongo) in Kampala.



Richard the VSO volunteer with Bosco (IMF lab in Uganda)

TTB Update

TB Integration Survey

In line with the issues of integration discussed in this newsletter Target TB recently sent out a questionnaire to all its partners to assess the need for integrated TB, MCH and HIV services, and look at ways they can work to address the current challenges. **Thank you** all for taking part in the survey; your responses are helping us to produce briefing papers on TB and maternal and child health and TB and HIV. We will include an analysis of your responses and links to these briefing papers in our next newsletter.

TTB Strategic Planning

Target TB are currently in the process of developing a new Organisational Strategic Plan for 2012-14, to help guide our work for the next three years. To support this process we have been gathering feedback from key strategic partners, including you. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete the strategic planning questionnaires we sent out in September, this information has been compiled and will help us develop the strategy over the next few months; ready to start guiding our work from April 2012. We will a=share the new plan with you in our next newsletter.

International Union Against TB and Lung Disease Annual Conference 2011

At the end of October Nikki & Clare (joined by Isaac from Bwafwano, Zambia), attended this years IUATLD conference, held in France. The conference was be attended by key Civil Society and Government stakeholders in TB; as well as learning about latest developments in TB control we took the opportunity to share the achievements, successes and learning from our international partner organisations.

Advocating for TB amongst Maternal Health Organisations

We recently teamed up with the White Ribbon Alliance to raise awareness about the impact of TB on maternal and child health and to encourage advocates to take action. Check out November's month of action on TB and MCH at <http://www.whiteribbonalliance.org/ActionoftheMonth/>