

Scaling Up Integrated TB and HIV Services in Kenya

PATH, with support from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Global Fund, and the Capacity Project, is currently working in Kenya to scale up tuberculosis (TB) and HIV activities in 15 priority districts as well as nationally. Key partners include the National Leprosy and TB Control Program (NLTP) in the Division of Leprosy, TB, and Lung Diseases; the Royal Netherlands Tuberculosis Foundation (KNCV); the World Health Organization; and the Kenya Association for the Prevention of TB and Lung Disease (KAPTLD).



PEPFAR-supported activities include:

- Building human-resource capacity in TB/HIV.
- Scaling up TB/HIV integrated activities by increasing the number of patients tested for HIV and initiating care, and increasing the number of TB cases diagnosed, as well as diagnostic efficiency, among people living with HIV.
- Strengthening TB/HIV management monitoring and evaluation.
- Stimulating community-level demand for HIV testing and TB diagnosis.
- Strengthening laboratories and improving quality of TB/HIV diagnostic capacity.

Global Fund-supported activities include:

- Advocating for the development of supportive policies and increasing funding.
- Increasing awareness and knowledge of TB and reducing the associated stigma.
- Mobilizing the community and building its capacity to respond to the TB epidemic.

Capacity Project-supported activities include:

- Facilitating policy development to address TB- and TB/HIV-specific capacity needs.
- Evidence-based planning for TB- and TB/HIV-related human resource needs.
- Enhancing routine TB program monitoring with human resources for health standards.

Achievements

PATH, in collaboration with NLTP and KAPTLD, supported the placement of 10 district TB and leprosy coordination assistants in 2005. A total of 176 health care providers from public and private institutions have received training on TB and HIV activities using the national TB and HIV training curriculum. Another 81 laboratory technologists have received refresher training on acid-fast bacillus (AFB) diagnosis. PATH is addressing the need for increased diagnosis and testing of both TB and HIV by building health worker capacity throughout Kenya. PATH created provincial- and district-level training plans with the NLTP in all PATH-supported provinces and is working with NLTP provincial-level trainers to train health workers and district-level coordinators in TB-HIV co-infection. As of mid-2007, 30 new diagnostic TB facilities had been opened as a result of PATH support.



Achievements

A total of six joint provincial planning meetings were carried out in PATH-supported regions, which include North Eastern, Coast, Central, South Rift, North Rift and Nyanza Provinces. The planning meetings were attended by provincial and district medical laboratory technologists, provincial and district TB and leprosy coordinators, provincial and district AIDS and sexually transmitted disease coordinators, public health officers, district medical officers of health and provincial medical office representatives. The AIDS, Population, and Health-Initiated Activities Project (APHIA II), is an approach to enhance the Government of Kenya's health activities through nongovernmental organization consortia. PATH leads APHIA II in the Western Province, spearheading TB, HIV, and AIDS activities. In other provinces, PATH is also playing an important role through APHIA II in scaling up TB/HIV integration.

Additionally, PATH's TB team participated in technical assistance supervision in the Rift Valley and Nyanza Provinces. PATH also supported the printing and distribution of 100 TB/HIV training manuals to supplement the Division of Leprosy, TB, and Lung Diseases. PATH has supported AFB refresher courses in 10 districts and external quality assurance supervision in 13 districts. In 2007, PATH supported a laboratory assessment in the North Eastern Province, as well as similar assessments in Nairobi and in the Coast and Nyanza Provinces in 2006. PATH is also finalizing the policy documents on human resource for health performance standard and quantification tool in TB and TB/HIV.

Community Involvement

Community involvement is a crucial part of the new Global Plan to Stop Tuberculosis. To support greater community involvement in TB control in Kenya, PATH has been implementing various advocacy, communication, and social mobilization activities nationally. These include:

1. Radio talk shows on three local radio stations to sensitize the public on suspicion, diagnosis, and management of TB. Thus far, 36 programs have been aired.
2. Training of 67 magnet theatre troupes throughout the country to mainstream TB content in their magnet theatre outreach work, which encourages community-based discussion and problem solving.
3. Workplace training on TB and HIV in 14 companies.
4. Development of a national TB communication strategy with the NLTP, entitled *Lights of Hope*.
5. Development, in collaboration with the NLTP, of a national advocacy strategy, *Joining Hands Against TB*, and a community sensitization manual on TB/HIV.



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