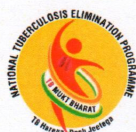


स्वास्थ्य एवं
परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE



BUILDING EFFECTIVE TB FORUMS AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UNDER NTEP

Facilitators' Manual

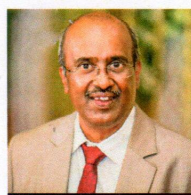


सत्यमेव जयते



Dr. Rajendra P. Joshi
Deputy Director General
Central TB Division

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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Message

Engaging communities is key to ending TB. This is in keeping with the commitments made by India in the UN HLM Political Declaration and in our own National Strategic Plan for TB Elimination. The recently published Guidance document on Community Engagement under NTEP clearly outlines the different stakeholders that we need to work with to reduce deaths and suffering due to TB.

Building strong TB Forums is integral to our efforts. We established TB Forums to uphold the rights and dignity of people with TB, to supplement and complement people-friendly TB policies and programs, to reduce stigma and discrimination, and to improve awareness of people on the available facilities. All of this will further strengthen trust in the public health system and promote health-seeking behavior among communities.

Today, TB Forum meetings are being held across the country. While this is an excellent first step, we are keen to ensure that they are conducted in the true spirit of community engagement, with room for communities to speak boldly and frankly. This TB Forum Facilitators' Manual, the companion film, and the workbook are intended to support all stakeholders to identify ways to make TB Forum meetings more effective and meaningful. I look forward to our collective efforts to amplify community participation in TB elimination.

TB Harega, Desh Jeetega!

(Dr. Rajendra P Joshi)



Dr. Nishant Kumar
Joint Director (Public Health)
Central TB Division



सत्यमेव जयते

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Government of India
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Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली-110108
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MESSAGE

The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) through its National Strategic Plan 2017-25 (NSP) clearly outlines the role of communities, TB survivors, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and various stakeholders, in achieving the goal of ending TB as a public health problem in India.

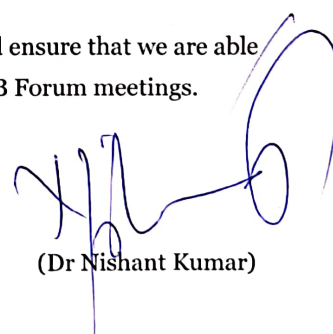
NTEP promotes community-based interventions for awareness generation, stigma reduction, screening of TB symptoms, referral, treatment adherence support, etc through active engagement with the affected communities. Thereby TB Forums at national, State and district levels have been constituted to provide an institutional mechanism to include community as an important stakeholder for overall improvement in the quality of TB services and making these services patient centric. These forums have representation from people affected by TB, elected representatives, policy makers, civil society organisations/NGOs, and other line departments. Constitution of community-led TB forums at the sub-district and village level, is also being facilitated.

TB forums are the platforms for communities to share their viewpoints, suggestions and feedback for improving the quality of TB services. All relevant stakeholders come together to identify local solutions to local issues related to TB services.

I am delighted that we have been able to develop and present this TB Forum Facilitator Manual, the Companion Film, and the Workbook, which will help in agenda setting and conducting these TB forum meetings regularly in a structured manner.

I call on all State and district TB officers to use these materials and ensure that we are able to uphold the true spirit of community engagement through our TB Forum meetings.

TB Harega, Desh Jeetega!



(Dr Nishant Kumar)

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TB Harega, Desh Jeetega- For more Information contact 1800-11-6666 (Toll Free)

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This manual is drafted by Ms. Anuradha Panda and Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Community Engagement Specialist at REACH. This manual is reviewed and edited by Dr. Ramya Ananthakrishnan, Director, REACH, Ms. Smrity Kumar, Project Lead, Unite To ACT, REACH and Ms. Anupama Srinivasan, Assistant Director, REACH. We are grateful to Dr. Sarabjit Chadha, Regional Technical Director, FIND, and Dr. Aakshi Kalra, Project Lead, Unite To ACT, FIND for their valuable input.

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About the TB Forum Facilitators' Manual

TB Forums are structures that bring multiple stakeholders under a single, consolidated platform. This document, 'Building Effective TB Forums and Strengthening Community Engagement under NTEP' focuses on equipping various nominated stakeholders of TB Forums to understand the vision for a TB Forum and the processes involved in strengthening the TB Forums. The document also describes key roles of various members of a TB Forum.

The objective of the Facilitators' Manual is to enable the trainer to empower the nominated stakeholders to strengthen the TB Forum which is envisioned to be a sustainable community engagement structure.

1. To build an understanding of the concept, the evolution of community engagement, and the role of community engagement in TB elimination.
2. To build an understanding of the importance of conducting of TB Forum meetings with the overall perspective of engaging/involving community

The Guidance Document on Community Engagement under NTEP by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare highlights the institutionalization of the TB Forum as a mechanism to strengthen community engagement. To further enhance the effective functioning of TB Forums, this comprehensive toolkit on TB Forum has been designed incorporating various methodologies in collaboration with Central TB Division.

The tool kit includes a Facilitators' Manual for trainers which describes how to train TB members, an infographic note, a companion film and a workbook on TB Forum for TB Forum members.

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Background

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Tuberculosis (TB) Elimination (2017–2025) is a commitment by the Government of India to eliminate TB by 2025. It is consistent with various other health-sector strategies and global efforts, such as the National Health Policy 2015, the World Health Organization's (WHO) End-TB Strategy, and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Government of India considers tuberculosis elimination to be one of its top priorities and has set an ambitious goal of achieving it ahead of schedule by 2025. As part of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), community engagement is one of the crucial strategies to engage the community effectively at the grassroots level in different activities.

The National Strategic Plan 2017-25 (NSP) envisages innovative ways to involve, empower and engage communities. The Community Engagement Guidance document of the Government of India focuses on four strategies:

- Empowering TB-affected communities as change agents (*TB Champions*)
- Establishing platforms for engaging the community (*TB Forums*)
- Facilitating community participation from planning to evaluation
- Enhancing reach, participation and effectiveness through existing community structures and platforms and Ayushman Bharat-Health & Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)

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Vision and Objectives of TB Forum

The vision of the TB Forum is to accelerate community engagement in TB elimination and empower communities to advocate for TB care and services and play an active role in decision-making along the TB care cascade



Conducting TB Forums - Shared Experiences

A situational analysis of TB Forums in four states and a review of proceedings of TB Forums in another four to five states were conducted. The analysis and review revealed the following:



The TB Forums were established between 2019-2020, however, states and districts had been able to convene only one or two meetings during 2019-2020. The number of TB Forum meetings between 2020–2022 was negligible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which was the major deterrent to necessary follow-up.

The understanding of the TB Forum was clear to the NTEP officials, however, the district and state administration officials revealed a lack of good understanding of the Forum, as a result of which the meeting was clubbed with general health and TB review meetings and lost its due importance. Many members from non-health public sectors, media, and advocates played minimal roles in the TB Forum meetings and decision-making.

The effective participation of the community partners like TB survivors/ champions in different community-based TB management activities and their efforts were highly appreciated by most of the District TB Officers (DTOs) and State TB Officers (STOs). Ironically in some cases, TB survivors had poor/no understanding of the TB Forum and did not know how or why they had been selected as members. Many had not received a formal letter of nomination nor been briefed about the Forums. They often found out about the agenda just before the meeting and had few opportunities to express themselves.

Various states and districts are conducting the TB Forum meetings but a few challenges in structuring and forming the itinerary of the Forums have been observed. In the majority of Forums, non-medico-mandated members are not nominated. Representation of members for intersectoral convergence was missing. TB Forums do not have/ or have nominated the mandated number of TB survivors.

A few states and districts have attempted discussion on the expansion of the survivor-led network, completion of TB Champion training, initiating TB-free panchayat initiatives, and strengthening Active Case Findings (ACFs) and patient care/support. Disbursement of Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) has been discussed across all Forums, but no timeline for follow-up or resolution of issues has been discussed.

In Forums where people with TB or TB survivors have spoken, it has primarily been on their personal experiences during their treatment. Proceedings reveal that People with TB or TB survivors have highlighted their own experiences without any specific challenges or issues mentioned.

TB Forum Facilitators' Manual

Total Number of Sessions - 3

Time Required – 3 hours

Session 1

Introduction to NTEP and Community engagement under NTEP (45 Minutes)

Session 2

Functioning of TB Forums (60 minutes)

- Mandate of TB Forum
- Structure & Composition of TB Forum
- Intersectoral Coordination in TB Forum
- Terms of Reference (ToR) of TB Forum
- Role of TB Forum members in decision-making and input at the policy level
- Role of community members/TB Champions or Survivors

Session 3

Strengthening TB Forums (45 minutes)

Session 1

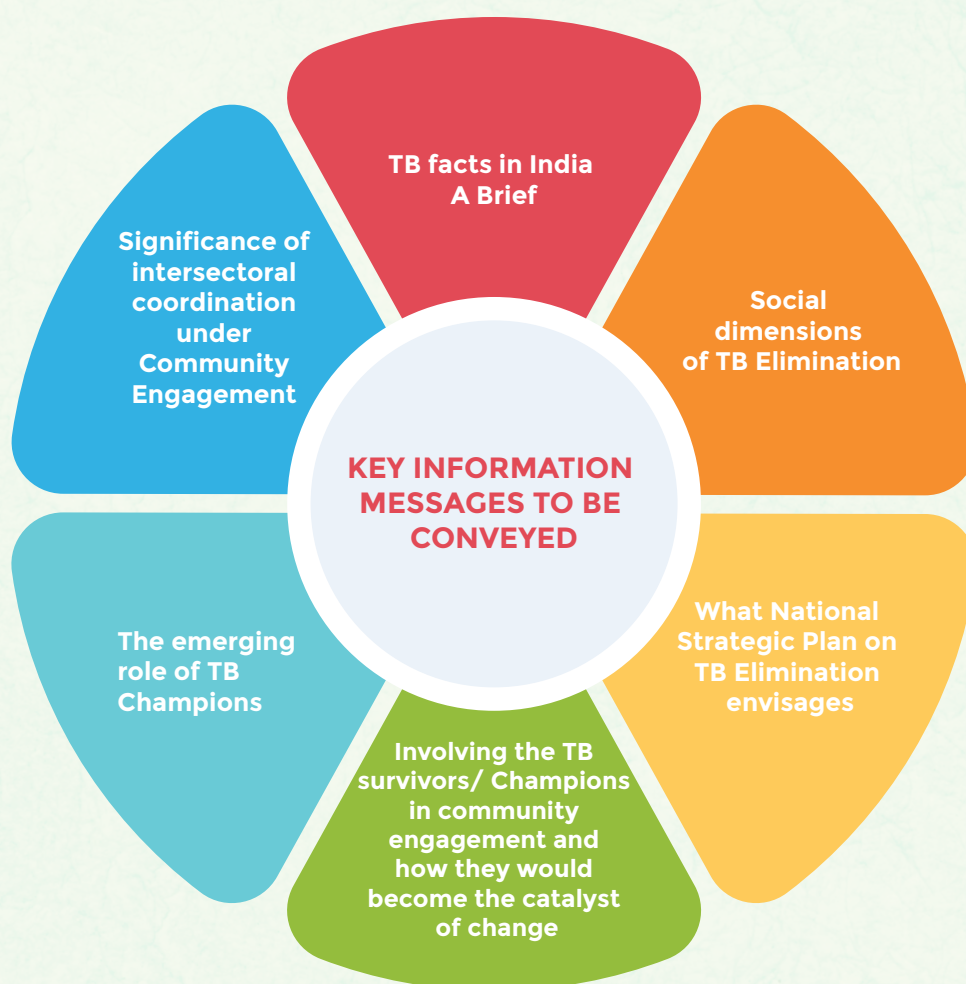
Introduction to NTEP and Community engagement under NTEP

Time Required: 45 minutes

Methodology: PowerPoint presentation/Interactive discussion

Objectives of the Session:

- Participants understand the rationale of community engagement in Public Health
- Participants understand the evolution of community engagement under NTEP
- Share experiences from other Public Health areas in community engagement



1. Tuberculosis in India is the leading cause of death among communicable diseases. It's the 5th leading cause of death among all diseases.

India accounts for roughly 28% of TB cases in the world, as per the Global TB Report 2022. In 2022, a total of 23,58,664 were diagnosed with drug-susceptible TB (DSTB) of whom, 22,48,816 (95.3%) were initiated on treatment. Among notified DS-TB, 14,33,922 (60.8%) were male, 9,22,649 (39.1%) were female and 1,34,001 (5.7%) were below 14 years of age. The notification rate per 1,00,000 lakh population is 172 in India. In 2022, a total of 63,457 drug resistant people with TB were reported.

In 2022, around 2,10,543 persons affected with TB were identified as tobacco users and 91% of notified people with TB (including people with TB seeking care in the private sector) were screened for Diabetes. 7.8% were diagnosed with Diabetes. India has reported 2326245 people with TB and HIV. Of the total 250 mapped tribal districts in India, 214750 people with TB were initiated treatment. *

2. The four pillars envisaged in the National Strategic Plan clearly state:



3 The National TB Elimination Programme is envisaging engaging the community through the following strategies:



*Source: India TB Report 2023

4. There are several dimensions of TB Elimination and the social dimension encompasses the clinical and Public Health dimensions. For a community-led and person-centered movement for a TB Free India, the following are crucial:

- Political Commitment at all levels to end TB
- Unite, Inform, Empower and Engage all stakeholders
- Engage concerned line ministries/sectors
- Engage leaders from all walks of life: Politics, Faiths, Sports, and Arts
- Engage social organizations and groups: Rotary clubs, Lion clubs, Development Organizations
- Engage and empower communities, people with TB and their families to be leaders in the fight against TB
- Create a supportive environment to promote behavioral change and health-seeking behaviours
- Reaching the unreached-Management of TB in hard-to-reach areas, urban slums, migrants, etc
- Addressing a huge reservoir of latent TB infection
- Addressing social determinants outside of health
- Strengthening the quality of care in the public/ private sector
- Addressing stigma and discrimination
- Addressing poor outcomes among people with drug-resistant
- Providing nutrition support to people with TB under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA)

Expected Learning Outcomes

- Participants get an overview of the vision of NTEP on TB elimination by engaging communities
- Participants learn the pivotal role of community engagement in the national TB response

Session 2

Functioning of TB Forums

Time Required: 60 minutes

Methodology: PowerPoint presentations/Discussion/ Infographic note on the Role of TB Forum members

Objectives of the Session:

- Introduce the TB Forum members to the community engagement structure which will channel collective action and is designed to work alongside the NTEP
- TB Forum members will understand:
 - (a) The structure of State and District TB Forums
 - (b) The role of TB Forums and how they contribute to the TB response
 - (c) The structure and functioning of TB Forums with effective coordination of stakeholders. A suggestive list of members and their roles has been elaborated. States and districts can adapt as per the local need.
 - (d) The scope of TB Forums in improving care and support for the affected communities and people with TB

Key Information and messages to be conveyed:

Mandate of TB Forum

1. Community engagement is defined as the process of working collaboratively with and through communities to address issues affecting their well-being, including influencing systems and serving as catalysts for changing policies, programs, and practices to be more patient-sensitive.
2. NTEP mandates that the role of community engagement in contributing to TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, especially among marginalized and vulnerable populations, and for those who seek care from the private health sector is crucial.
3. Community engagement for TB covers a wide range of activities that contribute to the detection, referral, and treatment of people with drug-susceptible, drug-resistant, and HIV-associated TB. They are conducted outside the premises of formal health facilities (e.g. hospitals, health centers, and clinics) in community-based structures (e.g. schools, places of worship, congregate settings, markets) and homesteads.
4. As community empowerment activities are crucial for sustainable community engagement NTEP propose establishing and institutionalizing formal structures for community engagement at the National, State, and District level for planning and decision-making, prioritization of TB-affected people for inclusion in TB service delivery, and program management.
5. For a community-led response to TB, the National TB Forum, State TB Forum, and District TB Forums are to be created for persons affected by TB along with decision-makers and program managers.
6. It is important to institutionalize TB Forums for planning and decision making, prioritization of TB-affected people for inclusion in TB service delivery and program management

7. TB Forums are intended to act as an accountability platform wherein updates and feedback on TB care services by providers at all levels are provided by community members. The action points are to be resolved and updated to members as per the timeline indicated in meeting minutes
8. TB Forums do address grievances raised by communities. Barriers to access TB care and services by people with TB is mandated to be discussed in TB Forums
9. TB Forums to be platforms in which representatives from communities, TB Survivors/TB Champions, Ni-kshay Mitras, community volunteers may be felicitated for their work in communities

Structure of TB Forum



TB Forum is a community engagement structure mandated by the Government to sustain community engagement in NTEP

There must be one Forum in every district and one at the State and National level too. Membership of the TB Forum shall be for a period of two years. States are encouraged to formulate block TB forum



Meetings will be convened atleast once every six months as per the official guideline. It is however advisable that TB Forum meetings can be conducted once in three months to fulfil the aforementioned mandate and not as a performance review

The composition of the TB Forum as mandated by the government is wide-ranging and includes a cross-section of stakeholders - People with TB and TB-affected communities along with decision-makers and program managers



TB Forum can also invite co-opted members as special invitees who play a significant role in strengthening community engagement

Structure of State TB Forum

1. Chair: Principal Secretary/Secretary (Health)
2. Co-chair: The Mission Director (NHM)
3. Members:
 - Community representatives - TB Champions, family members of People with TB, TB survivor networks, People Living with HIV (PLHIV) network representatives, etc
 - STDC Director
 - Representatives of health department DHS, PD SACS, NHM, NPCDCS, RCH, NUHM, etc
 - NGO Representatives- partner organizations, NGOs working in the State/District.
 - Line departments - Panchayati Raj, Rural development, social welfare, tribal affairs, etc
 - Representatives from the media
 - Representatives from academia, corporate sector
 - Representative of TB Association, professional associations like IMA
 - WHO/NTEP Consultants
 - Ni-kshay Mitra
4. Member Secretary - State TB Officer

Suggested Structure – District TB Forum

1. District Magistrate - Chairperson
2. Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad - Co-Chair
3. Members
 - PRI Member
 - DDO, CMO/CMHO
 - Indian Medical Association (IMA) District President
 - Pulmonology/Community Medicine professor
 - WHO NTEP Consultant, RCH Programme representative
 - Representatives of TB Association of India, 2 NGOs, 1 NTEP partner, corporate
 - Advocate, journalist
 - People with TB /family/survivor representatives, 1 representative of the PLHIV network
 - DTO – Member Secretary

Besides the suggested structure for TB Forums, States/Districts can nominate and co-opt members from various lines who can play a major role in supporting TB Forums. Representatives from Ayushman Bharat, District Rehabilitation Centres, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) representatives, and a minimum of three Development Partner organizations should ideally be included. Representatives from Department of Mines, Skill development, Housing can also be included as nominated members.

Coordination of Stakeholders in TB Forum

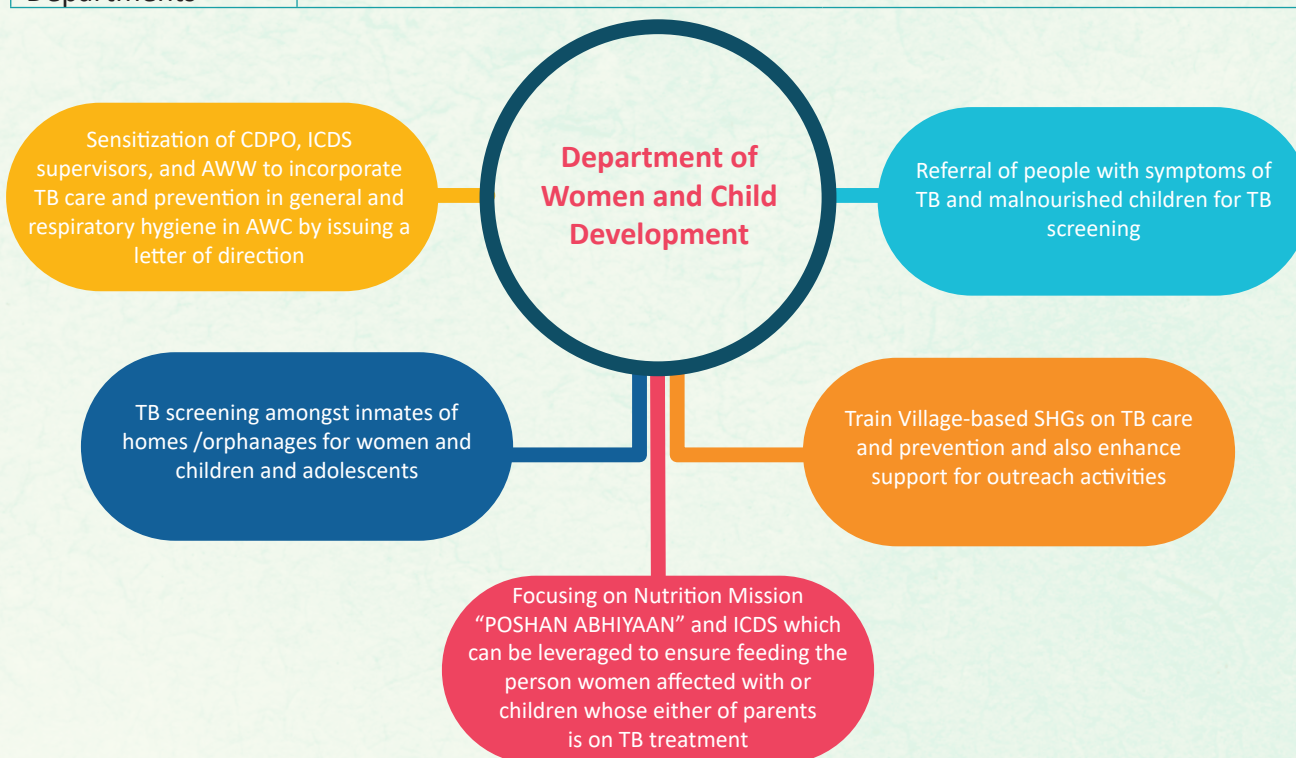
Coordination from a cross-section of stakeholders broadens the conversation around TB and recognizes the social and economic dimensions of TB. TB Forum is the platform where there is a concerted effort to engage a cross-section of stakeholders to build a national movement with a collective vision - to make India TB-free

1. The World Health Organization states that major influences that shape the health of populations and the distribution of health inequities are located outside the health sector.
2. There are multiple facets to TB elimination that stretches beyond treatment and diagnosis.
3. It is crucial to engage with other sectors of government, development partners, faith-based organizations, civil society organizations, community-based organizations, and the community at large to address the social determinants of health.
4. TB elimination program is focussing on mobilizing and connecting to people in an empathic manner, thus a collaboration of line departments/ various institutions shall facilitate different functionaries, stakeholders, and communities to work together for efficient TB care and services.
5. TB forum members can also be part of Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA) as a Ni-kshay Mitra



Role of Stakeholders

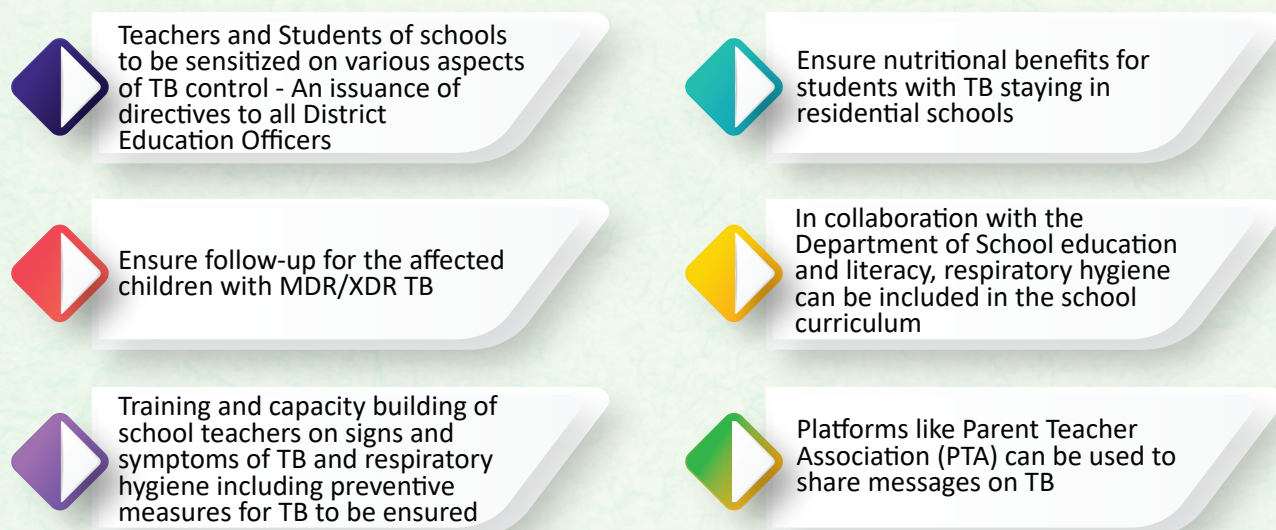
| Designation | State | District level |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Secretary of Health and Family Welfare | Supervise and monitor the overall functioning and proceeding of the TB Forum Direct NTEP, line departments, and other members to resolve issues within a stipulated period Ensure that TB Forums are not NTEP review meetings. Discussion from a cross-section of TB Forum members on various components of community engagement to be strengthened. | |
| MD-NHM | Ensure that TB Forums in states and Districts are formed with the required members Directives for ensuring TB Forum meetings are held and minuted Follow up with STOs for ensuring that action points are resolved. | |
| District Collector | Supervise and monitor the overall functioning and proceeding of the TB Forum Direct NTEP, line departments, and other members to resolve issues within a stipulated period Ensure that TB Forums are not NTEP review meetings. Discussion from a cross-section of TB Forum members on various components of community engagement to be strengthened. | |
| State TB Officer / District TB Officer | Nodal officer for TB Forums and their effective functioning Minutising the minutes of the TB Forum Dissemination of Minutes of Meeting (MoM) with follow-up action and timeline | Nodal officer for TB Forums and their effective functioning Minutising the minutes of the TB Forum Dissemination of Minutes of Meeting (MoM) with follow-up action and timeline |
| Government Line Departments | Department of Women and Child Development | |



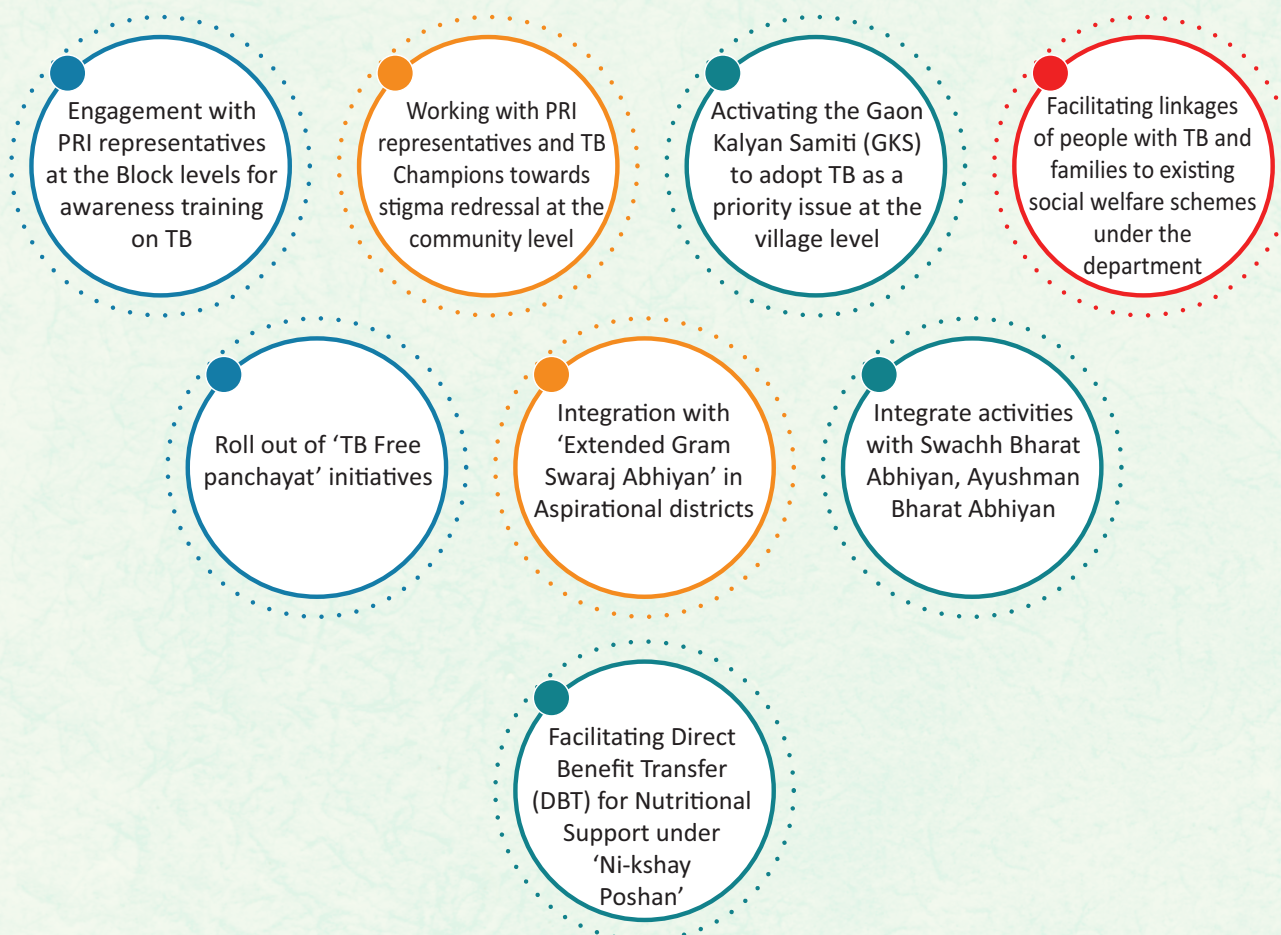
| Designation | State | District level |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------|
| Government Line Departments | Department of Rural Development | |



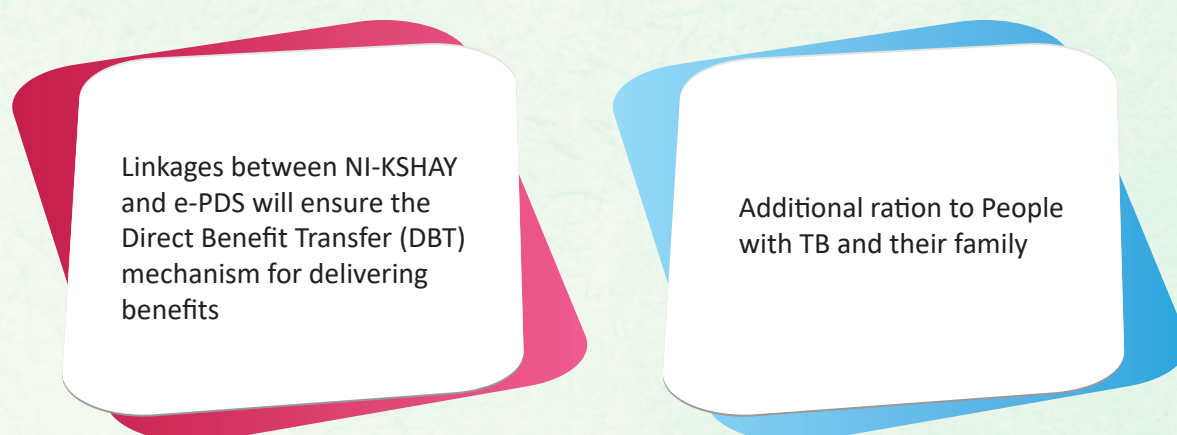
| Designation | State | District level |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Government Line Departments | Department of Education | |



| Designation | State | District level |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Government Line Departments | Department of Panchayati Raj https://rural.nic.in/gram-swaraj-abhiyan | |



| Designation | State | District level |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Government Line Departments | Department of Public Distribution System | |



| Designation | State | District level |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|
| Government Line Departments | Department of Tribal Development | |

Awareness of TB through inclusion in the Tribal Area Development Program, in Modified Area Development Approach (MADA), etc

Capacity building of Ashram school teachers and students on various aspects of TB

TB screening among Tribal Residential School inmates

Awareness Generation among inmates of Tribal Residential Schools and Community

Stigma reduction involving Faith-Based Organizations

Information Education and Communication through tribal haats/fairs

Expansion of TB-related services as included in existing health infrastructure under the Tribal Area Development Programme

Leverage resources for IEC and benefit on social protection to persons with TB and affected with TB.

Sensitization of Traditional healers

| Designation | State | District level |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| | <p>Department of Railways Linkages to integration of TB services in the health facilities under railways Awareness generation and air borne control infection Socio economic support to people with TB as required in Dept of Railways Conduct awareness generation activities and display of TB prevention/control messages</p> <p>Department of Posts To support NTEP in specimen transportation</p> <p>Department of Youth Affairs and Sports Conduct training and awareness generation on TB with Nehru Yuva Kendra, National Social service, National Cadet Corps, National Youth Corps, Youth Clubs</p> | |
| Representatives of the health department DHS, PD SACS, NHM, NPCDCS, RCH, NUHM | Bi-directional screening for HIV and Tuberculosis, along with testing for Diabetes Mellitus | |
| | Work collaboratively and increase presumptive TB screening | |
| | Conduct Active Case Finding (ACF) in high-risk areas through NUHM's ongoing activities. | |
| | Functionalization of Designated Microscopy Centre (DMC) at Health centers. | |
| | Intersectoral collaborations and screening for TB in vulnerable populations | |
| | Integration of comprehensive healthcare services including TB at Health and Wellness Centers | |
| Representative of TB Association, Professional Associations like IMA, PHFI, Medical Colleges, Indian Academy of Paediatrics, FOGSI | Conduct Continuing Medical Education (CMEs) on TB and support the Program in ACF activities and work on research | |
| | Conducts CMEs on TB at State and District levels | |
| | Highlight issues People with TB in the Private sector | |
| Local NGOs/ development partners/CSOs | Can support people with TB for education or livelihood support activities. | |
| Journalist/ Advocate | Highlight issues and work on TB from community representatives that can be replicated with reporting in the media | |
| | Provide real-time feedback from geographies in which they cover stories | |
| | Share a rights-based perspective on engaging communities to empower the person with TB | |

| Designation | State | District level |
|---------------------------------|-------|----------------|
| Representatives from industries | | |



The Roles of stakeholders are indicative. Departments can go beyond the suggested intervention/ideas

| Designation | State | District level |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------|
| Role of TB Champions in the State and District forum | | |



TB Forum - Terms of Reference

The guidance on the Terms of Reference for TB Forum to each member is clearly defined. In order to ensure that the essence of TB Forums does not get diluted and the responsibility of each stakeholder is clear, the following suggestive points should be ideally considered.

1. To discuss and address the community's feedback on the quality of care and services in a systematic manner where feedback is documented and timelines to address issues are defined and reviewed
2. To periodically review the progress of involvement/ engagement of the community and network of people affected by TB
3. To strategize towards reducing social vulnerabilities that put people at risk of TB or hinder recovery from TB
4. To discuss and review rehabilitation services available for people with TB
5. To discuss and review the availability and utilization of nutrition schemes and social security schemes available for people with TB and TB survivors
6. To discuss and review, with inputs from the community, the availability, and linkage to services that are critical to recoveries such as mental health and deaddiction
7. Identify possible areas of integration of services such as bidirectional screening and scope for community involvement
8. Relay community feedback to professional bodies - IAP / IMA/ FOGSI
9. Ensure optimal and strategic mobilization of resources for people with TB
10. Highlighting the concerns and needs of People with TB, focusing on reducing health inequalities, and campaigning for People with TB and TB survivors to have the right to be involved in decision-making.
11. To bring all critical systemic, private, and community players along with the NTEP officials on one platform and strengthen the coordination, commitment, role sharing, resource mobilization, community voice, and joint programmatic review of the community engagement plan for TB elimination at the district and state level.
12. To develop a roadmap to effectively engage CSOs, community partners, and others with detailed agenda follow-up action plan, and action points taken.

Best Practice at State TB Forum

Delhi State TB Forum meeting held on January 20th, 2022 clearly outlined the role of TB Champions in collecting Aadhaar details of People with TB whose treatment has been initiated and facilitating the provision of Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT).

NTEP directed the Chairperson to develop a structured format, and assign a specific area to each TB Champion to work on community awareness, identification of presumptive people, ensuring treatment adherence, DBT, and TB Preventive Treatment (TPT), and documenting TB Champions' work for reporting.

Expected Learning Outcomes

- Strengthening TB Forums at District and State levels will ensure that the voices of the community are heard.
- Stakeholders to ensure that TB Forums are democratic and independent with an interface or link with administrators at appropriate levels for feedback mechanisms.
- TB Forum members can play a crucial role in ensuring the representation of a pool of TB survivors at TB Forums and ensuring issues of communities are resolved.
- To engage with policymakers and implementers to ensure justice, rights, and dignity of People with TB for effective service delivery.
- To supplement and complement government initiatives to enforce TB patient-friendly laws, policies, and programs.
- To reduce stigma and discrimination and ensure the social security of People with TB, survivors, and their families.
- To improve awareness of various government schemes, provisions, and facilities available for People with TB and to improve treatment literacy and adherence among People with TB.

Session 3

Strengthening TB Forums

Time Required: 45 minutes

Methodology: Short film on “Conducting an Effective TB Forum” to be presented to TB Forum members. For NTEP officials a brief agenda and action points for conducting TB Forum meetings.

Objectives of the Session:

- To build an understanding of participants on how to conduct TB Forum meetings and decide the agenda of the meeting.
- To build the understanding of participants about the significance of community engagement in the program.
- TB Forum members understand that the health system commits to value and act on feedback from the community outlined as Community-Led Action under NHM.

Key Information messages to be conveyed to NTEP officials :

Suggestive Agenda points for Conducting TB Forum

| Sr. No. | Agenda Points | Time |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Review the presence of members of the TB Forum and roll out the objectives for the TB Forum meeting | 45 mins |
| | Circulation of Minutes of Meeting to TBF members and discussion on previous MoM | |
| | An update on the initiatives taken by NTEP to engage with the community. | |
| 2 | Sharing of community concerns and feedback by community representatives in the District/State TB Forum | 20 mins |
| | Presentation on feedback received from the community through any other mechanism. | |
| 3 | Discussion to identify action points at various levels to address and resolve issues. | 30 mins |
| | The action points to be assigned to different stakeholders as relevant - mention the timespan for taking action | |
| | Action taken reports will be presented by the District/State TB officer on decisions in previous Forum meetings. | |
| 4 | Plans and updates by various stakeholders in TB elimination and in providing quality care. | 20 mins |

Action Points

Action Point 1: Sharing of Directory of TB Forum members and Minutes of Meeting

TB Forum is a community engagement structure that can be made robust by not just interacting twice a year as mandated but through continuous interaction through the TB Forum group on what's-app or brief meetings/interactions which will ensure that issues are being resolved and efforts are made towards sustaining community engagement.

- A directory of nominated TB Forum members should be developed and shared
- Meeting minutes should be shared with all TB Forum members
- Meeting minutes should have a timeline and responsibilities assigned

Action Point-2: Indicators to monitor the TB Forum

A- Quantitative indicators

1. Status of the constitution of TB Forum in State and districts as per approved composition with names of all nominated members.
2. State/UT and District-wise number of meetings conducted by State TB Forum and District TB Forums during the quarter.
3. Number and percentage of State/UT/District TB Forum meetings in which Community representatives (TB survivors, PLHIV members) participated.

B- Qualitative indicators

1. Concerns were raised by community representatives with names in the State/District TB Forum meeting and action points identified for addressing them and action taken by State/District.
2. Support that was generated for TB services from different departments, NGOs, the corporate sector, etc through the TB Forum meeting.

Action point-3: Financial Support

1. Expenditure for meetings - the cost of the venue, refreshments, stationery, communication, and TA/DA for non-official members to attend the meeting shall be borne by the State/District TB Cell under NTEP.
2. Funds required for any other activity decided by the State/District TB Forum in connection with its ToR shall be borne under NTEP.
3. Necessary funds shall be budgeted under NHM PIP by the State/UT.
4. TB Survivors' travel and honorarium to attend TB Forum meetings be may be budgeted.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- To engage communities in evidence-based advocacy to expand services in TB care and prevention
- Communicating actionable feedback to the NTEP and ensuring that Forums become important structures that can convey feedback about issues/ concerns common to a large number of People with TB or issues which span bigger geographies.

Annexure 1

Agenda prototype to train TB Forum members

Venue..... Date.....

| Sr No | Session | Time |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Welcome, Introductions and Objectives of the training | 10 mins |
| 2 | Experience sharing by TB Champion | 10 mins |
| 3 | Session 1 - Introduction to NTEP and Community engagement under NTEP | 45 mins |
| 4 | Session 2 - Functioning of TB Forums | 60 mins |
| 5 | Session 3 -S Strengthening TB Forum | 45 mins |
| 6 | Valedictory | 10 mins |

Annexure 2

Materials for Facilitators to train TB Forum Members

Handout – Infographic Note on the role of stakeholders

Video – Conducting Effective TB Forum

Workbook on TB Forum for members

