

Stop TB Partnership & IFRC Joint Regional Meeting on Community TB and HIV Advocacy

23-25 January 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

Concept Paper

Background

The Stop TB Partnership, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and regional TB/HIV community advocacy networks share a vision of a world where everyone, including those most vulnerable and marginalized can access healthcare. This includes access to tuberculosis and HIV testing, treatment, care and support. Together, we will work to strengthen regional advocacy efforts to hasten the end of TB and HIV epidemics and to build connections between community advocates, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and other key actors.

The IFRC has significant experience in community mobilization and has the capacity to address health challenges and build resilience of affected communities in humanitarian situations. The Stop TB Partnership is a global coalition of over 1500 partners from more than 100 countries with the power to align actors all over the world in the fight against TB (www.stopTB.org). Its mission is to serve every person who is vulnerable to TB and HIV by ensuring that high-quality diagnosis, treatment and care is available to all who need it. Together, IFRC, Stop TB Partnership and its partners are focusing on building regional networks of TB advocates, develop key population guides and a data framework.

Engaging, building capacities, empowering and mobilizing people affected by TB and HIV at the global, regional and national levels is a key component of community leadership in the global TB response. Stop TB along with the Global Coalition of TB Activists (GCTA), with support from USAID and the Global Fund, has responded to calls from affected communities and civil society to facilitate the establishment and strengthening of community advocacy networks at the regional level. To date, regional networks have been formed in Asia-Pacific (ACT Asia-Pacific), Eastern Europe Central Asia (TB People), Anglophone Africa (ACT) and Latin America (REDTBALAC).

This initiative will work with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to increase the capacity and address the priorities of this network in Asia and the Pacific region, with a special focus on countries with the highest TB burden.

Based on Stop TB 2017 Global Report, the following Asia & Pacific countries have the highest TB burden: Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand, China, Papua New Guinea.

Purpose

Strengthen the regional HIV and TB advocacy efforts in Asia and the Pacific by building on the existing regional community networks of People Affected by HIV and TB and a network of Red Cross and Red Crescent health and HIV & TB practitioners

Venue and date

23-25 January 2018, Bangkok, Thailand.

Meeting objectives

- Build the capacity of advocates in coordinated strategy development and implementation.
- Build the awareness among Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers on how to contribute to the paradigm shift that is required to end TB and HIV epidemics.
- Build partnerships between National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies and members of regional TB/HIV community networks, and joint commitments to advance issues of communities, rights and gender (CRG), community monitoring for social accountability, integration of health systems and universal health coverage, strategic planning and political engagement that can contribute to the sustainability of national and regional TB and HIV responses and
- Advance advocacy priorities for TB Advocates to pursue nationally, regionally and globally.
 - Facilitate **cooperation and exchange of best practices** in service provision, capacity building and technical training;
 - **Peer-to-peer sharing of experience** and skills gained.
 - Share **common approaches and solutions** in the region

Methodologies and facilitation

The IFRC will consult/discuss with Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Stop TB partnership and HIV and TB Community network ways of strengthening regional advocacy efforts to hasten the end of TB and HIV epidemics and to build connections between community advocates, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and other key actors.

- The meeting will be conducted through presentations, open plenary and small group discussions, and group exercises.
- PowerPoint presentations, relevant materials introduced, or action points agreed during the meeting will be compiled and distributed to participants.
- Agreed action points will provide direction to TB advocacy in the region for the coming year

Expected Outcomes

The Stop TB Partnership, IFRC and regional TB/HIV community advocacy networks further develop a common human right-based, gender transformative and people-centred vision. Building on established regional Asia & Pacific networks will allow empowering advocates, allies and partners to work together toward a world without TB and HIV.

Participants

The participants of the meeting are:

- Regional Community Networks of people affected by TB and HIV
- Stop TB Partnership
- National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (proposed countries: Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, China, Mongolia, Philippines, India, Myanmar, Bangladesh)
- IFRC health delegates and officers from selected Asia and the Pacific countries, IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (Kuala Lumpur) and IFRC Global Health Department (Geneva).
- Stakeholders representatives: partners of international organizations, based in Bangkok

Budget

Travel costs of participants will be covered by the IFRC.

For more information on the event, please contact:

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