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# **Community Task Force – effective civil society engagement**

## **STBP – Working Groups**

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## **TOPICS TO BE COVERED**

- **Overview of Community Task Force (CTF)**
- **Advocacy activities of CTF members**
- **Expectations of CTF**
- **Challenges to fulfilling Terms of Reference**
- **Support needs of CTF**



## What is the Community Task Force (CTF)?

- > The 16 Community representatives elected by peers to serve on each of the 7 WGs and the CB**
- > CTF members fulfill three primary TORs of:**
  - Sharing the Partnership priorities amongst broader community networks to give patient perspective to the Partnership and to ensure support for the WG activities at the community level;
  - Sharing information about community concerns at the WG meetings; and
  - Building community activists' capacity to understand why TB should be an advocacy priority for them and take advocacy actions to address the burden of TB.

## Value of the CTF

- Ensures the Partnership's strategy and priorities are informed by TB-affected communities – bridge between the CB/WGs and affected communities
- A core of TB-literate activists that are advocating for TB at the national, regional and global level
- Keeps the WGs and Partnership grounded by providing an additional reality check
- Ensuring Community involvement at all levels
- Work with Partnership to mobilize resources
- Give a face to the epidemic by providing voices from the community

# CTF support mechanism

**Treatment Action Group has been providing scientific, technical and logistical support to CTF since its inception**

- Coordinate elections (with STBP)
- Oversee evaluation
- Organize travel and meeting logistics
- Liaise between CTF members and WGs (as and when needed)
- Capacity building and technical assistance
- Administration of CTF small grants
- Facilitate CTF orientation workshops and meetings

# CTF member activities

- WHO TB guidelines review committee
- Regional mock TRP (Global Fund Round 9-10 SEARO)
- Board members of UNITAID, IUATLD, MF and Global Fund
- WHO-Euro MDR Strategic Plan 2012-15 drafting committee
- UNAIDS Human Rights Reference Group
- WHO STAG-TB
- National TB-related guidelines and strategic planning committees in Brazil, India, Kenya, Malawi, Portugal and Zambia



# CTF member activities

- Led advocacy efforts for the release of detained TB patients in Kenya
- Tracking TB drug stockouts in Uganda, Zambia
- Monitoring TB/HIV collaboration in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia
- Survey of TB diagnostic services in Malawi
- Review of TB diagnostic policies in Nigeria
- Capacity building of CCM to include TB in GF proposal in Bolivia
- Establishment of ICF screening and referral system among IDUs in India
- Mapping of CSO's and CBO's doing TB work and documenting successful models of community engagement in SEAR
- Research and TB literacy workshops in Eastern Europe and Africa



## What can be expected of CTF?

- To be prepared for and actively participate in all CB/WG-related meetings and conference calls
- To participate on WG subgroups
- To ask for assistance when challenged in fulfilling TORs
- To be locally relevant and have local work inform global advocacy
- To ensure that TB is on the agenda at all levels and at every opportunity



## What are some of the challenges?

- Resources to support local TB advocacy
- Varying scientific and technical knowledge of CTF members
- Lack of understanding of the value of CTF among decision makers and leaders
- Reluctance of NTP to see community representatives as partners
- With TAG handing over some of the CTF responsibilities to the Partnership – concern about consistency

## What is needed?

- Resources to support local advocacy
- Mentoring to improve understanding of WG and priorities
- Logistic coordination to attend meetings and conferences
- Open communication with WG/CB secretariats and leadership to understand what is expected
- Support to engage with NTP and national partnerships
- Recognition by all stakeholders

## Examples of what works from the WGs

- Orientation for CTF members on the WG priorities
- A line item in the budget that supports advocacy activities and particularly those of the community representatives (including travel to relevant meetings/conferences)
- Both community representatives participate in core group meetings and calls
- Ensure that community representatives participate in subgroups
- Actively involve community representatives in WG activities at conferences and meetings.
- Better engage the community representatives with the field sites that are or will be conducting relevant research

## STBP - action needed now

- Appointment of a experienced civil society point person within Partnership
- WGs/CB to include budget line that supports community representative fulfil TORs (i.e. small grants) and travel to WG-relevant meetings
- WG/CB provide orientation and mentorship to community representatives
- WG to participate in the CTF election and evaluation process

## CONCLUSION

- CTF is the link between policy development at global level and implementation at the local community level
- The advocacy carried out by CTF globally, if fully supported, can bring and accelerate change in the TB world as it was for HIV

# Thank you!

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**Stop TB Partnership**