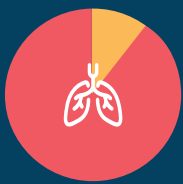


# Collaboration with Industries to End Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is a preventable and treatable communicable disease. Yet, this is a leading cause of death.

## Globally in 2020,



**1.32 Million people died from TB** among the **10 Million** who developed TB

As a result of the COVID19 pandemic, there was a drop in the number of people diagnosed with TB



India, with an estimated 2.7M individuals with TB is the highest burden country, accounting for more than a quarter of the global TB burden, TB deaths and drug-resistant TB.

Under the **National Strategic Plan (2017-25)**, India has committed to Ending TB by 2025. India's TB notification increased from 1.6M in 2020 to 2.13M individuals diagnosed with TB in 2021, a sub-optimal target achievement of 70% for the year.



The state of Uttar Pradesh (UP) with 75 districts has 17% of India's population, yet contributes 20% of India's TB notification. Despite higher rates of TB notification in UP (192/100000) than India (153/100000) in 2021, there are a number of TB individuals whose diagnosis was missed or were not notified. The India TB prevalence study estimated a point prevalence of 481/100000 for UP. The National Family Health Survey reports a TB prevalence higher in rural than in urban areas in UP. Therefore, a key focus of the National TB Elimination Program (NTEP) is identifying missing TB individuals in the community and providing them with full treatment for TB. Under the NTEP, free diagnosis and anti-TB treatment and a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of Rs. 500/- per month for the duration of treatment for nutrition, is offered to all TB notified individuals.

The Central TB Division (CTD), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to End TB by enhancing the response of Industries in the NTEP. Industries can take a number of measures for TB elimination. Within the workplace, industries can provide healthy dust-free environments, screen workers for TB during pre-employment and periodic medical examinations and support workers who need treatment by adapting working conditions to allow employees to be treated, thus preventing them from transmitting TB to others, especially during the first few weeks of treatment.

Beyond the workplace, industries can include TB in company sponsored health awareness days or wellness programs, enhance TB awareness among all staff, create a non-stigmatizing environment to encourage staff to come forward if they have TB symptoms, offer treatment through an in-house program or in collaboration with the public health system, ensure that employees complete their treatment which is usually for a duration of six or more months, or address the wider community by including employees' family members within workplace or insurance programs or improve access to the public health system. This will not only create goodwill among employees, but will also increase business productivity, as TB tends to more commonly affect the working population aged 24-59 years of age.

Funded by the Central TB Division, the India Health Action Trust (IHAT) implements the TB State Technical Support Unit (TB STSU) in Uttar Pradesh with the objective of supporting the state to enhance TB prevention, detection and treatment outcomes.



### **Awareness Building/Sensitization of Indian Industry:**

CII can facilitate awareness creation on TB and the free services under the NTEP among the workers in vulnerable industries. In this regard CII can send a letter to all the industrial heads. CII can also share the list of member industries and their contact details to STO. Respective District NTEP staff can co-ordinate with the point person in the industries and initiate activities. NTEP may provide IEC materials on TB (posters/pamphlets) to the industries, for display in common areas.



### **Advocacy for Screening of Employees to Detect TB and Provide Treatment Support:**

CII can advocate pre-employment and periodic screening of all workers (and their family members) for active TB disease. The detection and treatment of TB can be integrated within the routine health services of the industry or in coordination with the Public Health System or private hospitals. Industries may also provide support to their own workers who are diagnosed with TB, in alignment with the industry guidelines for medical leave and compensation. Workers can be supported to complete treatment in a stigma free workplace environment.



### **TB-Free Workplace Policy:**

Under this initiative, industries can commit to regularly screen their workers for TB in co-ordination with local health authorities. Patients diagnosed with TB will not be removed from work and will not be stigmatized.



### **Industries can explore the feasibility of adopting TB patients in a block or TB Units:**

Under this initiative, industries can provide monthly 'Nutrition Basket' for individuals with TB for the duration of treatment and may follow-up on the diagnosed TB individual's wellbeing. Facilitated by the NTEP staff, industries who are willing to support/adopt patients can enter their information in the NIKSHAY MITRA Portal. The District TB Officer can be made responsible for linkages with the TB Unit in the Public Health system to ensure that district NTEP staff offer TB screening and testing to those with TB symptoms, and treatment and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to individuals with confirmed TB diagnosis.



### **TB-Free Model Block/Village:**

Industries can invest their CSR funds to adopt a block or group of villages to support all activities related to TB prevention and control. These include building awareness, addressing social stigma, facilitating TB screening and testing, providing treatment and care and support in coordination with the NTEP.



### **Felicitation of Industries/CSR by Governor:**

On annual basis, industries may be recognized and felicitated by the Governor or other Health Leadership within the state for their contribution towards TB Elimination.