

Public Private Mix for Tuberculosis Control: Situational Analysis

National: Though NTP Nepal has made significant progress in TB control, the achievement is not uniform throughout. Especially the urban settings have been a challenge. Evidence suggests that the treatment seeking from private sector is as high as 69 percent in urban setting. NTP Nepal already has initiated partnership with several stakeholders including medical colleges, prison, private health institutions, etc. However it does not have clear strategies on PPM. Although there are policies and regulations for the registration of PPs, pharmacies, laboratories, and for the quality control of medicines, there is no policy or regulation on sale of anti TB drugs. A model of Public Private Mix is running in Lalitpur sub metropolitan city in Nepal since 1998 with significant result based on the experiences of which "Urban TB Control Guidelines" has been developed. National PPM working committee is in the process of formulation while district level working committees have been formulated in some districts. Thus NTP should systematically implement PPP through extensive work out from central level including strategies formulation and resource generation; should provide regular training, orientation and workshops for private sectors along with monitoring and supervision.

District: Descriptive studies were conducted in cities of 8 different districts of Nepal: Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Kaski, Rupandehi, Palpa, Banke and Kailali to explore current situation of district capacity and approaches to Public Private Partnership. The studies showed greater involvement of private sectors in TB services but beyond the NTP network. However the PPPs have initiated in collaboration with respective municipalities, professional societies, and other stakeholders. But the lack of systematic collaborative mechanism, resource constraints and business motives of the private providers were identified as the major challenges in PPP implementation. At the same time, their interests in PPP showed the feasibility of its implementation. It is important that a responsible body i.e. respective D/PHOs lead in PPP implementation making the private sectors, municipalities and other stakeholders equally accountable. NTP should regularize trainings/orientations along with monitoring and supervision of the private sectors.

