

## ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ACD)

### FIDELIS PROJECT SUMMARY REPORT

1. **TITLE OF PROJECT:** Strengthening DOTS Implementation in North West Frontier Province of Pakistan through Intersectoral collaboration
2. **Population in the project area** 9.59 Million
3. **Total grant amount requested** 164,739 US\$
4. **Description of the tuberculosis burden in the population:**

Pakistan ranks sixth among the 22 countries with highest disease burden of tuberculosis. It adds 44% of TB case load in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. WHO estimates that 177 TB cases of all types per 100,000 populations acquire active TB disease in Pakistan every year out of which 81/100,000 are estimated to be NSP's. About two thirds of all these cases belong to the productive age group. In Pakistan, there has been almost no observable decline in incidence of TB. TB cases are increasing due to population growth and poverty. The Ministry of Health has extended DOTS in 100% of public health facilities at PHC level. In the public sector however, the case detection is less than 50% and success rate is generally more than 75%. In NWFP the Ministry of Health announced 100% DOTS expansion in the province, however, population coverage is not yet complete according to the WHO recommended standards.

#### 5. **Goals and Objectives:**

The goal of this project was to implement DOTS through promoting and strengthening inter-sectoral collaboration with the government and para-government health services and private sector partner in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) of Pakistan

##### **Objectives:**

1. Strengthen capacity and promote supervision of the government and para-government health institutions with the support of a private sector partner to promote and facilitate implementation of DOTS strategy for tuberculosis control according to the WHO standards
2. Increase detection of new sputum smear positive cases and cure atleast 90% of the registered cases in the public, private and para-government health facilities in NWFP
3. Improve awareness in the target community about spread and treatment of Tuberculosis

#### 6. **Specific actions undertaken by the project to find and cure patients**

ACD promoted and implemented DOTS strategy as advocated by WHO and NTP. With this approach majority of the cases within the community were given treatment, reducing the fear of isolation and being stigmatized. It encouraged TB suspects and patients to seek early advice from the health centres.

ACD also strengthened diagnostic centres, laboratories, supervision of the field staff and also conducted training of the public sector and para-government health facilities. Laboratory working in the health facilities were supported with TB laboratory reagents and other supplies and ensured that all the required

materials for diagnosis and treatment of TB patients were available in the health facilities during the course of the project.

Laboratory technicians were trained on standardized sputum microscopy techniques, medical officers and paramedics were trained for TB case detection and case management and TB awareness sessions were conducted in the target community to create awareness. IEC material developed by the national programme was dissemination in the community. Health education sessions focused on improving patient’s knowledge regarding need and regularity of treatment, right to and availability of free treatment, the ambulatory treatment and periodic follow up by sputum examination.

## 7. Indicators

Following indicators were set for the project. The table given below summarizes achievements against the agreed targets.

S.no	Indicator Description Target	Target	Achieved	Percentage
1	Number of diagnostic and treatment centers to be strengthened	95	95	100%
2	Number of Laboratory Technicians trained for sputum microscopy	65	65	100%
3	Number of doctors trained for TB case Management	152	142	93%
4	Number of paramedics trained in TB case Management	142	152	107%
5	Number of Senior Managers Trained in Supervision for TB DOTS	32	29	91%
6	Number of patients with limited access reached and detected	4320	2765	64%
7	Number of patients with no limited access reached and detected	1087	1029	95%

## 8. Conclusion

The project contributed in improving the recording and reporting system in the targeted health facilities. The system of external quality control was established and made functional in the TB microscopy centers to the level acceptable to the programme and donors. Although the target for detecting patients with limited access to the services couldn’t be achieved to the desired levels it was expected due to difficult geographical area of the project and low level of health seeking behavior of the communities being rural in nature and having low literacy rates.