

FACTS ON TB-TOBACCO PILOT PROJECT, NEPAL

- ❖ The TB-Tobacco pilot project was implemented using the Practical Approach to Lung Health (PAL).
- ❖ PAL is a syndromic approach and is an innovation initiated within the TB control community. It encompasses all the tobacco control elements as envisaged by the Stop TB Strategy.
- ❖ A PAL pilot project was started in Nepal in mid-July 2007 under the initiative of WHO Tobacco Free Initiative (TFI) and WHO Stop TB! (STB).
- ❖ Bhaktapur and Nawalparasi districts were chosen for the pilot project.

Activities undertaken

- ❖ Formation of the National Working Group (NWG) on PAL, preparation of the implementation plan (workplan) and organization of a sensitization meeting.
- ❖ Revision and adaptation of the PAL guidelines and other training materials.
- ❖ The following training materials were finalized and printed for pilot implementation:
 - ❑ Practical Approach to Lung Health-Guidelines for Health Workers
 - ❑ Participant's module / Facilitator's Guide / Answers to exercises
 - ❑ Smoking cessation module (English)
- ❖ 146 health staff (including 17 under the TOT) were trained from 25 health facilities (district health office, hospitals, primary health care Centres and health posts of the pilot districts, including the National Tuberculosis Centre).
- ❖ Implementation started at the OPD and PHC centers in the 3rd week of November, 2007 and in the Health Posts in the 1st week of December, 2007.
- ❖ The peak flow meter, the PAL reporting form, OPD registers and smoking cessation recording register were distributed to all the pilot sites. The PAL reporting format was revised as per the HMIS (Health Management Information System).
- ❖ The supervision and monitoring of the project was carried out by checking the OPD register, PAL register, smoking cessation counseling register and HMIS 32 morbidity report form for respiratory cases.

Results

- ❖ An increased and improved diagnosis, management recording and reporting of respiratory cases at all the health facility levels.
- ❖ A positive impact in the recording of the respiratory diagnosis consequent to inclusion of the HMIS 32 morbidity form in the PAL register.
- ❖ Regular recording of the smoking status at most of the primary health care centres.
- ❖ The process of smoking cessation counseling of all the respiratory cases and documentation of the outcomes of the same has begun.
- ❖ The smoking cessation component of PAL attracts the attention of policy-makers and health workers at all levels.

A phased expansion of PAL in five districts of the country will take place with funding from the Global Fund Round 7.