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THE ACCOUNTABILITY LEADERSHIP BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOR INCLUSIVE, ENABLING SERVICES (ALLIES) PROJECT



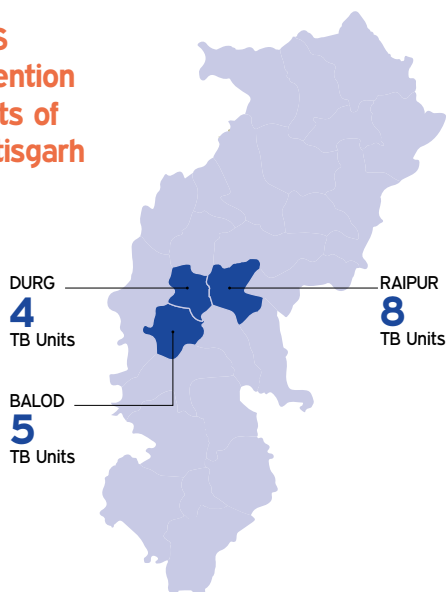
About ALLIES Project

The Accountability Leadership by Local communities for Inclusive, Enabling Services (ALLIES) project was implemented by REACH between 2019 and 2024, with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in 15 districts of four priority states – Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Tamil Nadu.

The project strove to create an enabling environment for TB elimination by leveraging community action as an ally to build a culture of accountability and empower communities, including those most marginalised.

Central to the ALLIES project was the Community Accountability Framework (CAF), intended to improve the Quality of Care (QoC) and Quality of Services (QoS) for people and communities affected by TB, by adopting a solution-oriented, community-led monitoring approach.

ALLIES intervention districts of Chhattisgarh



Key Objectives

- To create a cadre of powerful community leaders to advocate for rights-respectful, gender and age-responsive TB services
- To establish community-owned mechanisms to monitor quality of TB care and services, and give feedback to the programme for timely responses, helping institute accountability and strengthening community empowerment
- To generate local solutions and resources for enhanced social support
- To enable environments for TB elimination at state and national levels

Results at a Glance

Quality of TB care and services improved in

17 TB Units and facilities of **3** districts through CAF

8,850

people with TB provided feedback on quality of care and services through CAF

49,083

people in the community received support and information on TB

904 TB survivors trained as TB Mitans as Technical Support to the State NTEP

225 healthcare workers and National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) officials trained on Achieving Excellence in TB Care and Services (AETBCS) curriculum

195 Elected Representatives (ERs), including **5** Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs), **174** Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members and **16** Councillors sensitised

19 companies joined the Employer-Led Model (ELM) and signed the Letter of Intent/ Corporate TB Pledge

38 journalists sensitised through media roundtables

TB Champions in Chhattisgarh

The ALLIES project expanded the pool of trained TB Champions¹ in Chhattisgarh and designed a wide range of trainings to improve their knowledge and skills to empower them to advocate on behalf of those affected by the disease.

Capacity Building Initiatives at a Glance

- Training of 369 TB survivors to become empowered TB Champions² through REACH's flagship training curriculum '**From TB Survivors to TB Champions**' as a first step towards the capacity building of communities.
- Training on **Rights-based approaches** to TB and Health imparted to 228 TB survivors and Champions to develop an understanding of the rights of people with TB.
- Training of TB Champions on **TB and Disability** to strengthen understanding on the nuances of disability and associated stigma.
- **Leadership training** of network leaders to enable them to lead survivor-led networks³.
- **Communications skilling** of TB Champions to help them become skilled communicators.
- **Counselling training** of TB Champions to build their counselling skills.
- **Gender Sensitisation** training to help TB Champions understand the gender dimensions of TB and help them identify gender-responsive actions at the community level.
- **Data for Action** training to help TB Champions understand the fundamental concepts of interpreting data and designing effective advocacy.
- **Organisational Development and Advocacy** trainings of network members across Chhattisgarh to develop an understanding on the importance of advocacy in TB response, and to orient them on the concepts of organisation.
- **Livelihood training** to network members with skill building/income generation training to foster livelihood opportunities for them.

TB Champions



Shared **stories and issues** faced by the TB affected community



Availed **opportunities** in various local/field/district/state/national level TB Forums to share their achievements



Participated in a plethora of **programmes** and engaged with diverse audience to sensitise them on TB



TB Mukht Chhattisgarh Foundation

REACH facilitated the formation, development and strengthening of TB survivor-led network in Chhattisgarh named the TB Mukht Chhattisgarh Foundation (TBMCGF). Over the years, the network has grown in strength, with an expanded membership. It has now become an independent registered entity.

- Network formed in 2019 by 38 members and formally registered in March 2020
- Statewide membership of about 600+ TB survivors
- About 350 network members and TB survivors trained as TB Champions
- 11 District Chapters established⁴
- Supporting TB survivors through livelihood activities and approaching industries for financial support
- Providing support to TB Champions to receive training from State Livelihood Mission

¹ TB Champion model was first designed and piloted in 2017-18 through USAID-supported Call to Action project.

² A TB survivor who completes the flagship 'From TB Survivors to TB Champions' training and is willing to work in the community is referred to as a TB Champion.

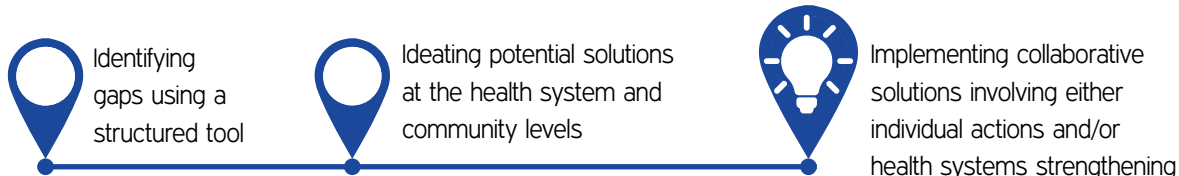
³ Survivor-led networks play a critical role in advocating for the protection of rights of people with TB. The TB Champions rely on their networks to provide them with safety, identity, collective power, and a platform through which they can expand their impact and partner as powerful entities with other stakeholders.

⁴ The 11 districts of TBMCGF district chapters are Balod, Durg, Raipur, Jashpur, Surguja, Koriya, Balrampur, Surajpur, Kondagaon, Narayanpur and Korba.

Community Accountability Framework

The Community Accountability Framework (CAF) is a community-led monitoring model, which adopts a solution-oriented approach to improve QoC and QoS for people and communities affected by TB. Envisaged as a bottom-up approach to the WHO Multi Sectoral Accountability Framework, CAF is based on the key principles of integrity, inclusivity, effectiveness and actionability. In Chhattisgarh, CAF formally began in April 2021 and was implemented in 17 TB Units in three districts.

Multi-step 'Identify-Ideate-Implement' approach with three distinct stages



8,850

people with TB (**37% women**) provided feedback to trained TB Champions

92%

on treatment at the time of CAF interview

17%

interviewees were elderly people (age more than or equal to 60 years)

28%

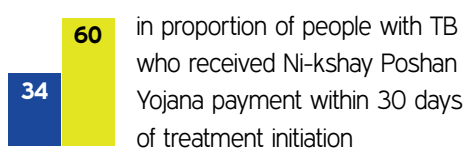
interviewees had extra-pulmonary TB

Note: The data above pertains to the period April 2021 - June 2024.

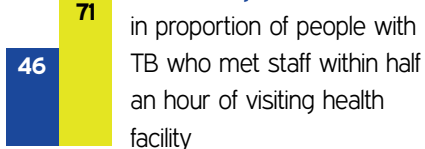


Impact of CAF on Quality of TB Care & Services

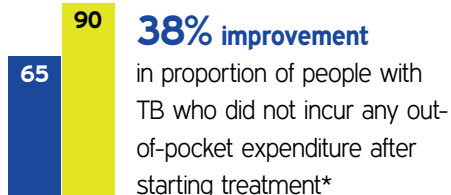
76% increment



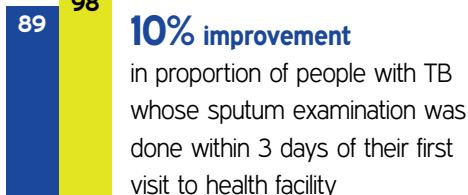
54% improvement



38% improvement

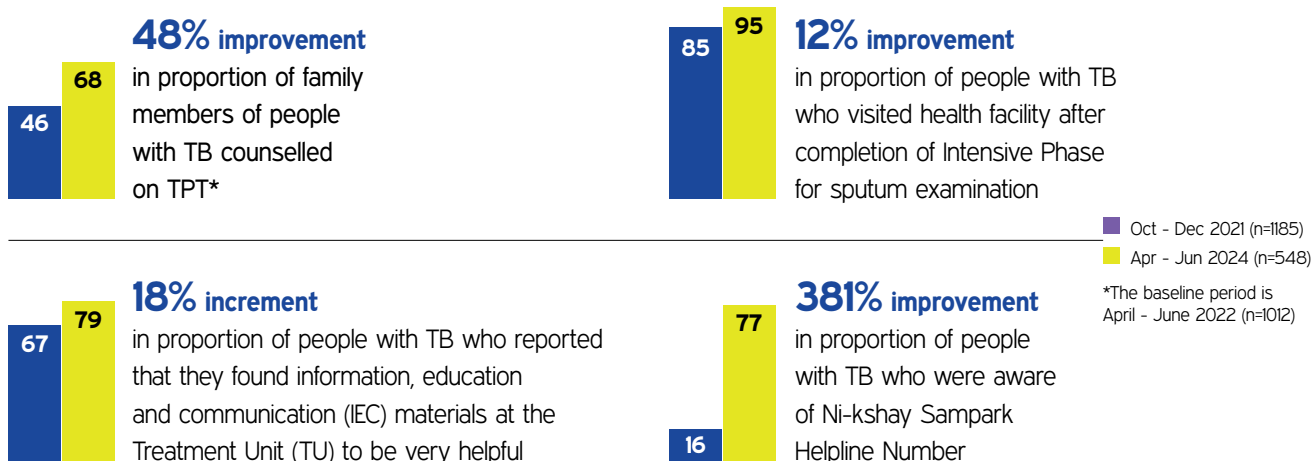


10% improvement



■ Oct - Dec 2021 (n=1185)
■ Apr - Jun 2024 (n=548)

*The baseline period is April - June 2022 (n=1012)



In addition, the project piloted a CAF Lite tool in 8 non-ALLIES districts, which also identified similar challenges. The assessment was led by members of TBMC GF.

In the final year of the project, a Comprehensive Assessment Tool (CAT) was added to the CAF tool, to additionally assess people with TB for vulnerabilities, disability, age and gender-based challenges, and Quality of Life. In a 12-month period, 2,984 people with TB were assessed using the CAT tool.

Key findings from CAT

- Malnutrition was a major concern with about 50% of people reporting a BMI score of less than 18.5.
- 11% people with TB reported having diabetes.
- About 45% of people with TB reported using a traditional method of woodfire cooking, which emits smoke.
- About 15% of people reported not doing the same job they were doing before contracting TB. Total 90% of such people changed their jobs due to weak physical condition.
- About 3% of people with TB reported having some kind of disability, locomotor disability being the most reported.

ALLIES project has led to an overall improvement in the quality of care and services in Chhattisgarh. Real-time feedback on quality of care and services through a community-led monitoring process is at the centre of the positive changes. The community-led monitoring not only identified the gaps, but also engaged various stakeholders like the NTEP, community, industries, ERs and influential local leaders to address those gaps.



The ALLIES project is the only project that gives us feedback about our programme through CAF and its implementation in the field. CAF informs us about the problems and challenges faced by people with TB and keeps us alert and grounded.

Mr. Aman Das Anand
 PPM Coordinator,
 Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Through CAF, we are identifying the challenges faced by people with TB and working closely with the health system to find local solutions. We are able to support people even in remote and neglected areas.

Mr. Purushottam Sahu
 TB Champion,
 Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Nowadays, we are able to collect more information from people with TB. First, we listen to them on the kind of help they want from us. Based on their feedback, we provide services to improve health outcomes.

Ms. Girija Sahu
 TB Health Visitor,
 Durg, Chhattisgarh

Engagement with Key Stakeholders



Achieving Excellence in TB Care and Services

Total 225 NTEP officials and Community Health Officers (CHOs) were trained on the AETBCS curriculum to build their knowledge and competencies to deliver high-quality people-centred care.

Sensitisation and Engagement of Elected Representatives

TB Champions reached out to 195 ERs including 5 MLAs, 174 PRI members and 16 Councillors, and sensitised them on the enormity and scale of TB burden, the profound personal ramifications faced by those affected by TB, and underscored the potential contributions they can make.

Their efforts inspired ERs and Panchayati Raj representatives, in particular to:

- Facilitate additional nutrition support as Ni-kshay Mitras to people with TB
- Extend access to social security benefits like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana
- Facilitate local transportation to and from medical facilities
- Conduct personal interaction with people with TB using the CAF tool
- Actively participate in TB awareness programmes
- Invest in raising awareness about TB through wall paintings and other mass media channels

In Arang block of Raipur district, some Gram Panchayats committed to make active efforts to make their Gram Panchayats TB free.

An MLA advocated with the private hospital to reduce hospital bill, and provided financial and nutritional support to people with TB.



Sensitisation of Industries on Employer-Led Model for TB Care and Services

A strategic and collaborative approach has been taken to engage with industries through the ELM, which promotes a responsive approach of employers to the needs of people with TB and their family members, and promotes policies inclusive of their needs. In Chhattisgarh, a total of 19 industries have adopted this model, collaborating closely with TB Champions and including them in their health and safety training initiatives.

Media Roundtables on TB

Two media roundtables were organised where 38 print and electronic media journalists were sensitised. The roundtables brought health officials together with journalists, provided journalists with updated information on TB, and encouraged ethical reporting on TB. Since the media roundtable, journalists from the ALLIES districts have been reporting on different aspects of TB care and services, creating larger awareness about TB and helping mobilise community support for TB elimination.



Engaging Transgender Communities in TB Response

Keeping in line with the goal of ensuring gender-responsive TB care and services, the ALLIES project engaged transgender communities in TB response. A programme was organised in Raipur, Chhattisgarh in which over 15 transwomen and 2 transmen associated with Chhattisgarh Mitwa Sankalp Samiti and 2 representatives from Shri Sankalp Yuva Samiti and Vikas Evam Anusandhan Sansthan participated.

Special Interventions

TB in the Elderly

A special intervention was initiated on February 15, 2024 in Durg to operationalise a care model for elderly people with TB. It was later expanded to Raipur in June 2024.

A total of **691** elderly people were screened for TB symptoms by TB Champions at the health facilities. Of these, **35** presumptive elderly people with TB were identified and tested, and **4** people were diagnosed with TB. A total of **61** elderly people with TB were interviewed to assess the unique requirements of each elderly person undergoing TB treatment.

TB Champions supported elderly people with TB with services covering various needs such as psychosocial support, transportation, existing health issues, nutritional necessities, and access to social schemes.



Supportive services provided to elderly people with TB

- Psychosocial counselling
- Family counselling
- Initiating family members on TB Preventive therapy
- Coordination to assign a treatment supporter
- Linkage to alcohol de-addiction centre
- Moving persons with TB from private to public healthcare facilities to reduce out-of-pocket expenditures
- Coordination with PRIs and local donors for dry ration to people with TB
- Support for X-Ray in the nearest healthcare facility
- Sputum transport for universal drug susceptibility test

Youth-led Campaign to End TB

Launched on National Youth Day, the campaign involved young TB survivors-Champions who led grassroot level activities and sensitised fellow youths and other stakeholders on TB, and engaged them to work together. The three-month campaign included a range of activities from school and college level programmes to rallies, art and wall paintings, skits and more, and culminated on World TB Day.



Other Highlights

TB Champions advocate for smokeless chulhas to fight air pollution for good lung health

TB Champions noticed that many families were using traditional chulhas despite being counselled on the risks of indoor air pollution. They realised that an innovative solution was needed to address the problem. They discussed the concept of smokeless chulhas with the local NTEP officials. With their support, training was given to the local Mitanins (ASHA workers) who helped families who had a person with TB adopt a smokeless chulha. Together, they worked out that if even one family agreed to adopt a smokeless chulha in their house, 10 to 15 women (could) gather to observe the process of making the chulha and would be encouraged to introduce the same in their respective households. Slowly but steadily, the movement grew. At present, more than 200 families have adopted smokeless chulhas in their houses across three districts in the state.

Advocacy for Increased Support under Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana

Chhattisgarh was the first state to provide nutrition support to people with TB even before Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) was launched. When the Central Government launched NPY, the food basket scheme was discontinued. All people with TB are currently given INR 500 per month under the NPY. In 2022, members of TB MCGF advocated for an increase in this amount. They requested for additional nutrition support for people with TB as given earlier. As a result, the Government of Chhattisgarh agreed to provide INR 200 in addition to INR 500 given by the Central Government.

Special Focus on Transgender Communities in Durg

Special screening and awareness camps were organised by the TB Champions for the transgender communities in Durg district to encourage them to access health facilities.

The issue of identity cards needed to access social security schemes was raised. TB Champions discussed the issue with the Department of Social Welfare. As a result, 153 trans persons were issued the Triteeya Ling (third gender) card.

The TB Champions also helped trans persons get Ration Cards and Ayushman Cards. In one case, a trans person was able to get a subsidy under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for a new house.

Endeavours of TB Mukta Chhattisgarh Foundation District Chapters towards Self-sustainability

The TB MCGF members have been making efforts to achieve financial sustainability to continue their advocacy and peer support work. The Raipur chapter of the Foundation bought an e-Rickshaw to earn some rental income, which could be distributed among the network members proportionately. The first e-rickshaw was formally introduced in February 2024. The e-rickshaw is being operated by a TB survivor and he contributes his income to the TB MCGF monthly. Besides, the e-Rickshaw is also used to generate TB awareness.

In Durg, the District Chapter sought support from JK Lakshmi Cement to set up an LED bulb-making enterprise. There are plans to take this to the next level with the collective efforts of the TB Champions.

In Balod district, TB Champions have started making Badi (a local delicacy), which is sold at C-Mart, a store promoted by Government of Chhattisgarh, to promote local produce of the state.



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All photographs in this report that feature TB Champions and/or people with TB are used with full, informed consent.

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