



IMPACT REPORT
**A Multi-Stakeholder
Movement for a**



Committed and exceptional leadership
from elected representatives can accelerate
efforts for TB-free constituencies

Context

Over 2.7 million people in India are estimated to be affected by tuberculosis (TB) every year and over 1100 Indians die of TB every day. The Government of India is committed to achieving the elimination of TB by 2025, as outlined in the National Strategic Plan for 2017-25.

Elected representatives, including Members of Parliament (MPs), Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) and Panchayati Raj Institution representatives (PRIs), are key stakeholders in the fight against TB. Their participation can energise program implementers and bring policy change. Despite this, elected representatives are yet to be actively involved in constituency-level efforts to accelerate the response to TB. Promoting the meaningful participation of local decision makers has been a critical aspect of REACH's efforts to increase the availability of TB services and broaden the response to TB. Since 2016, REACH has sensitised over 130 MLAs across six states on TB, including in Jharkhand.



- **East Singhbhum district in south-east corner of Jharkhand**
 - Industrial area, with mines and quarries
 - High levels of pollution
 - Workers in mines and their families vulnerable to TB
 - Frequent migration for better jobs and health services
- **Baharagora constituency is part of East Singhbhum district**
 - Includes Baharagora, Chakulia and Gurabandha blocks
 - Population of over 3.25 lakhs

In 2018, over 4000 people were diagnosed with TB in East Singhbhum district, accounting for 10% of the state's total notified cases of TB.

in March 2018, REACH joined hands with Mr. Kunal Sarangi, the MLA for Baharagora in East Singhbhum in Jharkhand, to launch a unique movement for a TB-free constituency. The objective of this intervention was to demonstrate that engaging committed elected representatives like Mr. Sarangi can result in increased attention to TB and greater availability of resources at the constituency level.

ABOUT TB CALL TO ACTION PROJECT



The TB Call to Action Project is a four-year initiative by REACH, supported by USAID and implemented in partnership with the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) at the national, state and district levels. Through this project, REACH has prioritised two interconnected aspects of India's response – strengthening & supporting the community response to TB and advocating for increased financial, intellectual and other resources for TB. Jharkhand is a priority state for the project.

The Intervention

The TB-free Baharagora campaign was officially launched on 24 March 2018 - World TB Day. Following this, Mr. Sarangi actively participated in the design of an intervention that brought together the district administration, other government departments, the TB program and TB Champions. In the 18 months since, he has led a consultative process and a series of ongoing conversations with local stakeholders, including the District TB Officer (DTO), the Civil Surgeon, RNTCP staff such as Medical Officers, Senior Treatment Supervisors etc., community leaders and people affected by TB. The active involvement of the District TB Officer and the Civil Surgeon, who have visited the constituency several times and participated in the meetings, have been a critical factor in this partnership.

02
Oct.
2019



Mobile van for TB diagnosis flagged off by Mr. Sarangi

16
July
2019



Meeting to review TB-free Baharagora campaign, chaired by Mr. Sarangi

23
Nov.
2018



Launch of Micro-plan and active case finding efforts across all 65 sub-centres of the constituency

24
March
2018



World TB Day: Rally & official launch of TB-free Baharagora campaign

20
March
2018



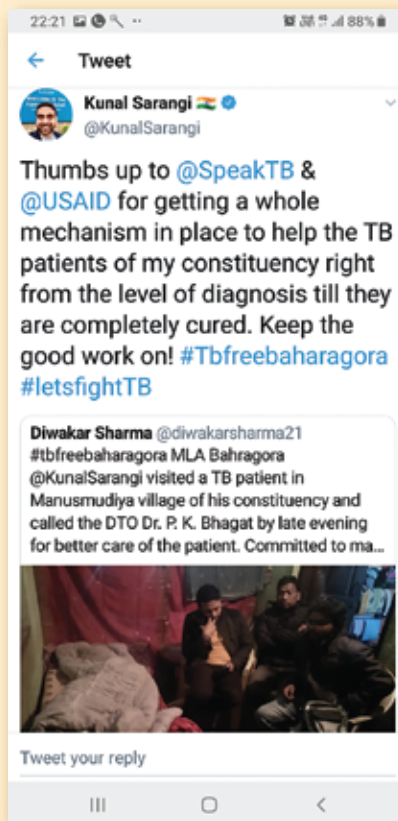
First stakeholders meeting in the constituency for PRI members

To bring about a positive change in the way his constituents regard people with TB, Mr. Sarangi participated in a capacity-building

workshop for TB survivors organised by REACH. He continues to interact frequently with TB Champions in Baharagora, introducing them at public meetings to show that TB is curable and that TB survivors can be powerful advocates for TB awareness and action. He visits the homes of people with TB in his constituency, referring them to the DTO for treatment and often following up to ensure that the necessary actions have been taken. He has ensured that the TB program officials receive feedback from people with TB in real-time. In addition, Mr. Sarangi rarely misses the opportunity to talk about TB at public meetings.

TB-free Baharagora on social media

Mr Sarangi uses social media platforms frequently and effectively to share information on TB and updates on the TB-free Baharagora movement with close to **19,000 followers on Facebook** and over **6000 followers on Twitter**.



Key Results

In a short span of less than two years, the elected representative's involvement has injected motivation, enthusiasm and action into TB prevention and care efforts in his constituency. Some key developments to date include:

- Overall, **key stakeholders in 12 panchayats** of Baharagora, 8 panchayats of Chakulia and 4 panchayats of Gudabandha have **initiated various TB prevention and care activities**.
- The elected representative's regular review and scrutiny of the TB program has identified the constituency's specific needs and helped shape the **micro plan**.
- Through the TB micro-plan, **active case finding** efforts have begun in **36 of the 65 sub-centres**, with the active participation of community health workers. Activities in the microplan are scheduled to continue into 2020.
- Representatives of **women and child development, education, rural development, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and youth departments** have become aware of their roles in the TB response.
- As a result of Mr Sarangi's intervention, there has been an **improvement in the availability of infrastructure to diagnose and treat TB** in the constituency:
 - Previously underserved communities are being reached with TB screening services through a **new mobile medical unit**.
 - **A new microscopy centre** is now open in Manusmudiya PHC in Baharagora.
 - **A mobile van** for improving access to TB diagnostics is now available in the constituency.
- **Recruitment is underway** for staff positions in TB facilities, several of which had been vacant for many months.
- **Incentives for Sahiyas** (ASHA Workers), pending for over two years, have been **sanctioned and regularized**.

"TB is not limited by class, creed or race - it can happen to anyone. A lot of social stigma is still associated with TB. I am delighted that USAID and REACH have given Baharagora the opportunity to be one of the first TB-free constituencies in India... Through the TB-free Baharagora movement, I want to bring about social change and change people's perceptions of TB. By involving PRI members and others in the community, I am confident that we have been able to increase the awareness of TB. TB Champions like Sushma have been working to reduce the stigma associated with TB... Personally, my emotional involvement with people affected by TB has increased. Whenever I hear about a person with TB, I try and visit them...our combined efforts are geared to end TB in this constituency".

-Mr. Kunal Sarangi, MLA, Baharagora

As a social disease, TB requires a multi-sectoral response. Once oriented on TB, representatives of various departments and administrative units in Baharagora have been actively involved in the TB-free Baharagora campaign. One such example is Seema Kumari, Block Development Officer of Gudabandha Block, who helped identify a person with TB symptoms from a tribal community. 38-year-old Gomha was initially unwilling to go to the health centre, but agreed to do so after considerable persuasion and support from Seema Kumari. He was diagnosed with TB and is currently on treatment.

- **TB Champions** have come to **enjoy positive recognition** in the constituency, helping reduce stigma and discrimination and amplifying the impact of their efforts. The **Baharagora chapter of TEJ** (Tuberculosis Elimination from Jharkhand, a survivor-led network) was launched in October 2019.
- **Media reporting on TB has increased** due to the involvement of Mr Sarangi, which has attracted the attention of local journalists who have regularly highlighted local issues that are critical to TB.
- Sensitisation programs have been held in many of Baharagora's **middle and high schools**, helping young children become TB-aware.
- **Several community stakeholders** including Sahiyas, Anganwadi workers, ANMs, members of youth and other clubs, school principals and teachers, self-help group members, Gram Sabha representatives and others have participated in campaign meetings and **improved their understanding of TB**.

Baharagora stands out as a promising example of how an elected representative's leadership in motivating and energizing the key stakeholders in his constituency can trigger actions at multiple levels, galvanize other stakeholders to take action on TB and power a stronger, wider response to TB, with rapid and tangible health benefits for the people. For the elected representative, a focus on TB offers an opportunity to directly engage with constituents on a critical health issue. The TB-free Baharagora campaign establishes the need for the active and sustained participation of elected representatives in our efforts for a TB-free India.

"TB is a disease with social and economic consequences. The TB control program is addressing the medical aspects but to address the social aspects and increase community awareness, we need the support of community leaders. To have a TB-free community, it is important to involve all stakeholders on a common platform. The TB program is thankful to Mr. Kunal Sarangi, the local MLA for launching a TB free Baharagora campaign and lending his support to address the social dimensions and improve awareness of TB. With the lessons from this campaign, similar efforts can be replicated across the state to achieve a TB-free Jharkhand".

-Dr. Rakesh Dayal, State TB Officer, Jharkhand

"The encouragement I have received from Mr. Sarangi and his recognition of the role of TB survivors and Champions like myself has been a great motivator. I am committed to supporting people with TB and working towards a TB-free Baharagora".

-Sushma Mahali, TB Champion, Baharagora

TB-free Baharagora in the News

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स्वास्थ्य उपसमिति की मांग विस में उठाएंगे : कुणाल

बाह्यकरोटा समुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र में विधायक ने टीबी मुक्त बाह्यकरोटा प्रोजेक्ट की स्वीकृति देना की मांग की

बाह्यकरोटा में टीबी मुक्त प्रोजेक्ट को लागू करने के लिए स्वास्थ्य उपसमिति की मांग की। कुणाल ने कहा कि टीबी मुक्त प्रोजेक्ट को लागू करने के लिए स्वास्थ्य उपसमिति की मांग की। कुणाल ने कहा कि टीबी मुक्त प्रोजेक्ट को लागू करने के लिए स्वास्थ्य उपसमिति की मांग की।



दैनिक भास्कर

सहियोंओं को यक्ष्मा रोग पहचान की दी गई जानकारी

5 दिवसीय में 25 तक परिवार टीबी पहचान कार्यक्रम, सहियों की भी जागृकी प्रेरणामय थी

सहियों को टीबी मुक्त प्रोजेक्ट की जानकारी दी गई। सहियों को टीबी मुक्त प्रोजेक्ट की जानकारी दी गई। सहियों को टीबी मुक्त प्रोजेक्ट की जानकारी दी गई।



प्रभात खबर

विस क्षेत्र को यक्ष्मा-मुक्त बनाने का सभी लें संकल्प : विधायक

बाह्यकरोटा में टीबी मुक्त प्रोजेक्ट की जानकारी दी गई। विधायक ने कहा कि टीबी मुक्त प्रोजेक्ट को लागू करने के लिए स्वास्थ्य उपसमिति की मांग की।



THE AVENUE MAIL

All stakeholders should fight against TB: Kunal Sarangi

Baharagora: All members of the society will have to come forward to ensure total eradication of tuberculosis. This was observed on Tuesday by Kunal Sarangi, MLA of Baharagora, during a programme organized by Resource Group for Education and Advocacy for Public Health under the Active TB Case Finding Campaign.



State and Neighbour THE AVE

MLA launches TB-Free Baharagora campaign

Baharagora: Kunal Sarangi, MLA of Baharagora, launched a campaign to make the constituency TB-free. He said that TB is a major health problem in the area and it is important to bring all stakeholders together to fight against it.




TB eradication drive at Chakulia Block

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 19: A special drive is on in villages under Chakulia Block for eradication of Tuberculosis. This program has been undertaken to rid the Baharagora Assembly constituency of TB by creating awareness about the disease.

The sahiyas of the Harinia sub health centre in Kerukocha were provided training to enhance their remedial skills. The STS of Chakulia TB unit Ashim Kumar Mahto provided the training. Resource Group for Education and Advocacy for Community Health (REACH) consultant Krishnendu Ghosh said that the basic need for eradication of Tuberculosis was to erase negative thoughts about the disease. He stated, "Diagnosis and treatment of TB is available at all government hospitals. A sum of Rs 500 is given to persons afflicted with this disease for healthy food. Many prominent citizens have successfully survived Tuberculosis and are leading healthy lives. We have to wipe out negative thoughts about people suffering from this absolutely curable disease."

The program was also addressed by TB Champion Sushma Mahali, ANM Sashi Prabha Minz, Premkata Deygam, Sahiya Sathi Nepali Mahto, Anganwadi worker Pyari Mandi and others.



THE AVENUE MAIL 5

Jamshedpur, Wednesday, March 21, 2018

MLA Kunal Sarangi leads TB-Free Baharagora efforts

Baharagora, March 20: More than 40 members of Baharagora Ray Institutions from Baharagora and Chakulia blocks participated in a stakeholder consultation in Baharagora today to understand the roles and responsibilities they need to discharge to eradicate the communicable tuberculosis (TB) free. The meeting was led by MLA from Baharagora, Kunal Sarangi, who will formally kick-start the campaign for a TB-free Baharagora on 24 March. World TB Day, R.E.M.H., a non-profit organization recently leading the TB-free action project in six states including Jharkhand, organized the meeting.

"We are all making this commitment together and we will collectively help make Baharagora the first constituency in India to be TB-Free," said Sarangi. "This means we need to work together to ensure that every person in Baharagora is TB-free."

Representatives from the Health Department, Education Department and Social Welfare Department were also present at the meeting. The meeting was held at the Baharagora Ray Institutions. The meeting was held at the Baharagora Ray Institutions. The meeting was held at the Baharagora Ray Institutions.



"I am grateful for Mr. Sarangi's support and involvement in this district. With his leadership and the active involvement of the RNTCP staff in the district, we have been able to create a community-driven movement for TB. As an outcome of this campaign, I am confident that we will be able to increase the identification and diagnosis of people with TB and ensure that they complete their treatment".

-Dr. Prabhakar Kumar Bhagat, District TB Officer, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand

"The people's trust in the TB programme has increased since the launch of the TB-free Baharagora campaign. The MLA regularly reviews the status of the campaign. Zila Parishad members, Mukhiyas and others are all talking about TB on public platforms. The knowledge among Sahiyas and ANMs, and the approach towards the TB community has changed..."

-Dr. Om Prakash Choudhary, Medical Officer in-charge, Baharagora CHC

"My wife and I were considered outcasts in our community when people came to know that I was seriously ill from TB. The community even stopped using the pond where my family and I would go to bathe. There is a need for better awareness on TB so that the stigma associated with the disease can also be eliminated".

-Sujeet Nayak, TB survivor, Baharagora

"I have been working as a Sahiya since 2011 but it is only after the launch of the TB-free Baharagora campaign that my approach to TB has changed. Earlier, I just used to give medicines to patients and come back but after attending meetings and interacting with TB Champions, I ensure I provide proper support to people with TB and spend more time with them....with the involvement of the MLA, we are hoping to make our Panchayat TB-free soon".

-Rashmi, Sahiya, Benasholi village, Baharagora

"I now keep track of people with TB in my village. Earlier, people used to think TB was a hereditary disease. Now the perception of people in my village has changed a lot – we know how the disease spreads and that it's curable. I am proud to be part of Mr Sarangi's team for TB-free Baharagora".

-Pansari Hansda, Mukhiya, Purnapaani Panchayat, Baharagora Block

About REACH

Resource Group for Education and Advocacy for Community Health (REACH) is a Chennai-based non-profit organisation established in 1999 in response to the roll out of the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) in Tamil Nadu. Through an unrelenting focus on TB for two decades, REACH has engaged various stakeholders for a multi-sectoral and comprehensive response to TB, including Central TB Division, State and District TB Cells, private health care providers, business leaders, celebrities, the media, people with TB and affected communities. REACH has consistently supported the RNTCP in its efforts to prevent, detect and treat TB, by providing holistic care and support along the care cascade to people affected by TB.

With support from USAID, REACH has implemented the Tuberculosis Call to Action Project since 2016 in six priority states – Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh. Through this project, REACH has created a cadre of TB survivors and Champions who are actively engaged in the TB response, advocated for the participation of industries through the Employer Led Model, engaged elected representatives for greater attention to TB, facilitated inter-sectoral coordination between various departments (beyond health) and piloted TB Mitra, a unique mobile-based application for use by communities.

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