Annual Report 2013
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Annex
Preface

This is the eighteenth consecutive comprehensive Annual Report of the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC). This report provides a summary of the activities carried out by the STAC for the year 2013. It also gives the summary of introduction, goals, objectives, vision, mission and achievements. There is a need to make improvement in the performance that could not meet our expectations. Also there is need to strive to improve both the quality and quantity of our work in order to meet the need of the Member States in control of TB and prevention of HIV/AIDS. I am sure that our consolidated efforts for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC region will lead us in efficient and effective use of the resources available for us in this mission.

STAC implemented almost all its assigned programmes during the period of January to December 2013 successfully. It would have not been possible to conduct the activities without support of the Programme Managers of National TB and HIV/AIDS Programmes of Member States in stipulated time period. Besides the regular programmes, the Centre has performed the required activities in developing of strategies for elimination of Tuberculosis and prevention of HIV/AIDS in the region. The STAC has taken research activities as a critical tool in developing an evidence based and effective health response to meet the needs of TB control, HIV/AIDS prevention and TB/HIV collaboration of the Member States.

STAC is in the process of strengthening and upgrading of its laboratory as SAARC Regional Supra Reference Laboratory for TB and HIV/AIDS. In this process the Centre believes that the concerned authorities of the SAARC Member States will certainly give their directions in this regard.

We believe that the activities performed by STAC have provided support to the NTPs and NACPs of Member States in the implementation of the programmes.

In this opportunity we would like to offer our sincere thanks to the Governments of SAARC Member States for their cooperation and support for organizing the activities.

We would like to extend our sincere gratefulness to His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Saleem, Secretary General of SAARC and Mr. Ibrahim Zuhuree, Director, SAARC Secretariat for their guidance, support and co-operation for implementation of the activities effectively.

Similarly we would also like to extend our appreciation to the concerned authorities of WHOSEARO, UNAIDS, NGOs, INGOs and other agencies for their cooperation, contribution and support in implementation of the activities of the Centre.

We are committed in our endeavour to provide support to SAARC Member States for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the region by coordinating the efforts of the National TB and HIV/AIDS control programmes.

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Dr. Kashi Kant Jha
Director
SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Kathmandu
Executive Summary

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) acts as regional coordinating centre for National TB and HIV/AIDS Programmes in the SAARC Member States (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). The Centre initiates, undertakes and coordinates the research and training activities in technical, bio-medical, operational and other aspects related to TB and HIV/AIDS control programmes. The Centre has organized several research, trainings and other activities in past to support Member States in control of TB and prevention of HIV/AIDS. In this year STAC carried out almost all proposed activities for the year 2013.

Human Resource Development

Training for Microbiologists on Culture and DST was jointly organized by STAC and Government of India in NTI, Bangalore, which became a regular training programme to support TB laboratories in the Member States.

Training on leadership and strategic management for TB & HIV/AIDS control was jointly organized in Malé by STAC and Government of Maldives to support NTPs and NACPs in proper management of the programmes.

Training on management information for action was organized first time in Colombo jointly of by STAC and Government of Sri Lanka to support the staff in data management using SPSS.

Research

The research on "TB among Young People on Rise" is under process of completion in Sri Lanka and Operational Research on "TB/HIV co-infection" is in the process of data analysis in Nepal. This OR on TB/HIV co-infection is focused on treatment adherence among co-infected people.

Quality Assurance of TB Lab services

Tenth round proficiency testing of Sputum Smear Microscopy (SSM) for National Reference Laboratories of Member State was conducted. Feedback was given to the laboratory and ensures the quality assurance in sputum microscopy.

Management for culture and DST identification of M. tuberculosis has been strengthened for the SAARC TB Reference Laboratory. The lab is in the process of being SAARC Supra-regional Laboratory for TB and HIV/AIDS.

Preparation of draft informative documents

STAC has prepared the drafts of different documents related to TB and HIV/AIDS with support of SAARC Member States, such as networking with NRLs on HIV/AIDS, demographic information, vital statistics and indicators on HIV/AIDS, epidemiological trend on HIV/AIDS, best practices on treatment, care and support, information on mechanism of migration among HIV infected people who needs continue care, support and treatment for HIV/AIDS, regional data on three aspects of TB control like TB, TB/HIV co-infection and HIV/AIDS and other possible epidemiological trends etc.

Sharing of experiences

Meeting with UN agencies and collaborative institutions have been made as per need of the Centre. Participation in international conferences for sharing the experiences related to challenges and constraints in TB and HIV/AIDS.
Review and coordination meeting for sharing of best practices with authorities of Ministry of Health, NTPs, NACPs and SAARC Regional Centres have been carried out.

**STAC website**

STAC website has been maintained by placing almost all publications and required information of the Centre.

**Awareness and Advocacy**

SAARC Goodwill Ambassadors for HIV/AIDS was selected from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. The programme has been started from New Delhi by Ms. Runa Laila and will be continued for coming years.

SAARC award on TB has already been started by publishing notice to get the nominations from Member States.

Commemorated World TB Day by organizing interaction programme with nursing students and participating in different activities jointly organized by NTP Nepal.

Commemorated World AIDS Day by organizing interaction programme with NGOs related to HIV/AIDS

**Publication and its Distribution**

STAC Newsletters, STAC Journals, Epidemiological Report on TB and HIV/AIDS, STAC at a Glance (revised) etc. have been prepared, published and distributed to SAARC Member States through NTPs, NACPs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SAARC Divisions) and other related organizations.

**Resource Centre**

STAC Library has been developed as a SAARC Resource Centre for TB and HIV/AIDS. It has been strengthened by procuring more books, journals and other related publications. Printed catalogue has been prepared for the use of visitors. Audio visual segment is developing its activities for teleconference and video conferencing facilities.
Background of SAARC

The idea of regional cooperation in South Asia was first mooted in May 1980. The Foreign Secretaries of the seven countries met for the first time in Colombo in April 1981 which identified five broad areas for regional cooperation.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established when its Charter was formally approved on 8 December 1985 by the Heads of State or Government of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Afghanistan became a member of SAARC during the Fourteenth SAARC Summit held in Delhi, India in April 2007.

SAARC provides a platform for the people of South Asia to work together in a spirit of friendship, trust and understanding. It aims to promote the welfare of the people of South Asia and to improve their quality of life through accelerated economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region.

Cooperation in SAARC is based on respect for the five principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in internal affairs of the Member States and mutual benefit. Regional cooperation is seen as a complement to the bilateral and multilateral relations of SAARC Member States. The association has a secretariat which is called SAARC Secretariat and it is located in Kathmandu, Nepal.

SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre

Introduction

The SAARC Regional Centres were established in Member States to promote regional cooperation. These Centres are managed by Governing Boards comprising representatives from all the Member States, SAARC Secretary-General and the Ministry of Foreign/External Affairs of the Host Government. The Director of the Centre acts as Member Secretary to the Governing Board which reports to the Programming Committee. There are 11 SAARC Regional Centres working in different sectors for the benefit of the people of the Region.

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) was established in 1992 as SAARC TB Centre. Later the Centre renamed as SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre in 2005 with additional responsibility to work for HIV & AIDS. The Centre has been supporting the National TB Control Programmes (NTPs) and National HIV & AIDS Control Programmes (NACPs) of the SAARC Member States.

Goal & Objective

The goal of the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) is to minimize the mortality and morbidity due to TB and HIV/AIDS in the region and to minimize the transmission of both infections until TB and HIV/AIDS cease to be major public health problems in the SAARC Region. The objective of the Centre is to work for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region by coordinating the efforts of the National TB Programmes and National HIV/AIDS Control Programmes of the SAARC Member States.
Vision & Mission

The vision of the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) is to be the leading institute to support and guide SAARC Member States to make the Region free of TB and HIV/AIDS with the Mission to support the efforts of National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes through evidence based policy guidance, coordination and technical support.

Twenty-second Meeting of the Governing Board

The Twenty-second meeting of the Governing Board of STAC was held in Kathmandu from 11th to 12th October 2012. The Board reviewed the activities carried out by the Centre for 2011/12 and recommended the programmes and budget (Institutional as well as Programme Cost) for the year 2013 submitted by the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre for the recommendation of the Programming/Standing Committee of SAARC.

Recommended Programmes for the year 2013

1. SAARC Regional Sensitization Meeting for Social Determinants of Health in relation to TB and HIV/AIDS
2. SAARC Regional Training on "Technical and Operational Aspects of Anti Retro Viral Therapy" for HIV/AIDS Control Programme
3. SAARC Regional Training on Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization
4. SAARC Regional Workshop for Experiences and Best Practices sharing for TB Control relating to Public-Private-Mix (PPM) Activities, early case detection and reaching the unreached
5. SAARC Regional Training for Microbiologist on culture and DST
6. SAARC Regional Training on "Leadership and Strategic Management" for Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes
7. The SAARC Regional Meeting of Programme Managers on TB and HIV/AIDS Control
8. SAARC Trainer’s Training on Behavioral Change and Communication (BCC)
9. SAARC Regional Training on "Management Information for Action (MIFA)" for Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes

Research

10. Frequency and Factors Associated with Childhood Tuberculosis in Bangladesh
11. Frequency and Factors Associated with Childhood Tuberculosis in Afghanistan/Nepal
12. TB among Young People on rise in Sri Lanka
13. Operational Research on TB/HIV Co-infection: (treatment adherence among co-infected) in Nepal

Regular Activities

14. Tenth Round Proficiency Testing of SSM for NRLs of SAARC Members States by STAC
15. Procurement of chemical & other lab materials for Culture, DST and identification of M. tuberculosis and other related works at the STRL
Activities for producing informative documents related to TB, HIV & AIDS

16. i. Identification and networking with National Reference Laboratory on HIV & AIDS in the SAARC Member States

ii. Collection of Information on demographics, vital statistics and other indicators on HIV & AIDS and produce SAARC Regional Epidemiological Reports

iii. Document on Epidemiological Trend on HIV & AIDS of SAARC Member States of last ten years and Generating and Managing HIV & AIDS database through clinical, epidemiological and social research for evidence based approaches

iv. Documentation of the best practices on treatment, care and support on HIV & AIDS in the Member States

v. Situation analysis of mechanism for migration of diagnosed HIV infected persons who need to continue their Care, Support & Treatment for HIV & AIDS

vi. Collection of Information regional data on demographics, vital statistics(TB and TB-HIV Co-infection and other indicators) and produce SAARC Regional Epidemiological Reports on TB and TB-HIV Co-infection and Strengthen regional data base on TB, HIV, AIDS and TB/HIV Co-infection


viii. Collection, compilation, analysis and documentation on Epidemiological Trend on TB, HIV, AIDS and TB/ HIV-Co-infection of SAARC Member States of last ten years

17. Meetings with Collaborating Institutions for Strengthening Networking - WHO/UNAIDS/UNFPA & other collaborating Institutes

18. Presentation & Dissemination of Research findings TB, HIV & AIDS through participation in International Conferences of Union World Conference on Lung Health OR International AIDS Conference on HIV/AIDS and in Regional Conferences in the Member States

19. Review, Coordination Meetings and sharing of best practices with authorities of Ministry of Health, National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes and SAARC Regional Countries in the SAARC Member States


Awareness and Advocacy

i. Programmes for SAARC Goodwill Ambassador/s for HIV/AIDS for two Member States

ii. Conferment of SAARC Award on Tuberculosis - 2013

iii. Commemoration of World TB Day and World AIDS Day

iv. Celebration of SAARC Charter Day

21. Distribution of STAC Publications, related documents and other materials

23. Printing/Publication

i. STAC Newsletters – Three Issues
ii. STAC Journals of Tuberculosis, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS-Issues – Two Issues
iii. SAARC Epidemiological Yearly Reports (Updates) on Tuberculosis – One Issue
iv. SAARC Epidemiological Yearly Reports (Updates) on HIV/AIDS Control – including TB/HIV Co-infection - One Issues
v. Annual Report - 2012 - One Issues
vi. STAC at a Glance (revision) One Issue

24. Strengthening of STAC library

i. Collection of scientific books and journals on TB, HIV & AIDS
ii. Prepare a printed library catalogue
iii. Arrangement of external backup for all library resources available materials
iv. Establishment of the linkage of library resources in the STAC Website
v. Strengthening of audio visual section with facility of Audio visual Conference and Teleconference
vi. Collection, compile and circulation of published scientific articles and important news related to TB and in the national daily news papers in the SAARC Member States through its website
vii. Hiring of library IT consultant for strengthening of STAC Library as E-Library

25. Technical assistance support to the STAC, NTP/NACP of Member States by providing short term consultancy, utilizing the expertise from the Region without financial liability to respective programmes of Member States.
Twenty-third Meeting of the Governing Board of STAC was held on 7th - 8th November, 2013 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Governing Board Members from the Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Pakistan along with representatives of SAARC Secretary-General and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal participated in the Meeting.

The Board Meeting was opened by Chairperson of the Governing Board. Director, STAC delivered welcome remarks in the opening and Director SAARC Secretariat gave his remarks and highlighted the issues related to strengthening of SAARC Regional Supra Reference Laboratory for TB and HIV/AIDS at STAC.

Dr. Ejaz Quadeer, National TB Manager, Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination, Government of Pakistan chaired the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Sydur Rahman, Programme Manager, National AIDS/STD Programme and Safe Blood Transfusion Programme, Government of Bangladesh, Dr. Dorji Wangchuk, Director General, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan, Dr. Padam Bahadur Chand, Senior Public Health Administrator, Ministry of Health & Population, Government of Nepal and Mr. Mani Ratna Sharma, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Ibrahim Zuhuree, Director (Social Affairs), SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, Nepal and Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre, Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal.

The Board reviewed the status of the activities of 2013 and recommended the Activities and Budget of the Centre for the year 2014 for approval of Programming/Standing Committee of SAARC.
Recommended Programmes for the year 2014

1. SAARC Regional Training on MDR and XDR TB on Clinical and Programmatic Management

2. The SAARC Regional Meeting of Programme Managers of National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes.

3. SAARC Regional Training for Microbiologist on culture, DST & Xpert.


5. SAARC Regional Meeting to finalize ‘advocacy packs on HIV/AIDS’ for countries and Goodwill Ambassadors.

6. SAARC Workshop on Experiences and Best Practices on paediatric TB/TB-Diabetes.

Research

7. Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) regarding household infection control practices among DR and X-DR patients in the SAARC Region, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.


Programmes for SAARC Goodwill Ambassadors for HIV/AIDS


11. Hiring the services of consultants to develop advocacy packs on HIV & AIDS for SAARC Member States.

12. Broadcasting of documentary/advocacy pack through the National Television of SAARC Member States.


15. Technical assistant support to the NTP/NACP, of Member States and STAC by providing/hiring short term consultancy, utilizing the expertise from the Region without financial liability to respective programmes of Member States.

Activities for producing informative documents related to TB, HIV & AIDS

16. Study and documentation on progress, achievement on MDG indicators on TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region.

17. Compilation of information and statistics of MDR and XDR TB in SAARC Region and develop a Regional Report.
18. Documentation on implementation status of existing SAARC Regional Strategies in the Member States; 
a. TB-HIV Co-infection, b. ACSM

19. Collection & sharing of all existing guidelines and frameworks on HIV/AIDS those are relevant to the 
work of the Member Countries

20. Identification and documentation and sharing of best practices in the region in the field of TB and HIV/
AIDS.

21. Strengthen regional data base on TB, HIV/AIDS, and TB/HIV co-infection

22. Participation in the Review of activities NTPs and NACPs/ in the SAARC Member States.

23. Hiring the experts for technically refining of SAARC Regional Training Manuals for ART, Programme 
Management of Drug Resistance TB and Infection Control at Health Facilities, separately.

24. Presentation & dissemination of research findings on TB, HIV & AIDS through participation: International 
and Regional (Member States) Conferences.

25. Meetings with collaborative institutions for strengthening of networking- WHO/UNAIDS/UNFPA & other 
collaborative institutions.

26. Eleventh round proficiency testing of Sputum Smear Microscopy for NRLs of SAARC Members States.

Programme on Public Awareness & Advocacy on TB, HIV, AIDS and SAARC

27. Commemoration of World TB Day and World AIDS Day

28. Celebration of SAARC Charter Day

Preparation of publications and its distribution

29. STAC Newsletters

30. STAC Journals of Tuberculosis, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS

31. SAARC Epidemiological Response on Tuberculosis & TB/HIV Co-infection

32. SAARC Epidemiological Response on HIV/AIDS Control

33. Annual Report – 2013

34. SAARC Regional Strategy on Control/Elimination of Tuberculosis in the Region


36. Preparation of compiled report of training activities

37. Report of Eleventh Round Proficiency Testing of SSM for NRLs of SAARC Members States

38. Wall Calendar- 2015

39. Reports on Epidemiological Trend on TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/ HIV-co-infection of SAARC Member 
States

40. Reports on situation analysis of mechanism for migration of diagnosed HIV infected persons who need 
to continue their care, support & treatment for HIV/AIDS
41. Reports on documentation of the best practices on treatment, care and support on HIV/AIDS in the Member States

42. Review of articles of SAARC Journals of TB, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS

43. Dissemination of information on TB, HIV & AIDS by updating STAC Website

**Strengthening of STAC library**

44. Collection of scientific books and journals on TB and HIV/AIDS

45. Strengthening & maintaining of audio visual section at the library

46. Collection, compilation and circulation of published scientific articles and important news related to TB, HIV & AIDS in the National daily news papers/journals

47. Prepare SAARC technical bulletin on TB, HIV & AIDS epidemic

**SAARC TB Reference Laboratory**

48. Maintaining & upgrading of laboratory works
1. SAARC Regional Training for Microbiologist on Culture and Drug Susceptibility Test, Bangalore, India

A seven-day training programme on "SAARC Regional Training of Microbiologists for Sputum Culture and Drug Susceptibility Test" in National TB Institute (NTI), Bangalore, India was held jointly in collaboration of RNTCP, Government of India and SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre from 23rd – 29th April 2013.

The objectives of the programme were to enhance the knowledge & skills of the Microbiologist in diagnosing & monitoring of the treatment efficacies of TB/MDR-TB and imparting training to health care providers and to improve the status of the National Reference Laboratories to provide TB culture and DST services and participate in DRS activities.

The participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Sri Lanka participated in the training.

Dr. P. Kumar, Director, National TB Institute, Bangalore, India and Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal jointly opened the training programme by lighting the traditional lamp. Dignitaries and experts also took part in lighting the lamp.

The Director, NTI delivered the opening speech and welcomed the participants, resource persons and officials in the programme. In his speech he informed that there are more than 36 accredited TB laboratories functioning in India. He thanked STAC for supporting SAARC Member Countries in development of skilled manpower for TB labs which is really a commendable job.

The Director, STAC delivered his opening speech and he mentioned that STAC is in the process of strengthening the TB labs in the region by organizing regular training activities. He thanked Government...
of India for continuous support in this regard. The Director informed the participants that Health Ministerial level commitment for strengthening STAC Laboratory as SAARC Supra-regional Laboratory for TB and HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Ranjani Ramachanran, WHO Lab Focal Point, India and Dr. Preetish S. Vaidyanathan, NTI, Bangalore also spoke in the opening session.

Dr. Ghanshyam Kumar Bhatta, Research Officer, STAC delivered vote of thanks.

Technical programme started with the different presentations related to TB laboratory. In the programme, Dr. Rahul Narang, Microbiologist, International Centre for Excellence in Laboratory Training (ICELT) and Consultant Microbiologists of NTI Mr. S. Anand, Mrs. Hema Sundaram, Ms. Reena K. presented different aspects of the TB lab activities. Participants observed the different activities of NTI. Participants were also provided resource materials such as different type of training manuals/modules etc.

Outcomes of training

i. The participants learned minimum laboratory standards required for TB culture and DST for 1st and 2nd line drugs using solid (LJ) and liquid culture systems (MGIT 960)

ii. The participants knowledge on WHO policy and guidelines on TB diagnosis (conventional to state of art technology; Line probe Assay, Capilia TB and Xpert MTB/RIF) was enhanced

iii. The participants learned infection control and prevention standards and practices on MTB infection prevention and control in TB laboratory

iv. The participants learned sterilization and disinfection techniques applicable for TB laboratory

v. Participants were able to identify the problems in culture and DST and solve the problems

vi. The participants learned the FM microscopy technique (reagent preparation, staining and observation) and External Quality Assurance System.

vii. The participants were able to assess the performance of their TB laboratory
2. Expert Group Meeting to finalize the SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS (2013-17)

Expert Group Meeting to finalize the SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS 2013-2017 was held in Thimphu, Bhutan from 5th – 6th March 2013 in collaboration with UNAIDS. This was the follow-up meeting of the SAARC Consultative Meeting of Programme Managers of HIV/AIDS to revise SAARC Regional Strategy in HIV/AIDS (2012-2016) held in Islamabad, Pakistan on 15th – 17th June 2012.

The objective of the meeting was to finalize the SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS – 2013-2017. The meeting was attended by different experts on HIV/AIDS from all SAARC Member States, SAARC Secretariat, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (Kathmandu), UNICEF, UNDP, UNAIDS, Consultant, NGOs from Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

(Lyonpo) Zangley Dukpa, Minister of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan graced the opening session of the meeting as Chief Guest. Mr. Ibrahim Zuhuree, Director, SAARC Secretariat and Representative UNAIDS delivered their opening remarks. Hon'ble Health Minister delivered his opening remarks and awarded the SAARC Prize on HIV/AIDS along with certificate to Mr. Tshewang Nidup of Bhutan. Mr. Nidup is reputed as Condom Man in Bhutan. In recognition of his remarkable contribution for creating awareness on HIV/AIDS in Bhutan it was decided by SAARC to provide the Prize.

Dr. Shiv Kumar and Dr. Angela Chaudhuri, (Consultants) jointly presented new draft strategy for discussion. Finalization of recommendation/suggestions for new strategy took place after detail discussion.

Mr. Ibrahim Zuhuree, Director, SAARC Secretariat and representative UNAIDS delivered closing remarks. Vote of thanks was delivered by one of the participant from SAARC Member States. The strategy is under the process of finalization.
3. Review, Coordination Meeting and Sharing of Best Practices with Authorities of Ministry of Health, National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes & SAARC Regional Centres in Member States

The Twenty-Second Meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre recognizing the importance of the review and coordination meeting and recommended this activity to know the situation & gaps in the National TB and HIV/AIDS control programmes in the Member States.

In compliance of the decision of the Board, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) implemented the programme by visiting Afghanistan from 26th to 29th May 2013 and Sri Lanka from 11th to 12th June 2013.

Objectives

The objectives of the programme were:
- to share/exchange the ideas, new updates for the control of TB and HIV/AIDS from Afghanistan,
- to strengthen the coordination and collaboration among the STAC and Member states and
- to establish coordination for strengthening of supra Regional Laboratory on TB/HIV

Methodologies

The following methodologies have been adopted to carry out the activities:

1. Meeting and discussion with concerned officials
2. Reviewing available strategies/plan and documents
3. Observation of field/currently running activities related to TB and HIV/AIDS

The STAC team visited Afghanistan and Sri Lanka for the purpose of execution of the activity.
Background

TB and HIV/AIDS are among the prioritized public health programmes for Afghanistan. Having 46,000 annual incidence of TB, it is one of the 22 countries in the world with high burden of TB. On the basis of the information gathered by sporadic and unsystematic data collection, Afghanistan has been declared as a low prevalence country for HIV/AIDS. But it has faced the serious threat of HIV epidemic as injecting drug use and commercial sex work are prevailing in the society as well as the absence of a well planned surveillance system for HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections, currently. Among other factors to fuel the HIV epidemic are illiteracy, low status of women, internally displaced population groups, internal and cross border migration and rampant poverty.

In compliance with the decision of the Governing Board, a three day programme on Review, Coordination and Sharing of Best Practices with Authorities of Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National TB & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes in association with Ministry of Public Health, Government of Afghanistan, was performed by visiting of Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, Dr. G. K. Bhatta, Research Officer, STAC from 26th to 29th May 2013 to Kabul. In Kabul, a meeting was organized in which STAC team and representatives from CDC Directorate, National TB Control Programme and National HIV/AIDS Control Programmes of Afghanistan attended.

Brief Review

The National TB Program (NTP) has made significant progress and achievements since 2002. There are 1197 public and private DOTS centers which can provide TB services and care according to the international standards for TB care at the end of 2012. As a result the case notification has significantly increased during the period 1997-2011 form 7 to 112 per 100,000 populations per year for all TB cases respectively.
Treatment success rate is also increased from 84% (2001) to 90% (2010). However, there was slight decline in TB case notification in 2008 and 2009 followed by slight increase in 2010-2011. TB case detection rate is less than global target and it is around 46% in 2012.

Ministry of Public Health/ Directorate of Preventive Medicine, Government of Afghanistan, CDC, USA, and NTP Afghanistan developed National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis Control 2013-17 for transforming the fight towards elimination to TB in Afghanistan. The plan identifies nine strategic directions in the vision of TB free country by 2050. The Goal of plan is based on to reduce TB mortality by 5% at the end of 2017 compared to 2012.

In responding to the challenge, the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (I-ANDS) established a five year goal as: “By end 2010, a low prevalence of HIV positive cases (<0.5%) in the population will be maintained in order to reduce mortality and morbidity associated with HIV/AIDS” accordingly the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) through a comprehensive process with a wide range of stakeholders and development partners has developed an National HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework (ANSF) II, 2011 – 2015 as Afghanistan’s broad vision and strategic objectives to address and mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS).

**Participation and Observations of workshop**

National Annual Evaluation and Operational Workshop for TB programme was organized from 27th to 29th May, 2013, where Director, STAC participated in the meeting. Meeting was organized by MoPH in coordination with USAID/TBCTA/WHO/JICA/CIDA and WFP.

**National TB Reference Laboratory (NRL) and observation of CDC Hospital**

STAC team visited NRL which was situated at the ground floor of the NTI building. Specimen collection, smear preparation and microscopy were separately managed. Two participants participated in STAC’s training programme from National TB Reference Laboratory for QC and DST in this year. The team also visited construction site of Hospital for Communicable Disease near NTI Kabul.

**Observation, Collaboration and Partnerships and visit of NACP**

The NTP has identified partners and works closely with them, which provide financial, technical and operational support. National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), Afghanistan was established in 2003 with vision to reduce the spread, mortality, stigma discrimination resulting from HIV in the country. The Ministry of Public Health and CDC Directorate operate NACP in Afghanistan.

**Debriefing meeting with His Excellency, Deputy Minister, Policy and Planning, Ministry of Public Health Afghanistan**

Dr. K.K. Jha, Director, STAC, debriefed H. E. Ahmad Jan Naeem, Deputy Minister, Policy and Planning, Ministry of Public Health, Government of Afghanistan. During the meeting, CDC Director, Dr. Shahwali Maroofi was also present.

**Debriefing meeting with Director General for Regional Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Afghanistan**

Dr. K. K. Jha, Director, STAC, debriefed Roya Rahmani, Director General for Regional Cooperation Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The STAC team discussed about their observations and probable recommendations likely to be made by the team. The team thanked the Director General for all the hospitality extended by Government of Afghanistan, the National Programmes.
Background

TB, HIV & AIDS are among the prioritized public health problems for Sri Lanka having 8,000 new cases of TB notified every year, of which around 60% are smear-positive pulmonary TB cases. Sri Lanka has been declared as a low prevalence country for HIV/AIDS. The estimated number of people living with HIV was 3000 - 5000. But it has faced the serious threat of HIV epidemic as injecting drug use and commercial sex work are prevailing in the society.

The NTP functions under the Deputy Director General, Public Health Services (DDG/PHS) within the Ministry of Health. The programme is headed by the Director / National Programme for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases (NPTCCD).

In compliance with the decision of the Governing Board, a three day programme on “Review and Coordination Meeting in Sri Lanka” was organized by STAC in coordination with Ministry of Health, National Programme for Tuberculosis Control & Chest Diseases and National HIV/AIDS Control Programme of Sri Lanka from 11th - 12th June, 2013.

Brief Review of National TB Control Programme

Under DGHS there is Deputy Director General of Health Services (DDGHS). Under DDGPHS there is Director, Programme Managers for National Programme on TB Control and Chest Diseases and Director National STD and AIDS Control Programme.

TB control activities in Sri Lanka were initiated in 1910 on the recommendation of the TB commission appointed by the then Governor. The first Chest Clinic was established in Colombo in 1916. Anti TB campaign was introduced as a vertical program in 1945 through several chest hospitals and a network of 9 provincial chest clinics.

The National Program for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases of the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka is committed to the goal of reducing the burden of disease of tuberculosis in the country. The strategic plan
for TB control in Sri Lanka "National Plan (2006-2015)" was prepared to strengthen TB control activities. The strategic plan is in line with the Regional Strategic Plan for TB control 2006-15 of the South East Asian Region, WHO.

Training and Research

Training activities have been accorded high priority in Sri-Lanka. National Technical Guidelines for TB control program developed. Technical guideline for sputum examination (microcopy) for Tuberculosis at national level is available and the separate training modules at national, provincial and district level are also available. SAARC Tuberculosis Centre at Kathmandu is also providing training to develop skilled manpower for TB and HIV/AIDS.

TB Programme is also prioritizing operational research. In this connection SAARC TB/HIV Centre is also supporting for new area of research: Pharmocovigillance survey, involvement of Private Practitioner in TB. Recently some of the researches are under progress related to youth and TB, TB/Diabetes co-morbiditry.

Laboratory Services and Meeting with NTP

Sputum smear examinations are done for diagnosis and monitoring of treatment. All symptomatic who attend the clinics are screened by sputum smear examination, while pulmonary TB patients are monitored by follow up sputum smear examination at the specified period 2 and 6 month. NTP in collaboration with Stop-TB operate x-pert machine for quick diagnosis.

Joint meeting was organized by NTP on 11th June 2013. Dr. Bhatta, STAC presented "STAC at Glance information" to all participants. NTP also presented interactive information about TB programme in Sri Lanka. Dr. Sudath Samaraweera and Dr. K. N. Gamini Seneviratne, Director, NPTCCD were also present in this meeting.

Visit of National STD/AIDS Control Programme

The National STD/AIDS Control Programme (NSACP), Ministry of Health, spearheads the national response to HIV/AIDS in Sri Lanka. NSACP is the focal point for planning and implementation of HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan and AIDS Policy together with all stakeholders.

The National Strategic Plan (2013-2017) guides the National response to HIV/AIDS and the overall goal of the NSP of Sri Lanka is to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS on the social and development of the country. The Goal of the program is to increase coverage and quality of preventive interventions and quality of care, support and treatment intervention.

Debriefing meeting with Director General for Regional Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and meeting with Director General of Health Services

On 12th June 2013, Dr. K. K. Jha, Director, STAC, briefed Mrs. R. D. Rajapaks, Director General for (SAARC Affairs) Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sri Lanka. During the meeting, The Director from NSACP and NPTCCD team were also present.

On 12th June 2013, Dr. K.K. Jha, Director and Dr. G. K. Bhatta, STAC, briefed STAC general information and Regional information regarding TB and HIV/AIDS.

Visit SAARC Cultural Centre (SCC), Sri Lanka

For the purpose of collaboration and coordination with two centers STAC team visited SAARC Cultural Center situated in Colombo and handed over the related publications to G.L.W. Samarasinghe, Director, SCC.
4. SAARC Regional Training on Leadership & Strategic Management for Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Control programmes, Maldives

Introduction

The twenty-second Meeting of the Governing Board of the SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre recommended the “SAARC Regional Training on Leadership & Strategic Management for Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Control programmes” to be conducted in Maldives by recognizing the importance of improving the knowledge and skills of the Programme Managers at various levels in management, communication and leadership. Accordingly, a five-day training programme had been organized by STAC in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Republic of Maldives which was held from 6th to 10th June 2013 in Malé.

Specific Objectives

1. To strengthen the understanding of importance of management & leadership skills among Programme Managers for TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes.
2. To strengthen knowledge on managerial skills to tackle the current issues on management among Programme Managers.
3. To strengthen leadership skills among Programme Managers for successful implementation of National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes and achieve the desired goals.
4. To strengthen the collaboration and coordination among TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes.

Participation

A total number of 18 Programme Managers working at different levels of TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka attended the training.
The programme was started with the opening session at the presence of health dignitaries of Maldives as well as officials from STAC and training experts from India, such as Dr. Sheeza Ali, Director General, Health Services, Ministry of Health, Government of Maldives, Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC, Kathmandu, Ms. Asma Ibrahim, Director, Health Protection Agency, Ministry of Health, Government of Maldives, Dr. S. D. Gupta, Director, Indian Institute for Health Management Research (IIHMR), Jaipur, India and Dr. Ghanshyam K. Bhatta, Research Officer, STAC.

**Technical Session**

Dr. S. D. Gupta, Director from Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) and Dr. Nutan Prabha Jain (IIHMR) facilitated as expert resource persons for the training programme.

Methodology adopted was as follows:

1. Referral of eight Modules
   i. Module 1 – Introduction
   ii. Module 2 – Managerial Styles
   iii. Module 3 – Leadership and Leadership Styles
   iv. Module 4 – Personal Effectiveness
   v. Module 5 – Role Efficacy
   vi. Module 6 – Interpersonal Communication
   vii. Module 7 – Team Building
   viii. Module 8 – Building Partnership
2. Individual exercises and questionnaires
3. Group work with interactive sessions and discussions
4. Brainstorming
5. Case studies
6. Role plays
7. Games
8. Presentations by Facilitators and Participants
9. Plenary discussions

The first technical presentation on the Leadership and Strategic Management training programme was made by Dr S. D. Gupta, Director, Indian Institute of Health Management and Research (IIHMR) on "Overview of Leadership and Strategic Management in TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programme".

The participants visited K. Thulusdhoo Health Center, to know the real situation and how health centers are managing the program in island area. Team members interacted with medical officer and their team.

Prof (Dr) Nutan Prabha Jain highlighted Personnel Effectiveness which was used as the guide and introduced “JOHARI WINDOW”. She emphasized the importance of three qualities of a manager in order to improve the personnel effectiveness as a manager. Guidance was provided for self analysis of the responded exercise and participants found out the lacking areas in order to improve themselves as Managers. Dr. Nutan elaborated the important aspects of Role Efficacy.

Dr S. D. Gupta presented a paper on effective communication. During his presentation he elaborated various channels of communication and barriers to communication.
Facilitator presented an informative lecture on Leadership Styles, the lecture was followed by an exercise regarding scoring and scaling the effectiveness in leadership and leadership styles.

Post-test assessment was conducted, in which all the participants engaged attentively with a great interest. Thereafter the participants were requested to fill the training evaluation forms in order to obtain their genuine opinion on the training programme, logistics etc. The analytical result of the training evaluation was shared with the entire participants. Thereafter, the importance of “Motivation for Action” and described how to motivate self and others.

Closing

Hon'ble Dr. Ahmed Jamsheed Mohamed, Health Minister, Ministry of Health, Government of Maldives, Mr. Hassan Shifau, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Maldives, Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC, Kathmandu, Dr. Sheeza Ali, Director General, Health Services, Ministry of Health, Government of Maldives, Dr. S. D. Gupta, Director, IIHMR, Jaipur, India and Dr. Nutan Prabha Jain, Associate Professor, IIHMR, India presented at the closing session.

Hon'ble Minister delivered his remarks by stating the importance of training for the TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes. He emphasized the importance of building up the confidence of officials working with high profile managers and the importance of coordination between them in accomplishing common goals of the health sector. He extended thanks to the STAC and its officials for hard work and organizing such an important training in Maldives.

Mr. Hassan Shifau, welcome all participants and facilitator in Maldives, He emphasized STAC performance as well as SAARC role in development sector for all Member States. He also highlighted the success of the training and its use in the skill development in Member States.

Dr. Nutan Prabha Jain, extended her congratulations to all the participants and organizers for successfully and nicely organizing the training. She also appreciated the performance of the participants and thanked for active participation during all the sessions.

Dr. S. D. Gupta, thanked STAC officials for organizing leadership and strategic Management training programme as it will definitely create a positive impact on the control activities of both National TB & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes particularly in achieving time bound pledges of the Millennium Development Goals.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC, welcomed all the dignified officials in this session. In his remarks, Dr. Jha thanked the Ministry of Health, Government of Maldives, Health Minister and Director General, for providing necessary support to organize the training programme in Maldives successfully.

On behalf of participants three delegates from region and one from Maldives delivered their comments on the training.

Outcomes

The participants updated their knowledge on leadership skills along with the strategic management and development of a group of motivated programme managers equipped with updated information on managerial style and dynamic leadership. The participants strengthened their ideas in liaison & collaboration between NTP and NACP among SAARC Region. The participants can use this knowledge and leadership qualities to achieve the MDGs and to scale up the prevention and control activities further.
5. SAARC Regional Training on Management Information for Action (MIFA) for Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes, Sri Lanka

In compliance to the recommendation of the twenty-second meeting of the Governing Board of the STAC, a five day's training programme on “Management Information for Action (MIFA) for Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes” was conducted in Sri Lanka jointly by Government of Sri Lanka and STAC from 13th to 17th June 2013 in Colombo.

The Objectives of the training programme were to support the Member States of TB and HIV/AIDS control programmes through improving the knowledge and skills of Data Management on TB and HIV/AIDS and to assist Member States in review of their epidemiological data.

In the programme the following Methodologies were adopted:
1. Pre-test
2. Delivering lectures
3. Power point presentations
4. Lecture notes/ Handouts
5. Interactive Participation
6. Group work
7. Post-test

Participation

A total of sixteen participants from National TB Control Programmes (NTP) & National AIDS Control Programmes (NACP) of SAARC Member States attended the training.
Dr. Anoop Khanna, Associate Professor, IIHMR, Jaipur, India, Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC, Dr. G.K. Bhatta, Research Officer, STAC, Dr. Gamini Senaviratna, Director, NPTCCD, Sri Lanka, Dr. Sisira Liyanage, Director, NSACP, Dr. Sudath Samaraweera, Dy. Director, NPTCCD, Sri Lanka, Dr. Nirupa PalIWatte, NPTCCD facilitated the training.

Dr. Palitha Mahipala, Director General of Health Services, Sri Lanka graced the occasion as Chairperson. The programme was inaugurated by lighting the traditional lamp jointly by Dr. Palitha Mahipala, Director General of Health Services, Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC, Dr. Sarath Amunugama, Deputy Director General (Public Health Services), Dr. Sunil De Alwis, Deputy Director General, (E T & R), Mrs. R. D. Rajapaksa, Director General, SAARC Affairs (MOFA), Sri Lanka, Dr. G. S Bhatta, Research Officer, STAC. Dr. Gamini Seneviratne, Dr. Sisira Liyanage and Dr. Anoop Khanna, Resource Persons from IIHMR, India were present.

Dr. Kashi Kan Jha, Director, STAC delivered the welcome address. He highlighted about the importance of MIFA training and reliability of data. He also highlighted the activities of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre.

Dr. Sisira Liyanage Director, National STD and AIDS Control Programme, Sri Lanka delivered the Vote of Thanks.

Technical sessions

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director of the STAC, Kathmandu welcomed the participants for the technical sessions. Dr. G. K. Bhatta, Research Officer STAC presented contribution of STAC to TB and HIV/AIDS Control in the SAARC Region and objectives, methodology and expected outcome of the training.

Dr. Anoop Khanna, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Health Management Research-Jaipur-India and resource person for the training presented Database Management: an overview. First day training was conducted using Excel-2003 & 2007 & SPSS and also covered Health Management Information System and Introduction to Data Management.

Dr. Shamini Prathapan, Sr. Lecturer, University of Sri Jayewardenepura (Faculty of Medicine) highlighted the Introduction of Epidemiology/Descriptive Epidemiology. In which basic Bio-statistic-I and II was also discussed. Dr. Nalika Gunawardena, Sr. Lecturer, University of Colombo (Faculty of Medicine) gave lecture on “Causality” in the afternoon session.

Second day training was conducted using SPSS -16 versions by Dr. Anoop Khanna, Following topics were covered during this session.

- Opening SPSS data File
- The Help system
- Collapsing and Deleting Viewer Items
- Data Organization in SPSS
- Designing a Coding Scheme
- Choice of Entering Data

Dr. Anoop Khanna demonstrated the important aspects of data entry and data modifying using hypothetical questionnaire. Each participant were provided Lap top computer for practice on data analysis and data distribution and cross tabulation etc. on SPSS. However on the afternoon session there was a “discussion on epidemiology of HIV/AIDS, global trend and country situation, case finding, case holding and notification
was conducted jointly by Dr. Chathrini Gajaweera (MO surveillance NSACP), Dr. Nirosha Dissanayake (SR community Medicine, NSACP) and Dr. M. Ajwath (MO Bio-informatics, NPTCCD), Sri Lanka.

Data analysis practice was conducted on SPSS-16 versions by Prof Anoop Khanna. In this course bivariate analysis with discrete variables along with data analysis were exercised on SPSS. At the end of this session a discussion on the topics in relation to TB and HIV/AIDS control in SAARC region was held.

Participants had group work on quarterly reports and presentation on reflection of the MIFA training.

Closing session

The closing session was attended by Dr. Gamini Senavirathna, Director, NPTCCD, Dr. Sisira Liyanage, Director, NSACP, Dr. Kashi Kan Jha, Director, STAC, Dr. Sunil De Alwis, Deputy Director General, (E T & R), Sri Lanka, Mrs. R. D. Rajapaksa, Director General, SAARC Affairs (MOFA), Sri Lanka. Dr. Anoop Khanna, Resource Person, Dr. G. K. Bhatta, Research Officer, STAC and officials from NPTCCD and NSACP.

Remarks were delivered by Dr. Gamini Senavirathna, Prof Anoop Khanna and Dr. Sunil De Alwis.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC, Nepal delivered his closing remarks. He extended thanks to Resource Persons and Participants from National TB Control Programmes and National AIDS Control Programmes for their hard work to make the training successful. He also highlighted the importance of this training and expressed his gratitude on behalf of STAC to the Government of Sri Lanka, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National TB Control Programme & National AIDS Control Programme.

Dr. Janaki Vidanapathirana, CCP, NSACP thanked the organizers, Resource Persons and STAC for organizing the valuable training on behalf of the participants and highlighted the benefit that they obtained from this training.

All the participants and Resource Persons were awarded certificates for their participation in this five days training.

Dr. Sisira Liyanage, Director, NSACP presented the vote of thanks.

Outcome

Participants were successfully trained to use software application of computer in their day today activities for the prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS.
6. Programme of SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS

Ms. Runa Laila, SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS made official visit to India on 31st July to 3rd August 2013. She has been conferred the honorary title of SAARC Goodwill Ambassador by SAARC Secretariat for the next two years along with Shri Ajay Devgan from India and Ms. Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy from Pakistan. The objective of the visit was to extend support on the prevention of HIV/AIDS and issues of Stigma and Discrimination related to People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV).

Mr. Lov Verma, Secretary, Department of AIDS Control, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India coordinated the visit programme.

Ms. Sanchali Roy, NACO, Department of AIDS Control, Government of India, Dr. Ghanshyam Kumar Bhatta, Research Officer, STAC and Ms. Meena Dhakal, Sr. PA, STAC, Kathmandu welcomed her at the International Airport in New Delhi.

**Courtesey Call on the Hon’ble Minister, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India**

Ms. Runa Laila called on Hon'ble Minister, Mr. Salman Khurshid, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India at the Ministry. She explained the concept on how to reach to unreached population for HIV/AIDS awareness. She extended her gratefulness to the Hon’ble, Minister for RED RIBBON EXPRESS Programme in India. Hon’ble Minister congratulated her on taking up the responsibility of SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS and discussed to have a concert programme in different major city in the region for disseminating proper information to reduce the stigma and discrimination attached to HIV/AIDS.

**Sensitizing Meeting**

A sensitization meeting was jointly organized by the NACO, Department of AIDS Control, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Government of India and SAARC TB & HIV/AIDS Centre for the SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS in New-Delhi, India.
Dr. Naresh Goel, DDG on behalf of Department of AIDS Control, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Government of India, extended a warm welcome to Ms. Runa Laila, SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS.

Welcoming the Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS on behalf of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Kathmandu, Dr. G. K. Bhatta, Research Officer, highlighted the Global and SAARC Regional Situation of TB and HIV/AIDS. He also presented SAARC Regional Strategy for HIV/AIDS in which the programme of SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS is mentioned.

**Visit at Department of AIDS Control, India**

National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) Programme Officer, HIV/AIDS, made a presentation on regional HIV/AIDS scenario and India’s role in controlling the epidemic. The DAC team also made presentation to Ms. Runa Laila on the HIV/AIDS programme in the country highlighting on different interventions being implemented for reversing epidemic. Goodwill Ambassador also congratulated DAC for successful implementation like RED RIBBON EXPRESS mission.

**Visit at Service Provided Center**

The Goodwill Ambassador and STAC along with NACO team visited an ART Centre at LNJP Hospital, which is one of the first ART centers in the country that has been upgraded as Centre of Excellence in HIV care now. She interacted with the beneficiaries and appreciated the high quality care being provided to PLHIV without any stigma & discrimination. Ms Runa Laila also visited HIV Counseling and Testing Centre at Dr B R Ambedkar Hospital, Rohini, Delhi and interacted with pregnant women availing services.

**Press Conference**

In the conference STAC representative briefed the situation of HIV/AIDS in SAARC Member States. Ms Runa Laila appreciated the efforts made by the Department of AIDS Control which has resulted in reduction of new HIV infections.

**Courtesy Call on the Honorable Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India**

Hon'ble Minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad extended a warm welcome to Ms Runa Laila and congratulated her on being appointed as SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS. During the meeting various important issues related to HIV/AIDS for the benefit of marginalized people of the SAARC region were discussed. From the Department of AIDS Control Mr. Lov Verma, Secretary, Aradhana Johri, Additional Secretary and Dr. Ghanshyam Kumar Bhatta (STAC) were present in the Meeting. Ms. Runa Laila, Goodwill Ambassador was handed over the SAARC souvenir by Shri Gulam Nabi Azad. She left India on 3rd August, 2013.
7. Commemoration of World TB Day/SAARC TB Day 2013

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) commemorated World TB Day as well as SAARC TB Day by organizing different activities such as partnership programme with Nursing Colleges, disseminated the World TB Day/SAARC TB Day message of H. E., publication of book-let and participated in the Joint Function organized by NTP Nepal.

Partnership Programme with Nursing Colleges

On the occasion of the Day, STAC organized one day programme on "Advocacy and Awareness on Tuberculosis with Nursing Colleges" on 22nd March 2013 at STAC building, Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal. The objective of the programme was to make school students aware about situation of TB & HIV/AIDS, its spread and social & economic impact on individual, family and community along with the responsibility of students for the prevention of tuberculosis.

Over 150 students and teachers from the following nursing colleges participated in the programme:

1. ANPC College of Health Sciences, Kausaltar, Bhaktapur
2. Iwamura College of Health Sciences, Sallaghari, Bhaktapur
3. Chakrabarti Habi Nursing College, Thimi, Bhaktapur

The programme was organized under the chairmanship of Dr. Gunaraj Lohani, Deputy Director General, Department of Health Services, Government of Nepal.

Dr. Praveen Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Dr. Mishra in his speech, highlighted the achievements and efforts made by the Government of Nepal for the control of Tuberculosis. He appealed to participants for conveying TB control awareness messages to their communities as a part of their responsibility as Nursing students. Dr. Mishra also appreciated the efforts made by SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre for controlling TB in the SAARC Region.

Dr. Ghanshyam Kumar Bhatta, Research Officer, STAC presented the Introduction of STAC, regional burden of TB and role of nursing students in National TB control programme. Dr. Gian Paolo Mezzabotta, WHO/ NTP, Nepal presented a paper on Global Scenario of TB, the burden, achievements and efforts for stopping tuberculosis.
Dr. Balkrishna Subedi, Director, National Centre for AIDS and STD Control, Government of Nepal presented the paper on importance of collaborative approach of TB and HIV/AIDS to address the TB/HIV co-infection. A paper on general information on TB and its control strategy in Nepal was presented by Mr. Sujit Kumar Shah, TB/HIV Co-ordinator, NTP, Nepal.

**Releasing of book**


**Dissemination of Message**

H. E. Mr. Ahmed Saleem, Secretary General, SAARC released a message on the occasion of World TB Day/SAARC TB Day 2013. This message was disseminated to the NTPs of SAARC Member State for publication in Newspapers on the occasion of World TB Day/SAARC TB Day 2013.

**Printing of Special Publication**

STAC prepared a special publication "STOPPING TUBERCULOSIS" on the occasion of World TB Day/SAARC TB Day 2013. The book contained messages released by Ministers of Health of SAARC Member States, H. E. Secretary General of SAARC, Health Secretaries, Director Generals, Directors and National Managers of TB and HIV/AIDS control programmes. The book also contained the general information on TB along with the status of TB control in the SAARC Member States.

**Participation in Joint Programme**

STAC participated in a joint programme organized by NTP, Nepal in association with NGOs and INGOs, held at city hall, Kathmandu on 24th March 2013. The programme was organized under the chairmanship of Dr. Praveen Mishra, Secretary, MoH&P, Government of Nepal. Hon'ble Mr. Vidyadhar Mallik, Minister for Federal Affairs, Local Development and Health & Population graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

**Display of Banner**

STAC displayed different type of banners/flex of awareness messages in the premises of the venue, where the joint programme was organized.

**Exhibition**

A stall was arranged for exhibition by STAC in the city hall. Hon'ble Minister, Secretary and all National and International dignitaries observed the exhibition. The observers were explained by the STAC officials about, Current Status of TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Member States.

**Distribution of STAC Publications**

STAC publication related to awareness on TB and HIV/AIDS and epidemiological information on status of TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Member States were distributed to the visitors of joint function.
8. Commemoration of World AIDS Day 2013

World AIDS Day is commemorated on 1st December every year to raise awareness about HIV & AIDS and to demonstrate international solidarity in the face of the epidemic. The day is an opportunity for public and private partners to disseminate information about the status of the epidemic and to encourage progress in HIV & AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support around the world, particularly in high prevalence countries.

World AIDS Day theme from 2011 to 2015 is “Getting to zero: zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, zero AIDS related deaths”. And this year the theme “Getting to zero – HIV and adolescents” gives a special emphasis on HIV & adolescents.

SAARC TB & HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) published the messages issued by His Excellency Secretary General of SAARC and Director of STAC on the occasion of World AIDS Day 2013 on its website (www.saarctb.org).

STAC organized an interaction programme to commemorate the World AIDS Day 2013 at Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal on 29th November 2013.

The interaction programme was held with two National Networks; the National Federation of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (NFWLHA) and Jagriti Mahila Maha Sang (JMMS). The SAARC Regional strategy on HIV guides us to convene and coordinate specific cross cutting initiatives amongst which one is to promote and strengthen regional networks. The interaction programme is a means to facilitate and provide technical support for the regional networks and partnerships. It will facilitate capacity building and include these networks in various consultation meetings. In this context this was one of the initial interactions with these networks to introduce them into regional networking. This was one of the main themes of the programme.

In addition they were briefed on the efforts of STAC towards prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the Region within the past ten years. There were also presentations from the two networks NFWLHA and JMMS on sharing their initiatives across the country which showed a vast range of National networking and partnerships already in existence in HIV/AIDS area and also among the most at risk populations.
Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC gave the closing remarks and he thanked the participants for their cooperation in spreading the messages related to HIV/AIDS specially to reduce the stigma and discrimination. He assured the participants about the support from STAC to carry out their activities in the community as partners. The programme was attended by forty-four participants from different Networks.

9. Celebration of SAARC Charter Day

Publication of Message

On the occasion of 29th SAARC Charter Day, STAC received the message issued by His Excellency, Secretary General of SAARC and published it on the website.

10. Research Activities

This year research was decided to conduct on Frequency and Factors Associated with Childhood Tuberculosis in Bangladesh and Afghanistan/Nepal. This activity could not be carried out due to some administrative constraints.

The research on TB among Young People on Rise in Sri Lanka and Operational Research on TB/HIV Co-infection (treatment Adherence among Co-infected) in Nepal are under the process of completion. Both of these activities are very near to complete the process.

11. Tenth Round Proficiency Testing of Sputum Smear Microscopy for National TB Reference Laboratories of SAARC Member States

Since 2003 STAC is supporting NTRLs of Member States by coordinating and conducting many activities such as QA of SSM, Culture & DST, surveillance of drug resistance and TB/HIV co-infection and laboratory bio-safety etc. The tenth round proficiency testing of sputum smear microscopy for NTRLs is one of such kind. The objective of the activity is to implement an ongoing proficiency testing programme for sputum microscopy within the Network of NTRLs in SAARC Region.

A panel of 10 slides (5 stained with Ziehl-Neelsen staining technique and 5 unstained smears) was prepared & validated at SAARC Regional TB Reference Laboratory according to WHO/IUATLD guidelines and sent to ten NTRLs of the Region and were requested to examine by any two or more Laboratory staff, which is responsible for the regular sputum smears microscopy and send back report along with slides within one month for analyzing and evaluation.

Results

A complete set of the report is yet to be received to find out the results. STAC hope that all NTRLs have done very good job like they have done previously.

It is concluded that the performance of majority of the Reference Laboratories will be excellent. The participating laboratories should focus on testing the slides for zero errors. It is hoped that all the National TB Reference Laboratories will complete the task in stipulated time.
12. Meetings with Collaborating Institutions for Strengthening Networking – WHO/UNAIDS/UNFPA & other collaborating Institutes

Dr. Ghanshyam Kumar Bhatta, Research Officer, STAC participated in consultative meeting jointly organized by SAARC and UNICEF in Kathmandu on 9th and 10th September 2013. The objective of the meeting was to review the achievements & progress on protection, care & support for children affected by HIV & AIDS (CABA) in the South Asia.


Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director and Dr. Ghanshyam Kumar Bhatta, Research Officer, STAC participated in the 7th International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention (IAS 2013) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 30th to 3rd June 2013. The objective of the visit was to know update ART guidelines 2013, published by World Health Organization and relevant research works.

14. Participation in Regional Conferences in the Member States

In the year 2013, no participation has been made in the regional conferences in the SAARC Member States.

15. Dissemination of information of TB & HIV/AIDS by updating STAC Website

STAC publishes almost important information about TB & HIV/AIDS available in the Centre on its website. The official website of the Centre is www.saarctb.org. On this website recent information of TB & HIV/AIDS, informative articles, news and announcement of the Centre, STAC publications, information related to SAARC Regional Centres etc. are being published. Periodical and timely update for the purpose of giving information has been done. Timely modification of the layout of home page has been done to make the website more user-friendly and quick access. Online submission system of articles/manuscripts for STAC Journal can be done through this website.
16. Publications and Distribution

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre published the following publications in 2013. These publications along with other related documents have been distributed to concerned offices/persons of SAARC Member States through postal services. Almost all publications are uploaded on STAC website in pdf format which can be downloaded and printed as per need.

Cover pages of the published documents

STAC Newsletter Vol XXIII, Nos. 1, 2 and 3  
STAC Journal Vol X Nos 1 and 2  
STAC at a Glance revised 2013

TB Update and HIV/AIDS Update  
STAC Annual Report 2012  
Special Publications on World TB Day and World AIDS Day 2013


STAC publishes official peer reviewed journal of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre twice in a year. The main aim of the Journal is the continuing education of personnel and the dissemination of the most up-to-date information in the field of tuberculosis, lung diseases and HIV/AIDS. It is devoted to dissemination of knowledge concerning various aspects of tuberculosis, lung diseases and HIV/AIDS. All articles relevant to the practice of this Journal and quality health research are published. The Journal is an appropriate forum for the publication of articles concerning the social, economic, public health, epidemiology, diagnostics, genetics etc. in the area of tuberculosis, lung diseases and HIV/AIDS. The scientific manuscripts presenting the results of public health importance are encouraged. The novel case reports which adds to the existing knowledge and consistent with the scope of journal will be considered for publication.

In the year 2013, Vol. X No. 1 & 2 have been published and distributed. All articles published in this journal have been reviewed/re-reviewed by peer reviewers. Both the issues have been uploaded on STAC website from where individual or whole article can be downloaded freely. However, all articles are copyright to STAC, no part of the articles may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior permission of the STAC. The articles published in two issues of the journal were as follows:
1. Reliability of anti-mycobacterial drug susceptibility testing and importance of accreditation of laboratory performing the test
2. Gender difference on case detection of pulmonary tuberculosis among the suspected cases attending in Jutpani Primary Health Centre of Chitwan, Nepal
3. Prevalence of tuberculosis among HIV positive patients attending ICTC in a tertiary care institute in Ahmadabad, a western city of India
4. Risk factors for drug induced hepatitis under DOTS programme in general population
5. Prevalence and CD4 cell count pattern of TB co-infection among HIV infected individuals in Nepal
6. A rare extra-pulmonary presentation of tuberculosis as gum tuberculosis
7. Laryngeal tuberculosis presenting with primary symptoms of laryngeal carcinoma
8. Tuberculosis problem in Dakahlia governorate, Egypt
9. Personal effectiveness of public health management personnel in South East Asia Region: a study
10. Socio-clinical profile of HIV patients visiting to an ART centre
11. Gender based barriers in accessing tuberculosis treatment: a qualitative study from Eastern Nepal
12. Global health & tuberculosis: a retrospective study
13. Spectrum of chest x-ray findings among human immunodeficiency virus positive individuals in a Nigerian Tertiary Hospital
14. High risk of immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome development among people living with HIV/AIDS in far-western region of Nepal
15. A study on sociodemographic pattern and side effects of anti tubercular drugs among tuberculosis patients in Pokhara valley
16. Tuberculous tenosynovitis presenting as ganglion of wrist
17. Association of food and drug allergy with anti-tuberculosis drug related hepatitis or skin reactions: a case control study

18. **Strengthening of STAC Library**
   
i. Collection of scientific books, journals and other related materials has been. The list of books purchased in this year is placed at annex.

   ii. Library catalogue has been printed.

   iii. Arrangement of external backup for all library resources and available materials has been initiated.

   iv. As a regular work of the library and for the sake of safety of books and journal binding works has been carried out.

   v. STAC library is in the process of upgrading as Digital Library (e-library). In this regard expert guidance is required, which is under the process of completion. During the process the existing library services will be linked with the STAC website.

   vi. Audio visual section has already been started. The process of upgrading this section by adding the facilities of Audio Visual Conference and Teleconference are in the process. This process should be taken as one of the components of digital library.
vii. Collection, compile and circulation of published scientific articles and important news related to TB and in the national daily news papers in the SAARC Member States through its website has been initiated by uploading the information on STAC website. These types of activity will be continued in the process of updating STAC website.

viii. Hiring of library IT consultant for strengthening of STAC Library as E-Library is under process.

19. Technical assistant support to the STAC, NTP/NACP, Member States by providing short term consultancy, utilizing the experts from the Region without financial liability to respective programmes of Member States

The Centre has to develop its Long Term Strategic Plan and Detailed Proposal along with Operational Plan for SAARC Regional Supra Reference Laboratory for TB, HIV & AIDS. The Centre initiated both the works by searching separate experts to develop the documents with Operational Plan, Monitoring & Evaluation Indicators and required materials and equipment for laboratory.

20. Additional Activities of the Centre

1. Strengthening of STRL by acquiring of required chemicals & other lab materials for culture, DST identification of *M. tuberculosis* and other related woks has been performed. STRL is in the process of upgrading it to SAARC Supra Regional Reference Laboratory for TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region.

2. Identification and networking with National Reference Laboratories on HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Member States has been continuing.

3. Collection of Information on demographics, vital statistics and other indicators on HIV/AIDS has been done and prepared a document under the title of SAARC Regional Epidemiological Report on HIV/AIDS.

4. Document on Epidemiological Trend on HIV/AIDS of SAARC Member States of last ten years and Generating and Managing HIV/AIDS database through clinical, epidemiological and social research for evidence based approaches has been prepared.
5. Documentation of the best practices on treatment, care and support on HIV/AIDS in the Member States is under the process of completion.

6. Situation analysis of mechanism for migration of diagnosed HIV infected persons who need to continue their Care; Support & Treatment for HIV/AIDS is under the process of completion.

7. Collection of Information regional data on demographics, vital statistics (TB and TB-HIV Co-infection and other indicators) and produce SAARC Regional Epidemiological Reports on TB and TB-HIV Co-infection and Strength regional data base on TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV Co-infection is under process of circulation to the Member States.

8. STAC prepared the SAARC Technical Bulleting on TB and HIV/AIDS Epidemic and published it on website of the Centre, which were circulated to the Member States for information through e-mail. Specially, these informative documents are sent to SAARC Division of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme Manager of National TB and HIV/AIDS of Member States, SAARC Secretariat and STAC Governing Board Members. For general people, these were placed on STAC’s website.


10. SAARC Prize on HIV/AIDS 2012

Hon’ble Zangley Dukpa, Minister of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan handed over SAARC Prize on HIV/AIDS 2012 to Mr. Tshewang Nidup of Bhutan. Directors, STAC and SAARC Secretariat were also present on the occasion. The prize was handed over to Mr. Nidup during the special session of expert group meeting to finalize the SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS (2013-2017) held on 5th and 6th March 2013 in Thimphu. In the meeting there was separate agenda to award prize and certificate to Condom Man by Hon’ble Chief Guest.

The aim of the prize is to honour citizen/s or organizations of South Asia for their exemplary work towards control and prevention of HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region.

21. Visit of STAC by different dignitaries:

Students from KIST Medical Colleges, Lalitpur, Nepal

4th year M.B., B.S. Students from KIST Medical College, Lalitpur, Nepal visited SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) on 8th May, 2013. As per their 4th year curriculum they have to visit the health institutions of the country as well as the different Regional international organizations working for health services situated in Nepal. The purpose of their visit/observation is to know the organizational structure and functioning patterns.
The STAC has established partnership with this Medical Colleges with objective to spread the awareness messages on TB and HIV/AIDS in the community through students. In this college partnership was started when a joint programme was organized on the occasion of World TB Day/SAARC TB Day 2011.

Participants of CABA

Consultative meeting to review achievements and progress on protection, care & support for children affected by HIV and AIDS in the South Asia was organized jointly by the SAARC Secretariat and UNICEF on 9th and 10th September 2013 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Team members of the meeting made an observation visit to SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal to observe the functioning of the Centre and to know the regional activities of the SAARC Regional Centres.

Team from IPPF

Mr. Anindit Roy Chowdhury and Ms. Neha Chauhan from International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) visited STAC and discussed the matters related to TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region.

Bhutanese Officials Team

A team of three officials from the Royal Government of Bhutan, Mr. Gembo Tshering, Mr. Ugyen Dorji and Mr. Jigme Tshewang visited STAC under the programme "Familiarization visit of Officers from Department of SAARC and Regional Cooperation Ministry of Foreign Affairs Royal Government of Bhutan" on 26th December 2013. A meeting was organized to inform the team about the STAC. A presentation on "Introduction of SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre and Status of TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region" was presented.

22. Audit accounts of STAC for the year 2012


The following activities could not be carried out in the year 2013

1. SAARC Regional Sensitization Meeting for Social Determinants of Health in relation to TB and HIV/AIDS, Afghanistan
2. SAARC Regional Training on "Technical and Operational Aspects of Anti Retro Viral Therapy" for HIV/AIDS Control Programme, Bangladesh

3. SAARC Regional Training on Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization, Bhutan

4. SAARC Regional Workshop for Experiences and Best Practices sharing for TB Control relating to Public-Private-Mix (PPM) Activities, Early case detection and reaching the unreached, India

5. The SAARC Regional Meeting of Programme Managers on TB and HIV/AIDS Control, Nepal

6. SAARC Trainer’s Training on Behavioral Change and Communication (BCC), Pakistan

**Research**

7. Frequency and Factors Associated with Childhood Tuberculosis in Bangladesh

8. Frequency and Factors Associated with Childhood Tuberculosis in Afghanistan/Nepal

**Awareness and Advocacy**

9. Conferment of SAARC Award on Tuberculosis 2013

10. SAARC Charter Day
Annex
SAARC Regional Training for Microbiologist on Culture and DST
23-29 April, 2013, NTI, Bangalore, India

List of Participants
1. Mr. Mohammad Idrees Karimi,
   Technologist, National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP), Afghanistan
2. Mr. Fawad Yousufi,
   Technologist, National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP), Afghanistan,
3. Dr. Fahmida Khanam,
   Consultant - TB Lab, National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP), Bangladesh
4. Mr. Tshewang Dorji,
   Sr. Medical Laboratory Technician, Phuntsholing General Hospital,
   Ministry of Health, Bhutan
5. Mr. Leki Penjor,
   Laboratory Technician, Idakom Hospital, Thimphu, Bhutan
6. Dr. Avijit Kumar Awasthi,
   Consultant Microbiologist,
   Intermediate Reference Laboratory (State TB Demonstration Centre),
   Moti Katraroad,
   S.N. Medical College Campus, Agra, UP, India
7. Dr. Urmila Singh,
   Microbiologist,
   Intermediate Reference Laboratory, TB Laboratory,
   Department of Microbiology, K.G.M.U, Lucknow, UP, India
8. Mr. Zafar Nowshed Wani,
   Microbiologist, Office of the Director,
   State Tuberculosis Demonstration cum Training Centre,
   Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, India
9. Dr. Jagat Pradhan,
   Consultant Microbiologist,
   Intermediate Reference Laboratory, Sikkim, STNM Hospital Gangtok, Sikkim, India
10. Dr. Samanmalee Priyantha Gunasekara,
    Consultant Microbiologist,
    National Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory, Welisara, Sri Lanka

Facilitators

National TB Institute, Bangalore, India
1. Dr. Rahul Narang
2. Dr. S. Anand
3. Ms. Hema Sundaram
4. Ms. Reena K

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre
1. Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director
2. Dr. Ghanshyam Kumar Bhatta, Research Officer
3. Mr. Krishna Bahadur Basnet, Administrative Officer
Name of the Participants

1. Dr. Mohammad Khaled Seddiq  
   National Tuberculosis Programme Director  
   National TB Programme, TB Hospital, Sanatorem Road  
   Darlaman, Kabul, Afghanistan

2. Dr. Feda Mohammad Paikan  
   National AIDS Control Programme Manager  
   Ministry of Public Health, Kabul, Afghanistan

3. Mr. Tashi Dendup  
   Programme Officer  
   National TB Control Programme  
   DOPH, Ministry of Health, P.O.Box No.726  
   Thimphu, Bhutan

4. Mr. Dorji Khandu  
   Programme Officer  
   National HIV/AIDS Control Programme  
   DOPH, Ministry of Health  
   Thimphu, Bhutan

5. Dr. Naresh Goel  
   Dy. Director General, DAC, MOHFW  
   Chandralok Building, 9th Floor  
   36 Janpath, New Delhi-110001, India

6. Ms. Fathimath Hassan  
   Community Health Officer  
   H. Dh. Kulhiudhuffushi Regional Hospital, Male, Maldives

7. Ms. Mariyam Waheeda  
   Assistant Public Health Programme Officer  
   Health Protection Agency, Male, Maldives

8. Mr. Ahmed Abdul Sattar  
   VCT Counselor  
   G. Greenje./Journey, Maldives

9. Mr. Mohamed Husham  
   Community Health Officer  
   Sh: Maaungoodhoo Health Center, Maldives

10. Ms. Aishath Zahira  
    Manager  
    Sexual Reproductive Health Society for Health Education  
    M. Kulunuveni, Male, Maldives

11. Ms. Shina Ahmed  
    Public Health Programme Officer  
    Health Protection Agency  
    Ministry of Health, Male, Maldives
12. Dr. Thooha Saeed  
   Medical Officer  
   Endhevi-4 Hulhumale, Male, Maldives
13. Mr. Zumair Musthafa  
   Assistant Community Health Officer  
   Kendhoo Health Centre, B. Kendhoo, Maldives
14. Ms. Aminath Aroosha  
   Public Health Programme Officer  
   National TB Programme, Ministry of Health, Male, Maldives.
15. Mr. Jaadhulla Saeed  
   A. Community Health Officer  
   Chabeyleege, S. Feydhoo, Male, Maldives
16. Dr. Hemant Chandra Ojha  
   Senior Medical Officer  
   National Centre for AIDS and STD Control, Kathmandu, Nepal
17. Dr. Sisira Liyanage  
   Director  
   National STD & AIDS Control Programme, Colombo -10, Sri Lanka
18. Dr. K. N. Gamini Seneviratne  
   Director  
   National Programme for TB Control & Chest Diseases, Colombo – 5, Sri Lanka

**Resource Persons, Coordinator and STAC Officials**

1. Dr. Kashi Kant Jha  
   Director, SAARC Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Centre  
   Kathmandu, Nepal
2. Dr. Ghanshyam Kumar Bhatta  
   Research Officer, SAARC Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Centre  
   Kathmandu, Nepal
3. Dr. S.D. Gupta  
   Director, Institute of Health Management Research (IHMRE)  
   Jaipur-302011, India
4. Dr. Nutan Prabha Jain  
   Associate Professor, Institute of Health Management Research (IHMRE)  
   Jaipur-302011, India
5. Dr. Aminath Aroona  
   Epidemiologist, Health Protection Agency, Maldives
6. Ms. Asma Ibrahim  
   Director,
7. Dr. Fathmath Nazla  
   Medical Officer
8. Mr. Abdul Hameed  
   Senior Public Health Programme Officer
9. Dr. Fathmath Nadhiya  
   Respiratory Medicine Clinic  
   Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital  
   Male, Maldives
SAARC Regional Training on Management information for Action (MIFA) for Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes
13 to 17 June 2013, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Resource Persons

1. Dr. Gamini Senavirathne
   Director, NPTCCD, Sri Lanka

2. Dr. Sudath Samaraweera
   D. Director, NPTCCD, Sri Lanka

3. Dr. Nirupa Pallewatte
   C.C.P. NPTCCD, Sri Lanka

4. Dr. Semuthu Rodrigo
   MO Biainfomatics, NPTCCD, Sri Lanka

5. Dr. SiSira Liyanage
   Director, NSACP, Sri Lanka

6. Dr. M. Ajwath
   MO Biainfomatics, NPTCCD, Sri Lanka

7. Dr. Nirosha Dissanayake
   S.R. Community Medicine NSACP, Sri Lanka

8. Dr. Chathrini Gajaweera
   MO Surveillance, NSACP, Sri Lanka

9. Dr. Nalika Gunawardane
   Senior Lecturer, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

10. Dr. Shamini Prathapan
    Senior Lecturer, University of Sri Jayawardanapura, Sri Lanka

11. Dr. Wimalarathe
    Director, Health Information, M.O.H, Sri Lanka

12. Dr. Kashi Kant Jha
    Director, STAC, Nepal

13. Dr. G. K. Bhatta
    Research Officer, STAC, Nepal

14. Dr. Anoop Khanna
    IIHMR, Jaipur India, India

15. Mr. Kailash Bahadur Karki
    Training Officer, STAC, Nepal
Participants

1. Dr. M.A.J.K.N. Menike
   MO-Chest Clinic Colombo, Sri Lanka
2. Dr. P.S.M.J.U. Samarakoon
   MO-Chest Clinic, Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka
3. Dr. Viraj Weerakkody
   M.O. Planning, Chest Hospital, Welisara, Sri Lanka
4. Dr. Sanath Fernando
   MOIC-Chest Clinic Kegalle, Sri Lanka
5. Mr. Janaka Thilakarathne
   Acting MRO, NPTCCD, Sri Lanka
6. Dr. Kamani Ramadasa
   MO-Chest Clinic Gampaha, Sri Lanka
7. Dr. Janaki Vidanapathirana
   C.C.P. NSACP, Sri Lanka
8. Dr Majula Rajapaksha
   S.R – NSACP, Sri Lanka
9. Dr. M.S.A. Rizwan
   S.R – NSACP, Sri Lanka
10. Dr. Geethani Samaraweera
    S.R – NSACP, Sri Lanka
11. Dr. Hashim Rahimi
    NACP, Afghanistan
12. Dr. Mujibulrahman Sameer
    HIV Advisor, national TB/HIV AIDS Center, Afghanistan
13. Mr. Dopo
    Information Officer – HMIS, Bhutan
14. Mr. Namgay Tshering
    Programme Manager – NACP, Bhutan
15. Mr. Sanjay Dahal
    Public Health Officer, NCASC, Nepal
16. Dr. Niraj Kulshrestha
    Add. Deputy Director General, Central TB Division, India

Coordinators

1. Dr. Chathura Hingalagoda
   MO, NPTCCD, Sri Lanka
2. Mr. Prasad Amarasinghe
   PO, NPTCCD, Sri Lanka
List of books added in the Library

1. Public Health – Walley Wight
2. Exercises in Epidemiology – Weiss
3. Statistics and Scientific Methods – Diggle
4. Global Public Health a New Era - Beaglehole
5. Measures for clinical Practice & Research Vol. 1 & 2
6. The HIV Pandemic Local & Global implications – Bect
7. Statistical Principles and Techniques – Krzanowski
8. Research for Health Policy - Erica Bell
10. Introduction to Clinical Research – Page
11. A decode of HAART – Auniga
12. Exposure A guide to Sources of Infections – Dietor
13. A guide to Specimen Management Clinical Microbiology
14. Clinical Cases Uncovered: Respiratory Medicine
15. Handbook of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine, 2012
16. NCCP Text Book of Respiratory Medicine (HB)
17. Practical Handbook of Microbiology 2/e
18. Research Methodology for Health Professionals, 2013
19. Textbook of Pulmonary Vascular Diseases
20. Textbook of Preventive & Social Medicine