



NEWSLETTER – volume 2 – July 2007

The APPG and the World Bank

On 5 June, APPG Co-Chair Andrew George MP and Kenyan TB/HIV advocate Lucy Chesire met with representatives from the World Bank to discuss the Bank's role in fighting TB in Africa, the region most off track to meet Millennium Development Goal targets on TB.



Christian Baeza, Lucy Chesire, Andrew George MP & Joy Phumaphi (credit: RESULTS)

Concerned that the World Bank's response to the TB emergency in Africa was inadequate, the APPG has been engaged with written correspondence with the Bank to urge them to do more. Joy Phumaphi, Head of the Human Development Network and Christian Baeza, Acting Director for Health, Nutrition and Population, informed Andrew George that the Bank

was currently in consultation with the WHO and Stop TB Partnership to assess the most effective ways in which to build up the World Bank's support for TB in Africa. More information about the APPG's correspondence with the World Bank is available on the APPG website.

APPG welcomes new DFID health strategy

In June, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) launched its new health strategy: *Working together for better health* which reinforces DFID's commitment to stemming TB, drug resistant TB as well as addressing TB/HIV co-infection in order to meet Millennium Development Goals on health.

Expert speakers in Parliament

Members of the APPG have had the opportunity to meet with a number of outstanding expert speakers who were invited to update Parliamentarians on important issues related to Global TB:

- 24 April - Sir Richard Feachem, former Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, spoke to Parliamentarians and other guests about his reflections on the first five years of the Global Fund.
- 16 May - members of the APPG met with Jerald C. Sadoff, President and CEO of Aeras Global Vaccine Foundation, to discuss the need for a new TB vaccine and Aeras' role in its development and delivery. The minutes of the meeting, together with Dr Sadoff's PowerPoint presentation, are available on the APPG website.
- 13 June - an informal meeting, chaired by Co-Chair Julie Morgan MP, has held to discuss what role it can play in addressing the growing incidence of TB in the UK. Professor John Macfarlane, Chairman of the British Thoracic Society (BTS), gave a presentation of the results of a recent BTS survey on the state of TB services in the UK and invited the APPG to support further surveys of PCTs and Hospital Trusts. Minutes of this meeting can be accessed on the APPG website.

Kenyan advocate calls for collaboration between TB and HIV programmes

Lucy Chesire, a health nutritionist from Eldoret in Kenya and leading TB/HIV advocate, visited the UK in June to inform Parliamentarians, NGOs and the media about the need for greater collaboration between efforts to tackle TB and HIV. Driven by personal experience of TB/HIV co-infection, Lucy's message is simple – it is useless to tackle HIV and AIDS without also addressing TB as well. Better collaboration between TB and HIV programmes could save as many as 500,000 Africans each year.

Lucy met with MPs John Barrett, Annette Brooke, Michael Connarty and Nick Herbert who have all visited Kenya to learn the challenges of TB and TB/HIV. Lucy used the opportunity to update them on the progress being made to integrate TB and HIV programmes in Kenya since their visits.

APPGs come together to highlight health worker crisis in Africa

The APPG on Global TB held its first joint meeting with the APPGs on AIDS and malaria to highlight an issue that impedes efforts to address all three diseases in Africa: the acute shortage of trained health workers.

The meeting was hosted by the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) which used the opportunity to launch its report *People First: African solutions to the health worker crisis*.



Andrew George MP, Neil Gerrard MP & Stephen O'Brien MP (credit: AMREF/Louise Orton)

It is estimated that there is a shortage of 4.2 million health workers worldwide. This is more severe in sub-Saharan Africa where TB, malaria and

HIV are most prevalent. Whilst Africa bears 24% of the global disease burden it only has 3% of the world's health workforce.

Speaking at the event were Under-Secretary of State for International Development Gareth Thomas MP, Dr. Daraus Bukunya (AMREF), Lord Crisp and Mark Foster (Accenture).

EDM 1835: Health Worker Crisis in Africa

An Early Day Motion (EDM) has been tabled to draw attention to the continuing health worker crisis in Africa and the urgent need for action to build the numbers and capacity of African health workers in order to address diseases such as TB.

Members of Parliament are being encouraged to lend their support to this motion by signing EDM 1835. For list of signatories visit <http://edmi.parliament.uk/edmi/>

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Tuberculosis

For more information visit:

www.appg-tb.org.uk

To contact the APPG:

Email louise@results-uk.org

Tel +44 1926 435 430