



NEWSLETTER – volume 3 – January 2008

\$9.7 billion raised for Global Fund replenishment

In September, a replenishment conference was held in Germany for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM). At present, the GFATM provides two-thirds of external funding for TB control in low and middle-income countries.

At a previous board meeting, the GFATM recognised that demand for resources to address AIDS, TB and Malaria would require it to mobilise at least \$18 billion for the period 2008-2010. Therefore, throughout the summer, members of Parliament including APPG co-Chair Andrew George MP joined civil society organisations in calling on the UK Government to increase its contribution to the GFATM to £700 million over three years. An open letter to the Prime Minister from Mr George, Andrew Mitchell MP (Shadow Secretary of State for International Development), Lynn Featherstone MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow International Development Secretary), Neil Gerrard MP (Chair, APPG AIDS) and Stephen O'Brien MP (Chair, APPG Malaria) was published in the Times newspaper.

On the eve of the replenishment conference, Secretary of State for International Development Douglas Alexander MP announced an eight-year pledge of £1 billion to the GFATM (£360 million for the period 2008-2010) providing greater long-term predictability.

Overall, the replenishment conference resulted in actual and projected pledges of \$9.7 billion for the period 2008-2010 leaving a funding gap of about \$8 billion.

Identifying cross-sector partnerships for TB & HIV control

In October, Neil Gerrard MP and APPG coordinator, Louise Holly attended a workshop in Moscow to analyse the role of cross sector partnerships in response to HIV/AIDS and TB in emerging market economies.

The workshop was attended by decision-makers and representatives from private sector and civil society. Participants analysed the current HIV/AIDS and TB epidemics in emerging market economies (particularly China, India and Russia) and identified opportunities for cross-sector partnerships, including Public-Private Partnerships, to address these epidemics.

The outcomes of the workshop were presented and discussed at a special Leaders Forum on Public-Private Partnerships in Emerging Markets "Healthy Nations-Healthy Economies" organised by the Global Business Coalition on AIDS, TB and Malaria.

For more information about the workshop visit:

www.tpaa.net/events/?id=788

For more information about the Global Business Coalition on AIDS, TB and Malaria visit:

www.businessfightstb.org

Ministers call for European-wide approach to TB control

APPG co-Chair Julie Morgan MP presented at a London press briefing in October, a few days ahead of a European Ministerial Forum on Tuberculosis, and spoke of the need to address the growing problem of TB in the European region, including the UK.



Representatives from ministries of 49 countries attended the forum, "All Against Tuberculosis" held in Berlin on 22 October. The forum was organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) for Europe and the German Ministry of Health and was called on an emergency basis to advance development of a Europe-wide approach to controlling and eventually eliminating TB.

The gathered Ministers endorsed the Berlin Declaration on Tuberculosis, which "notes with concern that TB has re-emerged as an increasing health security threat in the WHO European Region" and "recognises that a Europe-wide approach will be key to the control and eventual elimination of TB". The declaration also called for resource gaps to be filled and for the development of new diagnostics, drugs and vaccines to achieve the 2015 Millennium Development Goal on TB.

APPGs on AIDS and Global TB call for greater coordination to address TB/HIV co-infection

On November 28th, the APPG on Global TB and APPG on AIDS hosted a joint meeting focusing on the theme of TB/HIV co-infection. The meeting was entitled: "HIV and TB: two diseases, one response?" reflecting the need for a more coordinated response to the two diseases.

Speakers were Nick Herbert MP, co-Chair of the APPG on Global TB, who spoke about his recent visit to South Africa where there is a high incidence of TB/HIV co-infection; Alasdair Reid from UNAIDS who gave an overview of the global TB/HIV situation; Paul Thorn, Director of the Tuberculosis Survival Project who called on the HIV community to do more to address TB and TB/HIV and Neil Gerrard MP, Chair of the APPG on AIDS who discussed the growing incidence of TB/HIV co-infection in the UK and Europe. The meeting was chaired by Sheila Davie, Executive Director of RESULTS UK who briefly presented a new report evaluating the UK's response to the TB/HIV co-epidemic.

To read the report visit www.results-uk.org

Survey results presented for first time at APPG meeting

On December 6th, Julie Morgan MP chaired a meeting at the British Thoracic Society's Winter Conference where the findings of a joint APPG on Global TB and BTS survey of Primary Care Trusts were presented for the first time.



Ed Davis, Julie Morgan MP, John Moore-Gillon and John Macfarlane at the BTS Winter Conference.
Credit: J. Hollaway

Panellists Professor John Macfarlane, Chair of the BTS and Dr John Moore-Gillon, Chair of the BTS's Joint TB Group outlined the findings of two surveys conducted in 2007 to evaluate to what extent government guidelines, including the Chief Medical Officer's TB Action Plan from 2004 and the TB toolkit are being implemented. A final report based on the surveys and wider consultation will be launched in early 2008.

Ed Davis from the Department of Health talked about what the Department is doing in relation to TB control including recently making prescriptions for TB drugs free of charge and awarding a grant to the BTS to help improve standards of TB care.

New study finds TB control yields substantial economic gains for poor countries

A World Bank report launched in December has found that countries with a high burden of TB could reap enormous economic benefits by investing more in TB diagnosis and treatment. The study also warns about the need to address the growing emergence of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) and extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) in Southern Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

According to the study, "The Economic Benefit of Global Investments in Tuberculosis Control" the cost of TB-related deaths (including HIV co-infection) in Sub-Saharan Africa between 2006 and 2015 is \$519 billion. However, if these same countries in Sub-Saharan Africa were to offer treatment to TB patients, in keeping with the WHO's Stop TB Strategy, they could see their economic benefits exceed their costs by about nine times. The economic returns would be even higher in countries such as China and India, where income-growth projections over the next ten years are higher and the burden of HIV co-infection lower.

The cost of implementing the "Global Plan to Stop TB" until 2015 is estimated at \$56 billion (\$20 billion for Africa). The Global Plan was launched by the Stop TB Partnership in 2006 and sets forth a roadmap for treating 50 million people for TB by 2015 and enrolling 3 million patients with both TB and HIV on antiretroviral therapy, saving about 14 million lives. It aims to halve TB prevalence and deaths compared with 1990 levels by 2015.

MPs attend World Lung Health conference in South Africa

APPG co-Chair Nick Herbert MP and Doug Naysmith MP joined Canadian MPs Lee Richardson and Ruby Dhalla on a fact-finding visit to Cape Town, South Africa in November to learn more about the challenges of controlling TB and TB/HIV co-infection in Sub-Saharan Africa. The visit coincided with the 38th World Conference on Lung Health which brought together over 2,500 international delegates involved in TB care and prevention.

During their visit, the MPs visited the Brooklyn Chest Clinic and saw facilities designed to isolate and care for patients with XDR-TB. They also visited a local TB clinic in Khayelitsha, one of South Africa's largest townships and spent time with staff and members of the Treatment Action Campaign, a South African AIDS activist organisation. The delegates also visited Hout Bay, an area where TB and HIV co-infection rates are as high as 80 per cent. They met patients in their homes who were being looked after by local treatment supporters employed by the TB Care Association.



Doug Naysmith MP visiting a TB treatment supporter with Canadian MP Ruby Dhalla.
Credit: RESULTS

Speaking at a plenary session at the World Lung Conference, Nick Herbert said that it was a "scandal" that so many were dying from "a disease which is easily treatable and easily curable at very low expense".

Calling for greater political leadership to fight TB, both in Africa and internationally, Nick Herbert said that, like HIV, dealing with TB "should transcend any party political considerations, and requires leadership above that of domestic or party considerations".



Nick Herbert MP speaking to World Lung Conference delegates in Cape Town.
Credit: IUATLD

During their time in Cape Town, Nick Herbert and Doug Naysmith met with officials from the World Health Organization and Stop TB Partnership as well as representatives from civil society and research and development organisations. They also had informative meetings with the British High Commissioner, Paul Boateng and representatives from DFID in South Africa.

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Tuberculosis

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