



## NEWSLETTER – volume 12 – June 2010

### Report on DFID’s approach to tackling TB

With a new ministerial team in place at DFID and several policy reviews already announced, the APPG will be undertaking an inquiry into the effectiveness of the Department for International Development’s policies to fight tuberculosis. The inquiry will be taking evidence during the autumn and is expected to produce its final report early in 2011.

This report follows on from the Group’s 2007 report, ‘Scaling up the UK’s response to the global TB epidemic: An Agenda for Action’. Copies of this 2007 report are available to download from the APPG on Global TB’s website.



Scaling Up the UK’s Response to the Global TB Epidemic  
An Agenda for Action



All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Tuberculosis  
March 2007

### APPG Membership

The general election resulted in the APPG’s membership taking a battering! The Group lost half its membership, from 42 before the election to just 21 after, due to MPs retiring, losing their seats or becoming government ministers. However, after a post-election recruitment drive the APPG has rebuilt its membership to a healthy 37 members drawn from across the main parties and from both Houses of Parliament. But the work doesn’t stop there - we will be continuing to ask MPs and peers with an interest in tackling TB to join the APPG throughout this parliament.

### APPG AGM

The APPG held its AGM and inaugural election of officers on 16<sup>th</sup> June in the House of Commons. The officers elected to the group are:

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Andrew George MP</b>
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	<b>Virendra Sharma MP</b>
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	<b>Mark Lancaster MP</b>
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	<b>Annette Brooke MP</b>
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	<b>Baroness Masham of Ilton</b>

Following the election of officers, the meeting heard from two expert speakers, Professor Anthony Harries, Senior Advisor to the IUATLD and Surinder Tamne, Senior Specialist Nurse at the Health Protection Agency. They provided insightful updates on the latest TB statistics and trends internationally and in the UK, as well as suggesting potential areas of work for the Group in the coming year. A discussion followed with speakers from the floor describing their experiences working to fight TB around the world and calling on APPG members to take action on several issues.

### TB Parliamentary Questions

**With Parliament now sitting again after the General Election, APPG Members have been quick to ask Parliamentary Questions on TB Policy.**

**Andrew George MP** asked an oral question on replenishment of the Global Fund during the first International Development Questions in the Commons.

**Baroness Masham of Ilton** spoke during the Queen’s Speech debate in the House of Lords about TB in the UK, including the need for new funding for the Mobile X-Ray Unit.

**Annette Brooke MP** asked the Secretary of State for International Development about transparency, accountability and effectiveness of different multilateral aid organisations, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

## Global Fund Replenishment Meeting

This October will see the latest replenishment conference for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria where donors will pledge how much funding they will provide for future work of the Fund. The GFATM provides two thirds of all international funding to fight tuberculosis. With DFID recently announcing a reassessment of the way the department distributes multi-lateral aid, replenishment of the Global Fund is an important issue for the APPG to consider.

The APPG on Global TB, with members of three other APPGs working on global health issues, will be holding a closed roundtable discussion with Global Fund representatives at the end of July. The meeting will discuss both the replenishment of the Fund, as well as other issues such as the possible expansion of the Global Fund's remit. For further details please contact [mike.smith@results.org.uk](mailto:mike.smith@results.org.uk).

### Meeting on TB in the UK

On 7<sup>th</sup> July the APPG will be holding a meeting in Westminster to discuss TB in the UK. Rates of the disease have been increasing in Britain over the last twenty years and there were over 9000 new cases in 2009.

TB often affects some of the most marginalised groups including the homeless, refugees and those from ethnic minority communities. The meeting will discuss why TB rates are increasing in Britain, who is most affected and what can be done to tackle this problem.

Confirmed speakers at the event so far include:

- **Dr Priscilla Nkwenti, Chief Executive of the Black Health Agency**
- **Al Story, Clinical Lead, Find and Treat**

For further information about this event please contact [mike.smith@results.org.uk](mailto:mike.smith@results.org.uk), 020 74998238

### Mobile X-Ray Unit Visit planned for July

Members of the APPG will be visiting the Mobile X-Ray Unit in London on 13<sup>th</sup> July. MPs and peers will have the opportunity to see the work of the MXU first hand and to hear from service users as it screens people for tuberculosis at a homeless shelter in Whitechapel, east London.



*Al Story and Phil Foley from the Find and Treat team standing in front of the Mobile X-Ray Unit*

The MXU, based in London, is the only mobile TB screening unit in the UK. Its work focuses on 'hard to reach and treat' groups who are at a high risk from tuberculosis.

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Tuberculosis

For more information visit: [www.appg-tb.org.uk](http://www.appg-tb.org.uk)

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