

India Business Alliance

Statement of Concern, Context and Commitment





CONCERN:

TB poses a fundamental challenge to India's current productivity and future growth.

- TB Kills over 1000 Indians every day
- Nearly 1.8 million Indians develop TB each year of which 0.8 million are infectious.
- Emergence of Multidrug resistant TB and TB- HIV coinfections may deteriorate the situation
- The disease targets people in their most economically productive years; causes the loss of 100 million workdays and US\$ 3 billion per year, slowing economic growth.

CONTEXT:

TB is curable and cost-effective to treat

- A curative 6-9 months course of anti-tuberculosis drugs under WHO-recommended treatment methodology (DOTS) costs as little as \$10 per patient
- Workers can often return to productive employment within weeks if given effective TB treatment
- The World Bank ranks TB treatment as one of the most cost-effective public health interventions

The Government of India is focusing on TB

- The TB programme has expanded rapidly
- More than 580 million patients have been treated under the programme and more than 10 million lives have been saved
- The goal of the TB control Programme is to decrease mortality and morbidity due to TB and cut transmission of infection until TB ceases to be a major public health problem in India.
- The objective of TB control Programme is to achieve and maintain cure rate of at least 85% in new sputum positive pulmonary TB patients, and to achieve and maintain detection of at least 70% of such cases.

Indian companies have a unique and vital role in the control of TB

- Companies have long-term interests in ensuring the national development of human capital – a healthy, educated and skilled workforce.
- Companies can bring significant resources to the fight against TB in terms of core business skills, implementation capacity and reach to at risk populations.
- The workplace is an ideal setting to deliver TB treatment under DOTS

COMMITMENT:

Make stopping TB a priority by

- Including TB Control and non discrimination principles in relevant company employee policy
- Developing and implementing sustainable workplace programmes to educate, prevent and treat TB
- Integrating TB Control activities into relevant community programmes

Concern for TB should be institutionalised by way of

- Management support and involvement,
- Proactive methods of planning and deployment of resources
- Processes for championing TB work through advocacy and communication
- Mechanisms to review programmes

Openly share company TB programmes

Within the Alliance companies will work together to share programmes in a standardised and comparable fashion, thereby:

- Providing an opportunity to publicise company programmes and be accredited for contribution to the health of the broader community
- Enabling other businesses world-wide to learn from existing programmes
- Creating ongoing transparency within the Alliance business and non-business partners, so that results can be collected on a nation-wide basis and enable clear monitoring of the Indian situation to achieve control targets.

Collaborate as full partners with the public sector to stop TB

Key partners from the public sector include the World Health Organisation, the Indian Ministry of Health, the local National TB Programme and NGOs who can bring technical expertise and access to the free resources necessary to run such programmes cost effectively.

Targets for corporate programmes to stop TB should be aligned with those of the public sector. TB programmes developed by the business sector should include and promote the following components:

- prompt and accurate diagnosis;
- use of standardized treatment regimens of proven efficacy with appropriate treatment support and supervision;
- monitoring of the response to treatment

Strive to recruit to the Alliance all other interested companies, large or small.

The more companies subscribe to this statement the better the progress that can be made in controlling TB with the critical mass of resources, knowledge and skills:

- The alliance will strive to attract its friends to join and will welcome all members who can and are willing to join this effort.
- Any company large or small can join to take appropriate action for TB Control

OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

The Alliance will result in an enhanced capacity for business to drive the implementation of workplace and community programmes for TB Control. It will create awareness and provide the tools for companies to launch and deliver such programmes reliably. In doing so, the programme ultimately aims to increase the number and quality of workplace and community programmes and increase the number of employees/ community members who have access to education, prevention, care, support, and treatment for TB.

By participating a company will benefit from:

- Technical support including material for development of policy and programmes and accelerating deployment
- Match making with the public sector, technical partners and sponsoring organisations
- Participation in the knowledge sharing sessions with technical partners and other invitees including participation in the India Business Alliance Meetings, which will provide an opportunity for networking, knowledge sharing, showcasing and setting direction.
- Opportunity to publish and promote their results through GHI communications and tools e.g. on website, newsletter and press releases; communication platforms from local federations and associations will be leveraged.
- Opportunity to have company case studies published in the GHI website and distributed as part of the GHI outreach and advocacy activities.
- Written acknowledgement in the communications / publications that result from it



The India Business Alliance to Stop TB is a partnership catalysed by the Global Health Initiative of the World Economic Forum. Its mission is to stimulate engagement of Indian businesses in TB control. A first for India and worldwide - it was launched on World TB Day, March 24, 2004. Founding members included premier Indian member companies- Aditya Birla Group of Companies, Larsen and Toubro, Lupin Ltd, Modicare Foundation, Novartis India, Reliance Industries, and Tata Steel. These have been joined by Becton and Dickinson, E2E SerWiz Solutions, Eli Lilly India, iEnergizer, India Hotels, Jubilant Organosys, NELCO, Rallis, Siemens, Tata Automation, Tata Chemicals, Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Council of Community Initiatives, Tata Interactive Systems, Tata International, Tata Metaliks, Tata Refractories, Tata Tea, Tata Technologies, Tinsplate, TITAN, Trent, Vedanta, VSNL and Voltas.

In partnership with the Revised National TB Control Program (RNTCP) of the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Confederation of Indian Industry, the World Health Organization and the Global Partnership to Stop TB, member companies work towards controlling TB.

To join or learn more please contact:

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Endorse the charter and join us.

Signature

Name of Signatory:

Designation:

Company/ Organisation:
