

**Report on**  
**Orientation to Female Lawmakers on National Tuberculosis Program**  
**&**  
**Sharing Report of Community Engagement in Country Dialogue**



**March 23, 2015**  
**Kathmandu, Nepal**

**Submitted to:**  
**Stop TB Partnership**

**Submitted by:**  
**Volunteers for Development Nepal (VFDN)**

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## **Introduction**

The program “Orientation to Female Lawmakers on National Tuberculosis Program and Sharing Report of Community Engagement in Country Dialogue as a process of the Global Fund in preparing Concept Note of Tuberculosis” organized jointly by National Tuberculosis Center (NTC) and Volunteers for Development Nepal (VFDN) in support of Stop TB Partnership under the technical assistance grant. The event was organized in Kathmandu on 23<sup>rd</sup> March especially to sign on the Barcelona Declaration by members of Parliament and to mark as a pre-eve celebration of World TB Day-2015.

The program had three main objectives –

1. To orient female lawmakers on tuberculosis and national tuberculosis program (NTP);
2. To disseminate the report of community engagement in country dialogue as a process of the Global Fund in preparing concept note for tuberculosis; and
3. To sign on the Barcelona Declaration by members of parliament on the eve of World TB Day-2015.



Honorable Guests on the Dias

Volunteers for Development Nepal (VFDN) in coordination with National Tuberculosis Centre (NTC) had invited more than 30 female lawmakers to participate in the event, however, 13 members of parliament representing all political parties in the Constituent Assembly (CA) in Nepal attended the program. Besides lawmakers, other participants from various stakeholders working in TB such as Nepal Anti Tuberculosis Association (NATA), TB Nepal, Naya Goreto, Volunteers for Development Nepal (VFDN) and media persons were also participated in the event. Altogether there were 40

participants in the program.

The program was chaired by Honorable Mr. Sudhir Kumar Siwakoti, Member of Parliament and guardian of VFDN. Similarly, the event was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Honorable Mrs. Ganga Chaudhary, Chairperson of Legislative Committee of Parliament. Mr. Shanta Bahadur Shrestha, Secretary of Ministry of Health and



Welcome Speech by Health Secretary

Population (MOHP) welcomed the participants in the presence of Dr. Bikash Lamichhane, Director along with other senior officials of National Tuberculosis Center.

During his welcome speech, Mr. Shanta Bahadur Shrestha highlighted on the importance of health insurance policy that is going to be introduced very soon. He further emphasized the roles of national and international



Inaugural of the the program by Lighting a Lamp

non-government organizations in delivering essential health services to mostly needy and deprived communities in remote parts of the country. He also informed that a prevalence study of TB was almost ready to launch with a view to identify the accurate number of TB cases in the country.

In the middle of the program, TB Nepal a NGO working in Mid-west region of Nepal in coordination with VFDN organized "Rose Campaign" as a symbol of love and care towards TB patients and distributed rose crowns and flowers to participants. At that time, participants chanted slogan "Reach, Treat and Cure Everyone" of World TB Day-2015. In the occasion, Dr. Sushil Koirala Director of TB-Nepal and also known as 'Doctor Rose' shared TB-Nepal's plan of establishing a MDR-TB Hospital in the Mid-west region. The proposed hospital will be a model of its kind integrating various regular and emergency health services with that of MDR-TB in the region.



"Rose Campaign"

After the "Rose Campaign", detailed findings of "Community engagement in country dialogue in the process of the Global Fund in preparing concept note of tuberculosis" were shared and the report of the same was disseminated in the program as the activity was carried out by Volunteers for Development Nepal (VFDN) with technical and funding support of Stop TB Partnership by engaging 208 key affected population of 13 districts and 3 prisons in 5 regions of Nepal. After the presentation, both hard and soft copies of the report were handed over to NTC for their future references in the Global



VFDN handovers the Report of Community Engagement to NTC

Fund processes.

The program was also organized with a view to provide in-depth information to the lawmakers and other participants on NTP, tuberculosis and its burden in Nepal, MDR-TB, TB-HIV co-infection, role of CCM, New Funding Models and community system strengthening. On behalf of NTC, Senior Consultant Chest Physician Dr. Mohan Kumar Prasain gave an intensive presentation and orientation to the participants on NTP. Dr. Prasain's presentation was focused on gender prospective of TB control in Nepal.

Immediately after the session of NTC, Mr. Shiva Raj Acharya, CCM-Nepal Coordinator made a brief presentation on CCM-Nepal and the new funding model (NFM) of the Global Fund.



Honorable Mrs. Ganga Chaudhary delivering Opening Remarks

After the technical presentation, Honorable Mrs. Ganga Chaudhary gave an opening remark stating that the program was quite beneficial for the policy makers to know about the burden of tuberculosis in the



country. In her speech, she mentioned that she and her fellow lawmakers would support their best to uplift the health situation of the people and contribute in eradicating tuberculosis from the country. She also signed and expressed her firmed support to Barcelona Declaration.

Honorable Mr. Sudhir Kumar Siwakoti in his concluding remarks expressed thankfulness for organizing such a wonderful event to share the status and the severity of tuberculosis to the lawmakers. He further expressed the need of such program for them in a regular and intensive way to update the information in the future too. He also signed and expressed his solidarity in Barcelona Declaration.



Honorable Mr. Sudhir K. Siwakoti during Concluding Remarks

The orientation program was considered to be successful to make the participating lawmakers aware of the situation of TB and its severity. It was also assumed that the participants would be able to advocate and support NTP from policy making to implementation even in hard-to-reach community level in the country.

At the end, 13 political representatives signed the Barcelona Declaration and expressed their commitment to work together with fellow parliamentarians in the world to eradicate the 'Killer Disease' within a generation. It was considered that the program would be regarded as an important milestone in the eradication



Honorable Members of Parliament signing on Barcelona Declaration

of TB in Nepal as all the participating lawmakers signed on the Barcelona Declaration.



Honorable Members of Parliament signing on Barcelona Declaration

TB usually receives less attention than it deserves in the parliament and elsewhere all over the world. Tuberculosis alone kills more people in a day than Ebola or Swine-flu kills in total. However, the program was able to draw the attention of political leaders about TB that still takes the lives of 1.5 million around the world each year. NTC and VFDN's joint effort in this regard was remarkable. For this, Mr. Basanta Kumar Parajuli, on behalf of NTC and VFDN expressed his sincere gratitude and thanks to all participating lawmakers, Ministry of Health and Population, Stop TB Partnership, different stakeholders and other participants of the event.



VFDN delivering Vote of Thanks

The following details are of the CA members who expressed their support in Barcelona Declaration.

<b>SN</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Contact Number</b>
1	Hon. Anita Devkota	CA Member	F	Dang	98578-32684
2	Hon. Anjana Chaudhary	CA Member	F	Banke	98580-21206
3	Hon. Dr. Dimpal Kumari Jha	CA Member	F	Rautahat	98010-50357
4	Hon. Durga Paudel	CA Member	F	Kapilvastu	98511-98810
5	Hon. Ganga Chaudhary	CA Member	F	Dang	98449-86453
6	Hon. Kamala Kumari Ghimire	CA Member	F	Ramechhap	98416-52379
7	Hon. Radha Devi Timalisina	CA Member	F	Kathmandu	98511-25020
8	Hon. Ranju Kumari Jha	CA Member	F	Saptari	98030-49806
9	Hon. Sindhu Jalesa Budhathoki	CA Member	F	Nawalparasi	98570-80453
10	Hon. Talsa Rana	CA Member	F	Palpa	98570-60664
11	Hon. Urmila Devi Sah	CA Member	F	Dhanusha	98440-29312
12	Hon. Yashodha Kumari Lama	CA Member	F	Dhanusha	98511-95101
13	Hon. Sudhir Kumar Siwakoti	CA Member	M	Jhapa	98526-72988

VFDN is committed to advocate for Barcelona Declaration and tuberculosis program with law makers at the policy making level. So, with the surplus fund under the TA Grant, VFDN re-planned the advocacy activity for Barcelona Declaration and organized an orientation and interaction session on tuberculosis and Barcelona Declaration with CA members on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. During the orientation, VFDN shared the objectives of the meeting and gave a brief introduction on Barcelona Declaration and the Global TB Caucus. VFDN also shared the email written by the chair of the Global TB Caucus and the MP of South Africa to the CA members of Nepal as well. On behalf of national Tuberculosis Centre (NTC), a detailed presentation of NTP and NSP was carried out by the Senior Chest Physician Dr. Mohan Kumar Prasain of NTC. The presentation was followed up by an intensive discussions and interaction. Most of the queries raised by CA members were responded by Dr. Prasain, NTC representatives and Mr. Basanta Kumar Parajuli of VFDN during the interaction session.

Though VFDN has approached 25 CA members and invited them for the orientation, however, only 12 CA members were able to stay in the meeting until signing on the declaration. Those who were not able to sign on it on that day because of their urgent assignments and some unavoidable situation have also expressed their commitment to give their signature on it next time as VFDN will continue seeking opportunity to arrange such meeting with them in the future as well.

Name of CA members who signed on Barcelona Declaration during the second phase:

<b>SN</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Contact Number</b>
14	Hon. Rashmi Thakur	CA Member	F	Dhanusha	98511-64300
15	Hon. Yaga Raj Sunuwar	CA Member	M	Okhaldhunga	97410-4860
16	Hon. Manju Kumari Chaudhari	CA Member	F	Udayapur	98428-28812
17	Hon. Tuk Raj Sigdel	CA Member	M	Tanahun	98415-72304
18	Hon. Nawa Raj Sharma	CA Member	M	Myagdi	98576-40071
19	Hon. Nara Devi Pun	CA Member	F	Myagdi	98576-40118
20	Hon. Ratna Devi Gurung	CA Member	F	Morang	98413-32812
21	Hon. Pemba Lama	CA Member	F	Sindhupalchowk	98414-46143
22	Hon. Jiwan Kumari Ghimire	CA Member	F	Kathmandu	98413-88415
23	Hon. Kedar Prasad Sanjel	CA Member	M	Bhaktapur	98413-96533
24	Hon. Surya Prakash Bala Rai	CA Member	M	Ilam	97426-14610
25	Hon. Nagendra Prasad Tharu	CA Member	M	Parsa	98511-73633

Name of CA members who signed on Barcelona Declaration during the third of the orientation:

<b>SN</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Contact Number</b>
26	Hon. Sher Bahadur Tamang	MP	M	Sindhupalchowk	98510 40821
27	Hon. Guru Prasad Burlakoti	MP	M	Dhading	9751046800
28	Hon. Tara Devi Rai	MP	F	Morang	9842044078
29	Hon. Ram Kumar Bhattra	MP	M	Rautahat	9851003849
30	Hon. Janardan Dhakal	MP	M	Rasuwa	9851036062
31	Hon. Kamala Subedi	MP	F	Ramechhap	9841652379

32	Hon. Tuka Hamal	MP	F	Tanahun	9856045416
33	Hon. Rajendra Pandey	MP	M	Dhading	9851029201
34	Hon. Pashupati Chamlagain	MP	M	Dolakha	9851101026
35	Hon. Parbat Gurung	MP	M	Dolakha	9851055084
36	Hon. Chhobang Tenjen Tamang	MP	M	Rasuwa	9751020824
37	Hon. Ram Hari Subedi	MP	M	Kavre	9851169225

VFDN has been facilitating and coordinating the activities of Global TB Caucus in Nepal. Recently, Honorable Sher Bahadur Tamang represented Nepal in the Global TB Summit 2015 in Cape Town and proceeding ahead to form a TB Caucus in Nepal.