

Diagnosis and treatment of TB for people living with HIV and how UNAIDS can work with TB communities

UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board – Thematic Session

23 April 2008

Holiday Inn, Chiang Mai, Thailand

THEMATIC SESSION

Background: TB remains one of the most important causes of illness and death among people living with HIV, despite the fact that TB is mostly preventable and curable. At least 11 million people living with HIV are also infected with TB and at increased risk of developing TB disease. Chronic lack of investment in TB control programmes and TB research has resulted in inadequate prevention, diagnosis and treatment of TB and the development and spread of drug-resistant forms of TB that disproportionately affect people living with HIV. There are many missed opportunities in HIV programmes to prevent, diagnose and treat TB in people living with HIV. Furthermore, the TB programme in many countries can be a highly effective but often underutilized partner in accelerating towards universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

The thematic session of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board intends to explore the threat that TB poses to people living with HIV and how the HIV community can work with TB programmes and partners to reduce the burden of both diseases.

The thematic session will comprise of a series of presentations, panel discussions and a market place with the following aims:

- Showcase the benefits of a joint HIV/TB approach to scaling up towards universal access
- Highlight the need to address tuberculosis within the comprehensive response to HIV
- Build commitment to integrated delivery of quality HIV and TB prevention, treatment, care and support services

The market place session will be held over an extended lunchtime in order to maximize the opportunities for sharing a broad range of experiences in TB/HIV collaboration from different settings and to promote informal networking.

GUIDE TO MARKET PLACE SESSION

The Market Place: The market place session is a lively and interactive forum where meeting participants from any organization can present and promote their experiences, results, views, or opinions regarding TB/HIV collaboration in a **poster** (graphic presentation) or **display** format eg brochures, photos, personal experiences. The market place aims to expand beyond the constraints of the traditional poster session of scientific conferences to create an environment conducive for sharing of any relevant community, country or international experiences in implementing collaborative TB/HIV activities and for maximizing opportunities for networking.

Collaborative TB/HIV activities include mechanisms to establish collaboration between TB and HIV control programs; engaging communities in planning, delivering and monitoring TB and HIV services; building the capacity of communities to address TB in people living with HIV; joint advocacy and communication for TB/HIV; HIV surveillance among TB patients; provision of TB prevention, diagnosis and treatment services for people living with HIV and HIV prevention, treatment and care services including HIV testing and antiretroviral therapy for TB patients. A full list of TB/HIV activities can be found in the WHO Policy on Collaborative TB/HIV Activities at http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2004/WHO_HTM_TB_2004.330.pdf.

The market place will be held from 12h30-14h00 on 23 April 2008. Presenting participants will be able to illustrate their findings or experiences by displaying graphs, photos, diagrams and text on boards in an open area. The display booths will be 2m by 2m. Display material should be well labeled and legible. Lettering should be bold. If you will be posting typed material, use a large font size (at least 20 point font) on white, pale yellow or cream-colored non-glossy paper. Tables will also be available on which to display leaflets, books and other items. Participants must mount their display at least 1 hour prior to the scheduled start time and preferably before the start of the thematic session.

The introduction for the market place will be held in the plenary room in front of all participants of the meeting. Each stallholder will be given one minute at the microphone to 'market' or 'sell' their stall to the audience in as appealing a way as possible in order to attract 'customers' to their stall. At the end of the plenary all participants at the thematic session will be free to walk around the stalls to find out more about successful experiences in TB/HIV collaboration. Stallholders will be expected to stand by their displays to share their experiences with the meeting participants who are circulating among the displays. Buffet lunch will be served throughout the market place session.

An open invitation to participate in the market place will be posted on the UNAIDS website and distributed through our partner networks. Organizations interested in sharing their TB/HIV experiences in the market place will be asked to submit a brief abstract outlining their experiences to the UNAIDS secretariat and participants will be selected on the basis of the quality of the abstracts submitted.

Abstract submission: Abstracts outlining the proposed poster presentations or displays for the Market place with a maximum word count of 200 should be submitted electronically to reida@unaids.org not later than **28th March 2008**. The structure and format of the abstract is flexible but it should clearly depict the specific TB/HIV activities implemented and the lessons or experiences drawn. The following format is suggested: **Background, Results/Lessons Learnt and Conclusions**. Name, affiliation and contact address including email of authors should be clearly put on the abstract. Authors of successful submissions will be contacted shortly after the deadline. Acceptance of abstract does not mean that the organizers of the meeting will cover the cost of the participation of the author. Those submitting abstracts should be able to finance their attendance at the meeting. However, financial support may be available to support the travel costs and per diem for a small number of community or non-governmental organizations. Please state in your application if funding is required to support attendance at the meeting.