The role of NGOs/CSOs in Pillar 3: Intensified Research and Innovation

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Outline of Presentation

- Summary of Pillar three
- Overview of TB research agenda and guidance from WHO
- Characteristics of NGO/CSO
- Examples of TB research carried out by Zambart
- Role of NGOs in support of TB research agenda
- Added value of NGOs
- Conclusion
A. Discovery, development and rapid uptake of new tools, interventions and strategies
B. Research to optimize implementation and impact, and promote innovations

INTENSIFIED RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
TB Research

- Research and Development
  - New diagnostics
  - New drugs
  - New vaccines

- Operational Implementation research – research on implementation of
  - Interventions
  - Strategies
  - Tools
To ensure effective implementation of existing and new tools
Research Guidance from WHO

A research agenda for childhood tuberculosis

Scaling Up Programmatic Management of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis: A Prioritized Research Agenda

Priority research questions for TB/HIV in HIV-prevalent and resource-limited settings
Characteristics of NGOs/CSOs

- Have the ability to experiment freely with innovative approaches and, if necessary, to take risks.
- Are flexible in adapting to local situations and responding to local needs and therefore able to develop integrated projects, as well as sectoral projects.
- Have the ability to communicate at all levels, from the neighbourhood to the top levels of government.
- Are able to recruit both experts and highly motivated staff with fewer restrictions than the government.
Zambart

- A research NGO with over 25 years of Growth and Development in Health Research
- Established as a collaboration between University of Zambia and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Primary focus has been TB and HIV research
  - Laboratory based research
  - Clinical trials
  - Health Systems research
  - Community based interventions
  - Social science research
Randomised trial of Isoniazid Preventive therapy

- Placebo randomised trial of 2 different regimens to prevent tuberculosis in people living with HIV

- Changed international policy in 1993

Laboratory based research

- Built laboratory capacity for molecular diagnostic tests
- Evaluation of novel diagnostic tests
  - Bacteriophages
  - Urinary molecules
  - Interferon Gamma Release Assays
- Investigation of methods to reduce culture contamination rates
- Use of non-laboratory personnel for smear examination (Microscopists)
Health Systems Research

- TB control in an urban area with high TB/HIV prevalence
  - Factors associated with diagnostic delay
  - How likely are TB patients to be accurately diagnosed in Lusaka Urban health centres?
  - Determinant of adherence to TB treatment
  - “Kuyendela Odwala TB” – Visiting TB Patients, The care and management of tuberculosis patients by Home Based Care projects in Lusaka Urban, Zambia
  - Management of tuberculosis in private practices in Lusaka
Moving from hospital to Community based research

- ProTEST
  - Demonstrations of TB/HIV integration
  - More evidence of the value of TB preventive therapy (IPT)
    - HIV testing for TB patients
    - IPT can be provided via VCT
    - Intensified TB case finding
    - Cost-effective
- Formed the basis of WHO policy on Collaborative activities for TB & HIV
A community randomized trial of interventions to improve TB case detection

- Clinic–based TB/HIV activities
  - Aimed at improving the standard of care
- Enhanced Tuberculosis Case Finding (ECF);
  - Community level intervention aimed at finding more TB cases through social mobilisation.
- Household level TB and HIV combined activities (HH);
  - household intervention
- Development of containerised laboratory
A community randomized trial of interventions to improve TB case detection

- Enhanced Tuberculosis Case Finding (ECF);
  - Community level intervention through social mobilisation
    - Drama performances, IEC, sports events, through Schools

- Open Access sputum collection points in community and fast track in clinics
A community randomized trial of interventions to improve TB case detection

- Household
  - Index case – gateway to house
  - House - area at risk for transmission of TB & HIV
  - Education, counselling, screening for TB and HIV
Building diagnostics infrastructure
Uptake of new tools – Digital Xray and Gene Xpert (TBREACH)

- Assessing Two Algorithms for accessing diagnosis with Gene Xpert® MTB/RIF
- A prospective study of TB suspects presenting to two primary health care facilities in Lusaka
  - Two algorithms assessed to measure efficiency and cost effectiveness
  - CXR used in one and HIV testing used in an other
  - CXR is electronically scored using Computer Aided Diagnosis(CAD v. 1.08, Diagnostic Image Analysis Group, Nijmegen, The Netherlands).
  - An appropriate threshold for the CAD output determined using previously collected CXR data in the same population
Understanding and fighting Stigma

- Understanding HIV related Stigma and Discrimination
- Understanding and challenging TB Stigma
- Community partnerships
- TB/HIV Anti-stigma Programme
Support to research agenda

- Members participate in national technical working groups and advisory committees
  - National TB/HIV Working Group
  - National Advisory Committee
    - TB prevalence survey as part of ZAMSTAR study
  - WHO consultations
  - Carry out specific research studies on behalf of Ministry of Health
    - 2008 Drug Resistance Survey
    - Piloting the use of Isoniazid Preventive Therapy
Added Value of NGO

- Technical resource to Government
- Ability to work within Communities to include community perspective
  - Stigma studies
  - Community engagement (CABs)
- Able to mobilize human resource to carry out research in a timely fashion
  - Hiring of staff not subject to same level of beaurocracy as in government institutions
- Can act as a link between government, private sector and institutions
Role of NGOs in innovation

- Able to work with organizations to develop and test new interventions in the community
  - Computer aided chest x-ray
  - Field testing of laboratory tests

- Can act as advocates for increased funding for research and development
Conclusion

- NGO/CSO can play a major role in contributing to the activities to END TB.