civil society contributions, needs & challenges

TBTEAM Planning Meeting
13 October 2008, Maison des Polytechniciens, Paris

Blessina Kumar
Involvement of CSO in any health Programme is of vital importance. CSO’s and PP’s provide ‘last mile service’ that is vital to health delivery systems in developing and middle income countries.

There are many areas where government agencies are not able to provide services to the population, mainly due to variety of reasons including geographical barriers.1

1 ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL SECTOR IN REVISED NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAMME
Saroj Dhingra
CSO’s are working in such areas, enjoying the confidence of the local population and providing much needed health and other services.

This proximity to and acceptability by the communities gives CSO’s a vital role in health care service delivery, a fact now universally recognized.

In a country like India, each state is different from the other in language, culture etc. to the extent that even districts may differ from each other.
There is also a need for a different approach as one moves through the social strata.

One message for all does not work.

Health messages need to be translated for the community. Understanding varies between community groups and men and women.

CSO’s provide all the above with nimbleness and low cost systems
- It is not financially viable or efficient for government systems to provide last mile service.

- Activists can increase political support for TB and TB/HIV on the national and global level.

- Activists have a vital role to play in treatment support and completion, infection control, and intensified case finding.

- Community empowerment has now been recognized in the WHO TB Control Strategy as an activity that is critical to achieving TB/HIV collaborative services.
Structure of RNTCP at State level

State TB Cell

District TB Centre

Tuberculosis Unit

Microscopy Centre

DOT Centre

Nodal point for TB control

One/ 500,000 (250,000 in hilly/difficult/tribal area)

One/ 100,000 (50,000 in hilly/difficult/tribal area)

STO, Deputy STO
MO, IRL Microbiologist,
Accountant, IEC Officer, SA,
DEO, TB HIV Coordinator

DTO, MO-DTC, LT, DEO,
Urban TB Coordinator, Driver

MO-TC, STS, STLS

MO, LT

TBHVs, DOT Provider –
MPW, NGO, PP,
Community Volunteers

A Brief on the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) Somil Nagpal
MoH New Delhi May 2007
civil society needs …

Technical

- Capacity Building of CS and activists through trainings. CS is not paid for this task and its information and learning is generally self accessed. There is a need for CS to have knowledge so that it can build awareness within the community. Pure information is not enough for this purpose.

- Inclusion in national coordinating bodies not just for the sake of form but to gather ground level understanding that will transform national level programs.
- Members are not always chosen on merit or ability to advocate and in this case TA should be made available.

- It should be understood that government and other representatives are paid for these tasks and have years of experience in government systems.

- CS brings in a valuable resource and this needs to be nurtured and its contribution adequately rewarded.
- Strong CSO participation in the Global Fund CCMs.
- CCM often dominated by the govt. and at times the members themselves are not well informed about TB
- There is a need to build technical and leadership skills of CCM so they can play an effective role, and appreciate the issues of all the 3 diseases
- Need to have CS representatives that can highlight community concerns in the GFATM proposals.
Financial

- Support mechanisms that CS/ CR can draw from when needed
- TB programs need to budget into their programs efforts that will support civil society partners in the fight against TB
- Appreciation of CS’s time and effort
Support CS in developing their financial systems. Government systems have in-built financial and other systems but CS needs to build them or pay for them. Usually these are not adequately reimbursed.

Capacity building is expensive and not all CS can build it into their budgets. This should be included when CS is expected to deliver nationally critical and strategic programs.
Managerial

- CS programs require managerial support to make small programs efficient.
- Capacity building in these systems are of critical importance since one NGO may be delivering multiple programs of the government.
- Government systems have captive training programs that are low cost and time efficient. There may be a need to look at expanding this for the CS.
Advocacy

- Community activists need the ability to bring grass root realities into the policy making structures.

- There is a need to see communities as more than just DOTS supporters. Communities are users of the products and they need to be closely involved if increased uptake of services are to be seen. Multinationals do this to sell junk food so why are governments so hesitant to involve users in policy planning.
The global and the national policy and programs must be supportive of these efforts.

When activists are eager to engage with the TB programs, our efforts are not welcomed. We are the ultimate beneficiaries of these services and our insights will be critical in improving the service delivery and outcome measures.

This orientation of partnership does not always exist, and needs to.

The fight against TB needs our support.
Take home messages
Ensure support needed to fully participate as partners
✓ Resources
✓ Infrastructure
✓ Basic understanding of TB
✓ At country level increase resources – by engaging civil society

WHO can do this by increasing TA to countries
TBTEAM can do this by

- Support the NTP so they can appropriately involve CS into the implementation of the TB Control Strategy

- Provide Technical support to CS coalition so they can apply directly for GF as the PRs.
The fight against TB/HIV will not be won without partnership between communities infected and affected and the TB/HIV programs. We are eager to play our role, but we need the leadership of the TB/HIV programs to work with us to ensure that the power of community can be channeled to reach the vision of TB services.
Thank you