



## ASCOT: Addressing the social determinants and consequences of Tuberculosis in Nepal



### BACKGROUND

Poverty drives TB rates and TB intensifies poverty due to the catastrophic costs of being ill and seeking care. WHO has set targets to end catastrophic costs for people affected by TB through providing social and economic (socioeconomic) support to people with TB but progress has been slow globally.

With key stakeholders in Nepal, we designed locally-appropriate socioeconomic support packages for TB-affected households which we will now field-test in a small number of participants.

Project ASCOT is a process design study that aims to field-test socioeconomic support packages for TB-affected households to refine implementation strategies for testing in Nepal.

This will inform design of a definitive, large-scale trial for funding applications.

The 18 month ASCOT project will be carried out in four districts with high TB and poverty- Chitwan, Mahottari, Morang, and Pyuthan, as a sub-study of IMPACT-TB.

### OBJECTIVES

1. **Field-test socioeconomic support packages for TB-affected households** to identify which are the most feasible and acceptable in Nepal
2. **Inform design and delivery of a funding application for a large-scale trial** to evaluate the impact of socioeconomic support on health, finances, and stigma of TB-affected households in Nepal
3. Understand community needs, perceptions and priorities for socioeconomic support to TB affected families.

### ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Pilot three different socioeconomic support interventions in 25 participants in each of four districts.
- ▶ Interviews with people affected by TB on TB-related costs, social determinants and impact of TB.
- ▶ Focus group discussions and key informant interviews with approximately 50 stakeholders including people with TB, community leaders, community mobilizers and volunteers and NTP multidisciplinary staff on the socioeconomic support interventions for TB-affected households, and health systems level challenges to the NTP of delivering them.
- ▶ Workshop with the multi-sectoral stakeholders developing recommendations for refinements of the intervention and future considerations.





## KEY INTERVENTIONS

### Pilot of three different socioeconomic support interventions:

- **Social support** through home-based peer-led mutual support groups to reduce stigma (n=25 participants)
- **Economic support** with monthly cash transfers to mitigate costs and enable treatment adherence stigma (n=25 participants).
- **Socioeconomic support** integrating social and economic support stigma (n=25 participants).

## COLLABORATION

**Funded by:** Trial Development Grant from the Joint Global Health Trials, Medical Research Council (Grant number: MR/V004832/1).

**Partners:** Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine; University of York; Karolinska Institutet; Ministry of Health and Population, Nepal; National Tuberculosis Control Center; Health Office; Provincial Health Directorate; and Health Centers

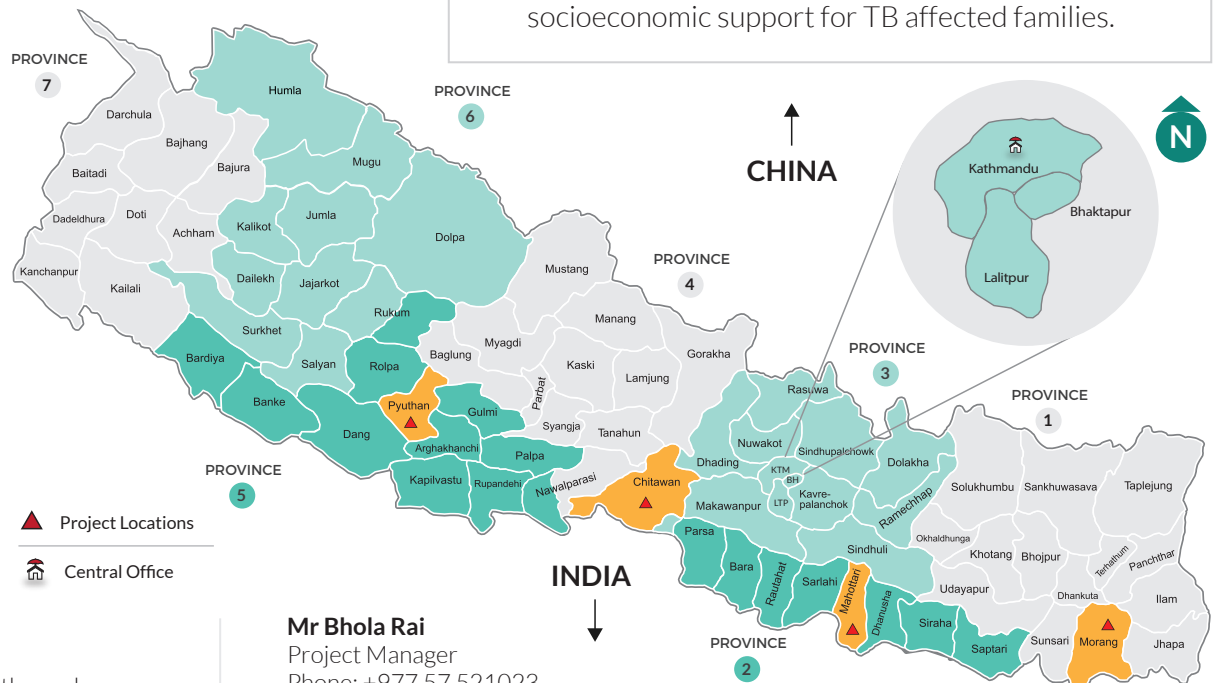
## TARGET BENEFICIARIES

TB patients, Civil Society Organization representatives, community leaders, National TB Program manager and multidisciplinary staff, FCHVs, Social protection decision makers.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Understanding of the feasibility and acceptability of the interventions in order to select the most promising intervention for funding applications for a large-scale trial evaluation.
- Policy brief to the TCC and stakeholders on socioeconomic support for TB affected families.

## PROJECT LOCATIONS



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