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Arah (30) and Sa'adutu (29) from Nigeria were both first diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB) and then developed multidrug-resistant TB. Treatment was hard but thanks to the KNCV they both got cured. "We can now happily look forward again."

KNCV TUBERCULOSIS FOUNDATION – A VALUED AND TRUSTED PARTNER

KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation (KNCV) is the world's leading tuberculosis (TB) expert agency. Exclusively dedicated to fighting TB globally, KNCV's mission is to save lives and alleviate human suffering due to TB, end the TB epidemic, and prevent further spread of drug-resistant TB. KNCV's long-term vision is to help achieve a TB-free world. Tuberculosis is still one of the major causes of preventable death in the world and claims over 4000 lives a day, leading to over 1,5 million deaths a year.¹

Solid evidence base

KNCV has worked in more than 35 countries to improve access to early TB prevention and care for patients with all forms of TB; to generate a solid evidence base for existing and new TB tools and interventions; and to bolster governance and management capacity of national TB programs. Since 2000, we have been the lead partner in the subsequent USAID-funded flagship projects: TBCTA, TB CAP, TB CARE I and Challenge TB.

From symptoms to cure

Understanding that the global TB epidemic is to a large extent a problem of poverty, KNCV works holistically with national stakeholders

in their fight against TB and social injustice. Often perceived as a medical problem, KNCV emphasizes that TB is also a socio-economic problem; solutions therefore must come from a wide variety of areas (e.g., social, economic, psychological, medical, etc.) and be supported by a wide range of stakeholders. We identify hurdles along the patient pathway, 'from symptoms to cure', through a comprehensive setting specific analysis. KNCV focuses its attention on all of these areas, working together with international, national, sub-national, and community-level partners. Together we aim to strengthen health systems and services that are patient-centered, equitable, evidence-based, and that can – over time – be sustainably financed from national resources.

BACKGROUND

KNCV was established in 1903 by civil society with the assignment to coordinate the care for TB patients and their families, long before TB drugs became available. Hence, our focus on socio-economic support and patient wellbeing. Obviously, we have embraced all scientific developments since then, but we have not forgotten that care is more than providing drugs.

¹World Health Organization, Global tuberculosis report 2019, Geneva: WHO

Strategic planning

KNCV distinguishes itself from other organizations by an early shift to assisting countries with strategic planning and retooling in an era of unprecedented R&D developments, while at the same time ensuring that these new tools are acceptable to all stakeholders.

Innovation into practice

KNCV has become a leader in helping countries to put innovation into practice. We have built a track record on connecting post R&D innovations and technologies with country level implementation and scale-up.

Public and private partnerships

KNCV places a strong emphasis on partnerships between public sector stakeholders and stakeholders from the private sector, civil society/non-governmental organizations, academia, and international and multilateral agencies, consistent with its multisectoral approach to TB prevention and control.

Global policy development

As founding member of the Stop TB Partnership and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union), KNCV is a valued member of the global TB community. An active contributor to the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Tuberculosis (STAG-TB) and a large variety of other World Health Organization (WHO) TB expert committees and thematic working groups, KNCV is and has been at the forefront of global

and national TB guideline and policy development.

Technical intervention pathways:

- New diagnostics, drugs and regimens

KNCV strongly supports the introduction of new diagnostic tools, TB drugs and regimens, and helps to prepare countries and national TB programs for rapid uptake and scale-up.

- Digital technologies

KNCV is currently supporting several countries to utilize digital technologies to improve their TB diagnosis, care and treatment support, and observation and monitoring efforts.

- Innovative TB Stigma tools

Committed to reducing stigma as a cornerstone of protecting patients' rights and ensuring patient-centered care, all of KNCV's programming feature stigma-reduction interventions aimed at reducing people's tendency to label, blame, or shame people living with TB. KNCV has developed several innovative tools to understand, measure, assess, and effectively address TB stigma at its root.

- Treating latent TB infection: key to eliminate TB

KNCV advocates for a rapid scale up of treating latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI). With 25% of the global population infected with LTBI there remains a huge pool of people at risk of developing active TB. Only when treating both active TB and LTBI the goal of TB elimination by 2050 can be achieved. **Read more on our technical intervention pathways on: kncvtbc.org**



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