

## **SOCIAL PROTECTION SCHEME: VOLUNTEERS TRUST FUND (VTF)**

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In spite of the National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP) Nepal have a provision of nutrition allowance NPR 2000 to the Drug Resistance TB patients for those who are receiving treatment from ambulatory basis and NPR 500 for those who are taking treatment from hostel base. The nutrition allowance NPR 500 per month is also providing for Category II TB patients, there is no any support or provision for Category I and III patients from the programme. However, Social Projection Scheme is very essential for TB patient who are poor and cannot earn daily nutritional requirement.



By perceiving the current gap in terms of Social Protection Scheme of TB patients, Japan-Nepal Health and Tuberculosis Research Association (JANTRA) internalized issues of social protection scheme for any TB patients who are poor and cannot offer their meal during their treatment and how to sustain the volunteer's activity in the community, JANTRA initiated to establish Volunteers Trust Fund (VTF) jointly with Urban Health Clinics in Kathmandu Metropolitan city.

### **Purpose of Volunteers Trust Fund:**

- To support nutritious food for poor and ultra-poor TB patients (priority for those TB patients who are not receiving support from the programme).
- Provide transportation and refreshment cost for volunteers while they visit in community for patient's follow-up.

**Process:** - The Urban TB volunteers who are actively involved in TB control programme realized that after the end of project it is always a big challenge for Urban Health Clinic to organize meeting and any sort of TB related activity in the community. Keeping this in mind intensive discussion and decision has taken place.



1. Formation of VTF committee
2. Organize meeting in monthly basis
3. Contribution of NPR 10 by each volunteers during the monthly meeting
4. Minuting of the discussion and committee

This initiation helps to maintain the motivation level of volunteers. The Committee precisely uses this fund for follow-up of TB patients (transportation cost and refreshment). Providing loan for the volunteers in subsidize interest and support at least 2 poor TB patients those who are receiving treatment from Urban Health and JANTRA DOTS Clinics.

### **Recognition by World Health Organization (WHO)**

WHO has highly recognized during the NGO consultation meeting in terms of Social Protection Scheme (VTF) initiated by JANTRA;



Social media platforms for NGOs and other CSOs working towards ending TB, Global TB Programme (GTB), World Health Organization (WHO) sent us their opinion they said “We, the Japan-Nepal Health and Tuberculosis Research Association realized the importance of social protection for TB patients who are poor and cannot secure a meal a day during their costly treatments. To respond to these needs, we initiated the establishment of the Volunteers Trust Fund, which seeks to support nutritious food for poor and ultra-poor TB patients. It gives particular priority to those who are not eligible for public nutrition allowance provided by Nepal’s National Tuberculosis Programme, as decisions are made according to defined patient categories. The Volunteers Trust Fund also uses parts of its assets to provide transportation and refreshment to volunteers while they visit communities to follow-up patients – a successful way to maintain the motivation level of volunteers.”

**Conclusion:** This initiation has been regularly share with partners and NTP by JANTRA. Based on the knowledge and experiences, NTP have an opportunity to expand similar activity in other DOTS centers and this would help to maintain the community engagement activity and improve the treatment adherence of TB patients and build social harmonization in the community.

