

2013–2015

# Understanding TB: Technologies, Ethics and Programmes



A three year ethnographic study funded by Wellcome Trust and supported by University of Edinburgh

## Project Objectives

- Understand introduction of new diagnostics in TB and its impact in the relationship of health workers and with the patients;
- Understand the impact of the Global Fund on TB control institutions and their relations more generally in the health development sector;
- Generate understanding around problems faced by people with TB/HIV co-infection and how they deal with it at individual and programme level; and
- Develop individual and institutional capacity for qualitative research

## Team Members

Dr. Ian Harper	Principal Investigator
Dr. Sushil Baral	Co-Principal Investigator
Mr. Kapil Dahal	Lead—Global Fund Strand
Ms. Rekha Khatri	Lead—TB Lab Strand
Ms. Sudeepa Khanal	Lead—TB/HIV Strand
Mr. Sudip Bhattarai	Research Assistant
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## Project Summary

This research project aims to look at the impact of new diagnostics, Global Fund and TB/HIV co-infection on TB control in Nepal.

### Methods

#### Observation of TB labs and interaction with lab workers:

We conducted observation of how the lab workers function in the lab, their roles and responsibilities, their work division; and perceptions on GeneXpert technology.

Interviews: Interviews with organizations and individuals who were either recipients of Global Fund grant or related to Global Fund's processes in the country; We also explored organizational and individual experiences of understanding the global fund's mechanisms, its requirements and adaptations.

Peer ethnography: We spoke to people living with HIV and/or TB co-infection to understand more in depth about their issues and coping mechanisms. The participants shared their experience and perception about the stigma, discrimination they faced at different levels (individual, family, community, hospitals) and also shed light on the importance of being associated with organizations for social and economic support.

We partnered with National Association of PLHIV

and approached HIV through their network. Also, two members from NPAN were recruited and trained to collect qualitative data from PLHIV.

Partnership with NAPN: We shared our preliminary findings with National Association of People living with HIV/AIDS Network [NAPN] providing evidence on the issues and challenges for them to inform their programme.

Paper presentation: Two papers on findings from the study were presented at the Annual Conference on Kathmandu and Himalaya on 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 on use of GeneXpert technology; and HIV related Stigma and discrimination. Multiple papers are in the process of write up in collaboration with university of Edinburgh.



Participants from 2012 RECOUP workshop



TB/HIV team for data collection at Bheri Zonal Hospital