The Tuberculosis Call to Action (TBC2A) Project, supported by USAID and implemented by REACH, seeks to amplify and support India’s response to TB by broadening the conversation around the disease and involving previously unengaged stakeholders.

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Renowned television and film actor Rajesh Kumar is new TB Ambassador for Bihar

REACH is pleased to announce that Rajesh Kumar, noted TV and film actor, will now be the TB ambassador for the state of Bihar. As an ambassador, Mr Kumar will help promote increased knowledge and awareness of TB among various communities. Mr Kumar, known for his role in the television series Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai, among others, will feature in a state-wide communication campaign to draw attention to TB-related issues in Bihar.

Inter-sectoral linkages established between East Central Railway Hospitals and State TB Cell, Bihar

REACH facilitated discussions between the Central SuperSpeciality Hospital, East Central Railway, Patna and the State TB Cell, Bihar, to align the hospital’s TB diagnostic and treatment protocols with revised RNTCP guidelines. It was agreed that the Railway Hospital will provide space, infrastructure and the required human resources for dedicated TB services, will conduct microscopic diagnostics of sputum and chest X-ray for TB diagnosis and provide services as per the RNTCP protocol. The hospital will nominate two nodal persons for coordination with STC/DTC and depute two lab technicians for five days with STC for their capacity-building. The State TB Cell will train the medical and paramedical staff on RNTCP protocols, provide the requisite drugs and IEC materials. The first batches of training commenced for medical doctors and paramedical staff.

Six-month advocacy mentorship programme rolled out

In keeping with REACH’s mandate to facilitate a greater role for trained, committed TB advocates, an advocacy mentorship programme has been launched. This mentorship programme is open to TB survivors and those who have been directly affected by the disease, and are keen to assume the role of advocates. Over a six-month period, each advocate will develop and implement, with the support of a mentor, a strategic advocacy plan with clear goals, objectives and activities, tailored to their individual contexts. REACH will provide support to the advocate through the mentorship period.