

### *IMAI training workshop in Bartica Region 7*

The Ministry of Health/ National Tuberculosis Program (MOH/NTP) in collaboration with PAHO/WHO Guyana, conducted an Integrated Management of Adolescents and Adults Illness (IMAI) workshop which took place in Bartica Region 7 from 21-22 July 2011. A total of 24 health workers (2 Medexes, 6 nurses and 16 community health workers) were trained on TB/HIV co-management.

#### *The agenda included:*

**Section 1: General principles for chronic care; Acute Care; Chronic HIV with ARV Therapy and Prevention; Palliative Care.**

**Section 2: Training on Tuberculin Skin Test (TST).**

**Section 3: Tuberculosis and TB-HIV Co-management.**

#### *Results*

The TB/HIV co-management section was conducted using IMAI Facilitator and participant Manuals and the nine chapters were developed as follow:

**1) Pre-test; 2) Basic Introduction to TB/HIV; 3) Diagnosis of HIV in TB patients and those suspected of having TB; 4) Management of active TB Disease in HIV positive patients; 5) What to do when a TB disease develops in a HIV positive patients; 6) What to do when a TB patient is found to be HIV positive; 7) Does your TB/HIV patient need Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART); 8) How to co-manage TB and HIV; 9) Providing special care and testing of newborns, partner and other household contacts.**

Based on the results from the pre-test, special attention was put on TB-HIV diagnosis, management of active TB and TB-HIV co-management. Then more questions and interactions took place about the diagnosis of HIV in TB patients and those suspected of having TB and the management of active TB disease in HIV positive patients. In addition, discussion took place about what to do when TB patient is found to be HIV positive.

The selection of the TB treatment category was highlighted: Pulmonary TB: Category I (new TB cases); Category II (relapse treatment after failure, treatment after default).

In addition, the participants were trained on the application, reading and interpretation of the TST results.

The pre and post-test training on TB/HIV co-management revealed an improvement of the knowledge from 50% (pre-test) to 91% (pos-test) among the participants.

#### *After the training, participants came to agree on*

- All health workers trained during this workshop would implement the IMAI modules (guidelines) as indicated during the training
- The RHO would identify a regional focal person to monitor the IMAI post training as well as its implementation
- All TB patients identified as TB treatment category I (CAT I) would be managed and treated at local level. (e.g. health post, health centres).
- DOTS would continue to be implemented at regional, district and local level (health post) as at now.
- Those classified as TB treatment category II must be referred to the next level (district or regional level); category IV (MDR) would be managed by Chest Clinic at central level.

- **All TB cases identified as HIV positive would be provided with care and support and referred to the closest health centre with medical doctor or TB Clinic or ART site to start ART and TB treatment.**
- **When TB/HIV patient came back to the health post or any other local level centre, TB treatment would be continued and monitored using DOTS**