

Pioneering Progress:

National Training of Trainers Workshop Champions Equitable Access to Molecular Point-of-Care Diagnostics for HIV & TB in India

New Delhi, India – July 3rd & 4th, 2025

A National Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop was held on July 3rd and 4th, 2025, in New Delhi, organized by the Global Coalition of TB Advocates (GCTA). This crucial initiative aimed to address significant gaps in diagnostic access and utilization for HIV, Tuberculosis (TB), and related infections across India.

The workshop highlighted persistent challenges, including:

- Delays and unavailability of existing diagnostics like CBNAAT, with molecular test results often taking "3-4 weeks".
- High out-of-pocket costs for essential tests not covered by programs.
- Systemic issues like "untrained staff, broken machines, and long travel" for patients.
- Low community awareness, misinformation, and stigma.

As the affected community the participants discussed POC and assessed the different diagnostic tools available. A key focus was Molbio's Truenat platform, described as a "breakthrough in TB care" and a "game changer at the point-of-care". Truenat is portable, battery-operated, and offers rapid, accurate detection for approximately 50 different tests, including HIV viral load and various STIs, with plans to detect 64 pathogens for antimicrobial resistance. Its simplicity addresses the "3-4 weeks delay" in traditional testing.

The workshop empowered 27 NGO and Network leaders from 17 Indian states. Participants received structured advocacy training, learning an eight-step methodical approach, and developed concrete regional action plans for POC diagnostic access.

Key outcomes included:

- The drafting of a community Statement advocating for fair and easy access to modern tests like Truenat, treating communities as partners, integrating POC diagnostics, ending stigma, and ensuring uninterrupted medicine availability. This statement will be submitted to NACO, NTEP, and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- A concrete roadmap for regional expansion, with three follow-up workshops planned for the South, North and Western. regions to ensure sustained impact.

Overall, the workshop for the first time brought TB/ HIV and HEP C leaders for learning, sharing and successfully equipped them with enhanced knowledge of molecular POC diagnostics and practical advocacy strategies, laying a strong foundation for equitable access to essential health services.

