

PUBLIC AWARENESS

TB awareness community outreach

On 30-31st August, Prof Victor together with 6 members of the CBTBR and Dr Kristin Kremer from National Institute for Public Health and the Environment in the Netherlands (an international expert), visited the study site in George to raise awareness about this serious disease and to inform the community about our activities at the clinic. The focus was on what cause the disease, symptoms, diagnosis, the fact that the disease can be treated, how drug resistance develops and how everybody in the community have a responsibility to get this disease under control. On Thursday evening, a informal cocktail party was held at the Lawaaikamp clinic, with fruitful discussions with local community leaders. To convey the message we played the “role of actors” and made use of an interactive tuberculosis exhibition that was developed at the CBTBR for this purpose. On Friday 31st August about 200 school children and TB patients in the immediate vicinity of the clinic were involved during a sport day organised in associated with the local healthcare workers. We provided prizes for the winners and certificates and snacks for all the participants. Spot prizes were also handed out for those who could correctly answer a question about tuberculosis and HIV. Throughout the event the some of CBTBR members manned a TB awareness exhibition. The event was a great success and has made an impact on the community. Continued awareness will be a powerful tool to fight against this disease.

