Africa Regional TB summit
4-6 March, 2019 | Kigali, Rwanda

Theme: *It’s time for Africa to step up efforts to find all missing people with TB*
Finding the Missing TB cases: ZAMBIA

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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NTLP Manager
BURDEN OF TB IN ZAMBIA
(Source: NTLP and WHO, 2018)

2017

62,000 FELL ILL WITH TB

38,000 males
24,000 females
7,500 children

36,010 TB cases notified

25,990 people not notified or not diagnosed

Nearly 40% of people with TB remain undetected and untreated
Geographical Distribution of TB Notified TB cases in Zambia (2018 Data)

The areas with high TB burden are the same with high HIV rates.
What problem is the program trying to address?

- Finding the missing TB cases through intensified Case finding (ICF) both in health facilities and the community

- Involvement of the private sector in TB case finding

- Improved access to sensitive TB diagnostic tools such as GeneXpert and digital-X-ray

- Specimen transportation (intra and inter-district)
Intensified TB case finding (ICF)

• In 2018 the NTLP in collaboration with partners and civil society organizations conducted ICF to accelerate and increase the scale of finding the missing people with TB

• ICF activities targeted:
  • Hotspots areas (based on data from 2013/2014 Prevalence Survey and routine data)
  • High risk groups such as PLHIV, inmates and Health Care Workers
  • Miners and ex-miners

• ICF prioritized health facility TB screening coupled with raising awareness about TB and door to door visits in the community
Intensified TB case finding (ICF) during National Events

ICF activities were also conducted as part of:

- World TB Day Commemoration
- National Health Week
- National Child Health Campaign
Steps taken for ICF activities

• **Step 1:** Developed a concept note
• **Step 2:** Hold planning meetings with all stakeholders
• **Step 3:** Identified districts and communities with the highest burden
• **Step 4:** Identified high risk populations
• **Step 5:** Mobilized resources (financial, diagnostics tools, reagents/cartridges, TB screening tools and human capital relevant to the exercise)
• **Step 6:** Trained staff in ICF and engaged communities)
• **Step 7:** One week of community sensitization prior to ICF
• **Step 8:** Official Launch of the ICF activities (a demonstration of political commitment)
• **Step 9:** Review of the output of the ICF-post the activity
Results and the contribution of ICF toward finding the missing TB cases: Kanyama-Lusaka

• The yield of ICF conducted in one densely populated setting
  • TB cases found in 10 days were equal to 90% of TB cases detected in 3 months
  • Daily average of 17 TB patients detected per day in one hospital
• 2,921 TB cases detected in the mining districts
• Community involvement and ownership enhanced
• >45% increase in number of DR-TB who began second line treatment (from 270 in 2017 to 507 in 2018)
• Zambia has attained a TB treatment success of 90%
Total TB notifications: 2017 Vs 2018

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Supporting policies

• The Current National Strategic Plan focuses on TB elimination—a Departure from previous plans which prioritized merely controlling TB

• TB preventive therapy (TPT) guidelines updated

• The Country is implementing “Test and Treat Strategy”—Championed by our Head of State

• Scaling up of GeneXpert Technical technology (now 209 machines country wide)

• TB treatment registers and treatment cards now incorporate occupation of patients notified for TB treatment

• TB is one of the 10 legacy goals for the Ministry of Health

• Technical assistance (TA) support to specimen transportation was procured
Challenges

- Limited access to sensitive diagnostic tools (particularly mobile digital X-ray machines)

- While TB screening among PLHIV is consistently performed, data on how many of PLHIV were actually diagnosed with TB is difficult to get from health facilities

- Stigma to TB still exists—resulting in people with TB symptoms not volunteering their symptoms

- Funding gap to fully fund all the activities in the national strategic plan

- Underreporting may also be a contributing factor to the gap in reaching annual targets
Lessons Learnt

- ICF led to increase in notifications particularly in districts that implement ICF as a standard and a routine activity.
- ICF leads to improved outcomes of treatment directly and indirectly- Linkage to care is cardinal.
- GeneXpert roll-out should not only focus on improved utilization but also access to all who need this service.
- More sensitive tools like mobile digital x ray machines are needed in order to get a better yield.
- A multidisciplinary team is required for an effective ICF.
- Health facility ICF coupled with community TB awareness campaigns is more effective than community sensitization only.
Acknowledgements

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• TB REACH-Stop TB partnership
• Civil Society Organizations
• People affected with TB and HIV
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