



# 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***

# **ZIMBABWE NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAMME - ICF in ZIMBABWE**

**Presented by:**

**Dr C Sandy**

***Deputy Director AIDS and TB Programmes***

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# TB & HIV

- The introduction of antiretroviral therapy (ART) when administered to HIV-infected patients improves survival and reduces the incidence of new and recurrent TB
- ART efficacious in improving immune function, suppressing viral load and protecting against TB, BUT
  - incidence of TB is still higher in those HIV-positive even when CD4 cell counts have improved when compared with those who are HIV negative.
- Despite ART, there remains an increased risk of mortality, which is strongly associated with prevalent TB at ART initiation and incident TB during ART.
- This justifies the need to rapidly diagnose, treat and prevent TB prior to and during ART.
- Intensified TB case finding (ICF) should be an integral part of HIV care and treatment programmes in order to identify both prevalent and incident TB among those HIV-infected.

Zimbabwe one of the countries on the top 30 high burden countries.



One of the 8 African countries with a high burden of TB, TB/HIV, MDR-TB



Highly vulnerable population  
High prevalence of TB  
Increasing problem of MDR-TB



**AIDS AND TB UNIT**  
**NTP**



## Problems the program trying to address



- High proportion of TB patients co-infected with HIV *62%*
- High incidence of TB among people living with HIV/AIDS *(with HIV 221/100000 compared to 140 without HIV)*
- High Mortality among TB Patients coinfectd *(with HIV 38/100 000 as compared to without HIV 12/100 000)*
- Low treatment outcome results among TB patients coinfectd *(81%)*
  - *Suggesting underlying risk related to HIV infection needed stronger control*

*Source: Global TB report 2018 and Routine programme data 2018*

# ICF in Zimbabwe

- The WHO recommends ICF among HIV-positive patients enrolled in ART programmes by routinely screening for active TB using the four-symptom checklist at every contact with a health worker
  - TB investigations among those identified as having presumptive follow
- Zimbabwe with a high HIV prevalence of 14.1% among 15–49-year olds, and a high TB/HIV co-infection rate of 62 % adopted ICF screening policy since 2013.
  - ICF started as a pilot in a few sites the focus then being to provide IPT
- ICF has two-fold benefits of:
  - *identifying those who have TB and referring them for TB treatment*
  - *identifying those that do not have TB who are potentially eligible for IPT to prevent possible TB disease.*

# Challenges in ICF

- Failure to administer the screening tool
- Presumptive TB patients upon identification can be lost in the process of referral to a TB clinic for sputum collection especially if the ART and TB clinic services are not integrated in the same setting.
- Sputum samples collected from presumptive TB patients for direct smear microscopy and/or for Xpert MTB/RIF testing may also be lost.
- Tracing patients diagnosed with TB and the eventual initiation of anti-TB treatment may be associated with losses to follow-up along that referral continuum.
  - These losses to follow-up or delays between ICF and TB diagnosis and treatment can lead to worsening disease prognosis among those with TB disease and TB transmission in the community.
- Failure/weaknesses in recording and reporting
- Weak Laboratory Capacity
  - Supply chain weaknesses (shortages of laboratory reagents and consumables)
  - Access to laboratory testing
- Underutilization of Radiology services (Significant proportion of people with TB are asymptomatic)
- Coordination mechanism between key departments (TB, HIV, Lab, X-Ray)

# Recommendations for Scale Up

- Capacitate community healthcare providers, PLHIV Peer Group Leaders to administer symptom screening check list
- Ensure one stop shop intergrated TB/HIV care provision at all Health Facilities
- Expand use of Digital X-Ray for systestamic bi-annual screening of High Risk Groups
- Build laboratory Capacity and Access to laboratory services- Specimen transportation, PSM, GeneXpert functionality
- Enhance skills of Health Care workers in Data Analysis and Utilization-
  - Formulate targets for facilties to guide scale up
  - Enhance cascade analysis skills to quickly identify bottlenecks and make management decisions quicky





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