







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:

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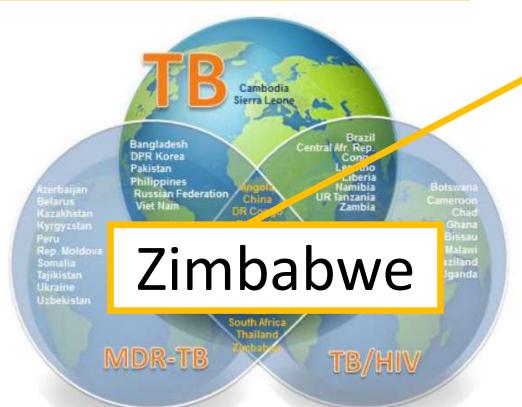
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TB &HIV

- 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, supressing 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 HIVinfected.

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



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 coinfected (with HIV 38/100 000 as compared to without HIV 12/100 000
- Low treatment outcome results among TB patients coinfected (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 foursymptom 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 adminster 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 thesame 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 laboaratory 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 adminster 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 quickly









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