

PROMOTING IMPLEMENTATION OF WHO'S POLICY ON COLLABORATIVE TB/HIV ACTIVITIES:


LESSONS FROM PLWH GROUPS IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE, NIGERIA, SWAZILAND AND UGANDA

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- Current situation of TB/HIV co-infection
 - Key Challenges to Implementation
 - Country Interventions & Results
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Current Situation



- TB is leading cause of death among PLWH globally
- In Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Swaziland, TB/HIV co-infection rates (i.e. HIV in new TB cases) are above 50% – *WHO report 2008: Global tuberculosis control*
- In 2004, WHO introduced its Policy on Collaborative TB/HIV Activities - not all countries have adopted it

Table 1 Recommended collaborative TB/HIV activities

A. Establish the mechanisms for collaboration

A.1 Set up a coordinating body for TB/HIV activities effective at all levels

A.2 Conduct surveillance of HIV prevalence among tuberculosis patients

A.3 Carry out joint TB/HIV planning

A.4 Conduct monitoring and evaluation

B. Decrease the burden of tuberculosis in people living with HIV/AIDS

B.1 Establish intensified tuberculosis case-finding

B.2 Introduce isoniazid preventive therapy

B.3 Ensure tuberculosis infection control in health care and congregate settings

C. Decrease the burden of HIV in tuberculosis patients

C.1 Provide HIV testing and counselling

C.2 Introduce HIV prevention methods

C.3 Introduce co-trimoxazole preventive therapy

C.4 Ensure HIV/AIDS care and support

C.5 Introduce antiretroviral therapy

Key Challenges to Implementation



- Low awareness about TB/HIV co-infection
- Lack of collaboration between TB and HIV programs
- Lack of sufficient resources to coordinate TB and HIV services
- Stigma of being co-infected

REPUBLIQUE DE LA COTE D'IVOIRE

- Réseau Ivoirien des Organisations de Personnes Vivant avec le VIH (RIP+), a nat'l umbrella network of PWHA orgs, worked w/Mbade Victoire, the first Ivorian TB/HIV co-infected patients association to implement patient-centered palliative care services.
- One site in Abidjan diagnosed 3335 new TB cases – 46% HIV+)

NIGERIA

- ❑ Treatment Action Movement (TAM) organized TB/HIV treatment literacy and advocacy workshops for treatment advocates & support groups – conducted seminars on TB/HIV for service providers at ARV and DOTS centers.
- ❑ Increased awareness and demand for TB/HIV coordinated services
- ❑ Greater gov't support for TB/HIV collaborative programs
- ❑ Greater awareness about TB overall led civil society to establish Nigeria Stop TB Partnership

SWAZILAND



- SWANNEPHA, a nat'l network of PWHA, developed a community training manual on TB/HIV co-infection and associated stigma and discrimination.
- Manual developed by MOHSW/NTP, URC, other clinical experts using SWANNEPHA data
- Manual is nat'l tool used by all partners engaged in TB/HIV work

UGANDA

- ❑ Coalition for Health Promotion and Social Development (HEPS-Uganda) in consultation w/ MOH, WHO and partners have monitored the availability of HIV and TB medicines and diagnostics
 - Research revealed critical shortage of pediatric formulations
 - Public health facilities don't receive medicines in time and inevitable consequence is stock outs
 - Expiry of ARVs is common and facilities lack capacity to deal with them

Recommendations



- Awareness raising is effective if driven and owned by grassroots communities and leaders
- Peer counseling by TB/HIV co-infected patients is valuable approach to fighting stigma
- Civil society needs to be actively involved in promoting TB/HIV activities and programs

Recommendations (continued)



- Health sector overall needs to be strengthened to support TB and HIV coordinated services and vice versa – existing TB and HIV coordinated services are example of how health systems can be built
- Increased awareness of TB among PLWH can lead to demand for TB/HIV services
- Integrate TB information to already existing programmes, structures and resources

Authors



- RCI: RIP+ - Cyriaque Ako; Serge Bogui, Genevieve Allye; Mbade Victoire - Awa Ouattara
- Nigeria: TAM - Obatunde Oladapo, Mayowa Joel
- Swaziland: SWANNEPHA - Thembi Nkambule
- Uganda: HEPS-Uganda - Aaron Muhinda
- USA: TAG - Sue Perez, Javid Syed