



SUCCESS STORY

Improving TB Case Identification and Notification in an Urban Correctional Facility in Kampala

Background

USAID Defeat TB supports civil society organizations (CSOs) in the urban districts of Kampala, Wakiso, and Mukono to strengthen community systems to improve TB case identification, notification, and treatment outcomes. Kampala district has five divisions, with each division designated a CSO to implement TB prevention, care, and treatment services within it.

Defeat TB designated Reach Out Mbuya (ROM) to work in the Nakawa division and trained the CSO in the implementation of community TB control activities in July/August 2018. In September 2018, ROM began working with the Luzira Maximum Security Prison facility to operationalize the provision of TB services in the facility.

Activities Implemented to Improve TB Service Delivery in the Prison

First, ROM held introductory meetings with the prison authorities to establish a working relationship and an understanding of roles and responsibilities and activities that would be conducted.

With the prison authorities, ROM then selected 90 inmates from three sections (the Kampala remand, the women's section, and the upper prison) to serve as community linkage facilitators (CLFs) to conduct routine TB screening, adherence monitoring, and provision of referrals to the



CLFs holding a TB health education session with some inmates before conducting TB screening. Photo credit: Harriet Komujuni

identified presumptive cases. The CLFs were selected based on the length of time left on their sentence and preference was given to those with more time. The CLFs participated in a three-day training on community TB management. The training equipped them with the knowledge and skills to identify inmates with TB and monitor them to ensure treatment adherence.

Luzira Maximum Security Prison comprises of a health center in each of the three sections and one general hospital that serves the entire prison called Murchison Bay Hospital. At the health centers, the CLFs work with the health facility staff

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to conduct TB screening when a new inmate is introduced into the prison, conduct routine TB screening in the wards to identify any TB presumptive cases, and provide referrals to the prison's diagnostic and treatment center, Murchison Bay hospital. Three CLFs are attached to the prison hospital. Once a patient is identified and started on treatment, the hospital-based CLFs take the following actions: i) monitor patients who are on Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) in the initial phase of treatment while they are admitted for two months and discharge them back to their respective prison sections where the CLFs on the wards continue with DOT support, ii) monitor patients for possible side effects, iii) provide counseling for the identified TB patients, and iv) support sputum follow up for patients on treatment.

Results

As a result of ROM's work at the Luzira Maximum Security Prison, the number of TB cases identified increased from 92 to 148 cases from September 2018 to May 2019, or within eight months of the intervention. The intervention contributed 72% (107/148) of the total number of TB cases notified by the health facility during this time period, as reflected below. Additionally, ROM continuously supports the prison hospital's TB service

delivery efforts by providing sputum mugs and required documentation materials, including TB registers, referral books, GeneXpert request forms, among others. Together with the prison health providers, ROM also makes quarterly visits to each prison section to support mass TB screening and provide mentorship to Murchison Bay Hospital staff on how to improve general TB care.

Recommendations

Due to crowding, institutions such as correctional facilities pose a high risk for TB transmission. To successfully work in these types of institutions, it is important to have members from within the facility as linkage facilitators/volunteers who are trained to operationalize routine TB screening, treatment adherence monitoring, institutional DOT, and generally follow up clients. ROM's collaboration with the Luzira Maximum Security Prison revealed that health volunteers from within the prison are easily accepted because they are peers and clearly understand the prison environment. The approach ROM used to improve the TB case identification and notification should be modeled or adapted by other CSOs working in similar institutional settings and can be critical to finding TB cases that otherwise would have been missed.

Figure 1. Monthly TB case identification and notification at Murchison Bay Hospital (Sep 2018-May 2019)

