Community Engagement in Tuberculosis

DEFINITIONS

Community-based TB activities are conducted outside the premises of formal health facilities (e.g. hospitals and clinics) in community-based structures (e.g. schools and places of worship) and homesteads.

Community health workers and community volunteers carry out community-based TB activities. Both can be supported by nongovernmental organizations and/or the government.

"The people have the right and duty to participate individually and collectively in the planning and implementation of their health care."
Declaration of Alma Alta, September 1978.

FULL DEFINITIONS ARE AVAILABLE IN ENGAGE-TB GUIDANCE.

EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY BASED TB ACTIVITIES:

- Facilitating access to diagnostic services (e.g. referral; sputum or specimen collection and transport).
- Initiation and provision of TB prevention measures (e.g. Isoniazid preventive therapy, TB infection control).
- Treatment adherence support through peer support and education and individual follow-up.
- Social support and protection, livelihood support (e.g. food supplementation).

GLOBAL DOCUMENTATION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CORE INDICATORS

- Number and percentage of new patients with TB (all forms) diagnosed and notified who were referred by community health workers and community volunteers.
- Number and percentage of successfully treated new patients with TB (all forms) who received support for treatment adherence from community health workers and community volunteers.

REPORTING TRENDS

Number of countries reporting to WHO on core indicators.

- 2013: 13
- 2014: 22
- 2015: 41
- 2016: 49
- 2017: 53
- 2018: 61
GAPS IN RECORDING AND REPORTING OF COMMUNITY INDICATORS IN NATIONAL DATA

Out of 91 countries implementing community-based TB activities, one third (30/91) still have no data on their contributions to TB outcomes.


THE ENGAGE-TB APPROACH

- Community-based TB prevention and care integrated with primary health care or similar initiatives.
- Close collaboration between national TB programme and community actors in planning, supervision and M&E is key.
- Core indicators tracked through national TB programme M&E system.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONTRIBUTES TO UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC)

Community Engagement is a cost effective intervention to improve health service coverage and deliver accessible and people-centred integrated care.