

Targeted Interventions Led to Improvements in TB Case Finding among Selected Mining Shafts in Six High Priority Districts in Ethiopia

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Background

Nomadic and pastoral populations constitute a significant proportion of the population in Africa but they are difficult to estimate, reach, and track, resulting in serious issues of TB case finding and treatment follow-up. This is compounded by high number of other mobile populations such as migrant workers. In Guji and Borena zones of the Oromia region of Ethiopia, the population is predominantly pastoralist. Our objective was to assess the impact of targeted interventions on case finding in this community.

Interventions

USAID/CTB project identified 6 districts where 42,678 migrant workers are estimated to be engaged in informal gold mining activities. Health workers who have experience in TB program were deployed in the six each districts to support TB program implementation in the mining and surrounding community in collaboration with the district TB focal persons. Health education and sensitization on TB and TB/HIV was provided to 22,525 migrant workers. The health workers were also engaged in screening for TB among the mining workers and surrounding community, treatment support for TB patients on DOT and TB contact screening.

Results

A total of 10,538 mining workers were screened for symptom of TB of which 981 (9.3%) were found to be cases of presumptive TB. Laboratory test was offered for 948 presumptive TB cases of which 165 were diagnosed with active TB that translates to a case notification of 1,565 per 100,000 mining workers screened.

Conclusion

The case notification among the migrant workers was 11.3 times the case notification in the general population in the region. The targeted intervention was paramount in reaching the mining workers and diagnosing significant number of TB cases who would have remained undiagnosed.

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
# mining workers screened for TB	10538	NA
# mining workers with presumptive TB	981	9.3%
# presumptive TB evaluated for TB	948	96.6%
# active TB cases diagnosed	165	1.6% [1,565 per 100k]

Table 1: Result of screening for TB among mining workers, November 2015-June 2016.

NB: About 9 times higher than the general population.



Figure 1: Shows Mining workers living standard and working as a group.





Figure 2: Shows Mining workers are processing Gold mining traditionally at one of the 6 sites, Dolovia site.

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