

Title: Use of Intensified Tuberculosis Case finding (ICF) tools to improve on TB case finding

Authors: *A. Batwaula*¹, A.Mugume², T.Odong ² D. Busingye¹,

JSI/STAR-EC, Technical, Kampala, Uganda, ²JSI/STAR-EC, Strategic Information, Kampala, Uganda

Issue

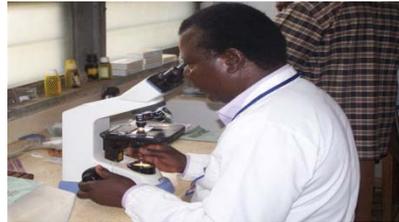
The national TB Case Detection Rate (CDR) for Uganda stands at 57%. However, East Central Uganda has a much lower rate (31%). This is far below the global target of 70%. Screening of patients in health care facilities including HIV care setting is still low. In order to address this, new case finding tools have been developed and implemented.

Description

In line with national policies, the Strengthening TB and HIV& AIDS responses in East Central Uganda (STAR-EC), a USAID supported program is supporting efforts to improve CDR. During November – December 2010, a total of 100 health care providers were trained on the use of intensified case finding tools (ICF). This was done during the orientation of 80 sub-county health workers on CBDOTS implementation and training of 20 trainers on TB/HIV co management and TB infection control

Forms were distributed to health facilities for utilization in the outpatient departments and in HIV care clinics. This was followed by onsite support to some health facilities on the correct utilization of forms and suspect registers. Facilities were visited after two months of dissemination.

Key findings: 6/7 facilities given on site support had implemented and 1/5 facilities that were not given support had implemented. Out of 127 suspects registered, 31 (20%) were found to have smear positive tuberculosis. In 4 facilities that had not received on site support, the tools were either not in use or were misplaced



Bugiri Hospital Laboratory staff examining a sputum smear

Lessons Learned

Tuberculosis cases slip through the system undetected because health care providers depend on patients self referrals, instead of probing for the symptoms and signs of TB in all patients. Training of health care providers alone is not enough for health workers to implement what they have learned. There is need to follow up the trainees and continue supporting them at their work place.

Way Forward

In order to improve on CDR and also reduce the burden of TB among HIV patients, the use of ICF tools should be promoted in health care settings.