Integration of Tuberculosis (TB) Diagnosis and Treatment into Primary Health Care Services: Experience and lessons learned from South Sudan

Health and TB in South Sudan
- Many health problems after decades of civil war
- Financial challenges, so donor dependence
- Only 7% (78/1,147) of health facilities provide TB services
- Directly observed treatment, short course (DOTS) coverage for TB is just 48%

Assessment to Determine Where TB Services Can be Integrated
- The USAID-funded TB CARE I project worked with the National TB Control Program (NTP) and its partners to develop a plan for integrating TB services into primary health care.
- The plan’s first step was to conduct an assessment to determine which health facilities met the minimum criteria to integrate TB services into general health care services.
- In April 2011, NTP and TB CARE I used a rapid assessment tool to evaluate 13 facilities in 5 states according to the following criteria:
  - Functionality of health facility;
  - Availability of qualified health care providers;
  - Availability of general laboratory services.

Assessment Results Reveal Opportunities for TB Service Scale Up in South Sudan
- Among the 13 health facilities:
  - 4 (31%) met the minimum criteria and were already providing TB services;
  - 6 (46%) met the minimum criteria but were not providing TB services;
  - 3 (23%) did not meet the minimum criteria.
- 267 hospital and primary health care centers in South Sudan are not currently offering TB services.
- Based on this assessment, the NTP and TB CARE I projected that 123 health facilities (267 x 46% = 123) could be supported to integrate TB.

Results Show that 123 Facilities are Ready for TB Service Integration

The Way Forward
- The NTP and TB CARE I recommend that partners implementing primary health care services continue this assessment process to determine which facilities are prepared to integrate TB services.
- For the next 3 years, NTP will work with TB CARE I and donors to address the identified needs at each health facility so they are equipped to provide TB services. Support will include facility renovations and staff training, mentorship, and supervision.

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