

Title: The Global Fund Community Tuberculosis Grant Implementation

Period: July, 2019 – Dec, 2020,



About the Project

ARFH is currently implementing the Community TB component of the GF- Funded Tuberculosis grant Nigeria in collaboration with the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme (NTBLCP), the Principal Recipient of the grant and an institution mandated to coordinate TB and Leprosy control activities in all States in Nigeria in order to significantly reduce the public burden of the two diseases. This grant has continued this Jan, 2021 to end Dec, 2023.

Project Goal

To ensure prompt access to high quality, patient-centred TB diagnosis (DSTB and DRTB), treatment and follow-up services in the community, thus contributing to improved treatment outcomes towards reducing TB transmission in Nigeria.

Project Aim

The Community TB Project aims to rapidly increase TB case finding using existing community networks and identify and screen presumptive TB cases and/or persons with cough of at least two weeks' duration in ten States of the of Federation, namely, Kano, Osun, Oyo, Kaduna, Katsina, Anambra, Abia, Sokoto, Rivers and FCT and community programmatic management of drug resistant TB in the 35 states plus FCT. The Active Case Search for the 2021 -2023 new grant will extend to Nasarawa, Kogi and Delta states. Lagos is the only State in Nigeria where ARFH is not implementing Community TB Activities.

Project Objectives are:

- i. To ensure that communities have accurate knowledge of TB through community level mobilization, sensitization and demand creation for TB/HIV services through engaged CBO (SSRs) and CTWs.
- ii. To increase the identification of all forms of TB cases through house-to-house search, contact tracing, sputum collection and transportation and improve access to quality TB/HIV services

- iii. To strengthen the mechanism for community linkages and coordination by collaborating with relevant stakeholders in the LGA and community with the aim of promoting visibility, ownership and sustainability of the Global Fund supported TB program.
- iv. To ensure prompt access to high quality, patient-centered DR-TB diagnosis, treatment and follow-up services thus contributing to improved treatment outcomes and reduction in DR-TB transmission in Nigeria.

Our Key Strategies

- ❖ Innovative Active Case Finding activities in the community
- ❖ Advocacy, community mobilization
- ❖ Institutional and human resource capacity building, planning and leadership development of the Community Based Organizations(CBOs) and other community actors
- ❖ Community management of DRTB patients
- ❖ Strengthen capacity for management of DRTB in the community
- ❖ Referrals and linkage strengthening
- ❖ Programme monitoring including programme reviews and operational research activities
- ❖ Strengthening of infection control practices.

COMMUNITY TB STRATEGY BRIEF: ARFH's Role in Raising the Curve of Community TB Case Notification in Nigeria

Background:

The world Health Organization in her 2019 Global TB report ranked Nigeria 6th among the 30 countries of the world with a high burden of the Tuberculosis disease, and ranked 1st in Africa. As stated in the report, 12% of the 3,000,000 missing cases of Tuberculosis globally is from Nigeria. Nigeria is also referred to as one of countries of the world that intensified efforts are required to improve reporting of detected TB cases and access to diagnosis and treatment.

Out of the annual estimate of 460,000 of TB cases to be notified as at 2019, only 120,266 were, notified. In response, the National Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Buruli Ulcer Control Programme (NTBLCP) in partnership with The Association for Reproductive and Family Health (ARFH) resorted to active community engagements/interventions to close the gap between estimated TB incidence and cases notified. ARFH implements the Community TB component of the Global Fund (GF) grant. The community TB comprises Active TB Case Finding (ACF) and Community Program Management of Drug Resistant TB (CPMDT).

The Community TB grant intervention is implemented in 10 States, namely, Kano, Osun, Oyo, Kaduna, Katsina, Anambra, Abia, Sokoto, Rivers and FCT and aims to rapidly increase TB case finding in Nigeria through the use of community networks. This will be extended to Nasarawa, Kogi and Delta in the 2021-2023 period.

The intervention is led by ARFH working in partnership with the CBOs, the National TB and Leprosy Control Programme (NTBLCP), an institution mandated to coordinate TB and Leprosy control activities in all States in Nigeria in order to significantly reduce the public burden of the two diseases.

ARFH's Contribution to TB case notification through the Community
TB Strategy for the Grant Period January 2019 – December 2020

TB CASE NOTIFICATION - ACHIEVEMENTS Q3 2019 - Q4 2020

Household visited = 511, 181

Total Presumptive TB Cases identified = 363,758

Positive DS- TB cases from the presumptive = 39,422. All placed on treatment

Q3 2019 TB Case Notification

Achievement – 4,173 Positive DS-TB Cases identified in the communities

Q4 2019 TB Case Notification

Achievement – 7,397 positive DS-TB cases identified in the communities

Q1 2020 TB Case Notification

Achievement – 6,853 positive DS-TB cases identified in the communities

Q2 2020 TB Case Notification

Achievement – 5,762 positive DS-TB cases identified in the communities

Q3 2020 TB Case Notification

Achievement – 6,927 Positive DS-TB cases identified in the communities

Q4 2020 TB Case Notification

Achievement – 8,310 positive DS-TB cases identified in the communities.

Total DR-TB Cases Notified = 2,010

ARFH COMMUNITY TB PROGRAM QUARTERLY ACHIEVEMENTS – How the Road to Recorded Successes in the Grant is Traversed:

ARFH Community TB Program Acquaints CBOs and CTWs on Basic Facts of TB to Increase Identification of all Forms of TB in Nigeria

To drive Active Case Finding and improve efficiency, a performance-based incentive funding approach was adopted and CBOs engaged in the ten states where active TB case finding is being implemented in slums and densely populated areas. In the 3rd Quarter of 2019, ARFH in collaboration with respective State Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programs (STBLCPs) conducted a one-day orientation in the 36 States (including the FCT) of the federation for the representatives of the engaged lead Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and partner CBOs to acquaint them on basic facts about TB and other TB program related issues. One lead CBO was engaged per State for Active Case Finding (ACF) activities in 10 States and Community Programmatic Management of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (CPMDT) activities in 26 States.

Q3 2019 TB Case Notification

Achievement – 4,173 Positive DS-TB Cases identified in the



Group Picture with Trained CBOs Rep in Oyo State



Plenary Session During Training of CTWs in Oyo State

Community TB Workers (CTWs) were also trained on the process of conducting House-to-House TB Case Search, contact tracing, identification of presumptive TB cases and referral and other TB program operational issues that will enable the CTWs and CBOs deliver on the expected task assigned to them.

ARFH Adopts an Innovative Approach to TB Awareness Creation and Acceptability in Communities Tagged “Test and Win” to Enhance TB Case Notification

Part of the objectives of the Community TB program is to ensure that communities have accurate knowledge of TB through community level mobilization, sensitization and demand creation for TB/HIV services through engaged CBO (SSRs) and Community TB Workers (CTWs).

Project Activities Highlight:

Q4 2019 TB Case Notification

Achievement – 7,397 Positive TB Cases

During the Quarter, CBOs embarked on targeted social mobilization activities with the support of community stakeholders to generate demand and create a conducive environment for the CTWs to work in slums. Sputum samples were collected during the conduct of the activity within the slums and referrals were also made to facilities



Dawn of Lie Foundation(DOLF) CEO and Staff during the World Aids Day Test and Win Outreach where products were given to community members whose sputum samples were collected.

Integrated social mobilization by CBOs with other projects and commemoration of World event days such as the World AIDS Day and International Day for the Elderly has been used to improve accessibility and the acceptability of the project within the slums and communities with the aim of correcting the misconceptions and myths on TB transmission and treatment, provide the right TB information and to also increase the awareness of the community members on the easily accessible screening and treatment services available at no cost within the community.

A Community Dialogue in Kano State tagged “Informing your Community about TB”



House-to-House Search in Communities, A Key Feature of the Active Case Finding (ACF) Strategy Used to Raise the TB Case Notification Curve

House-to-house search, a key feature of ACF, is conducted within the slums and densely populated areas in the ten States of implementation. CTWs were actively involved in the identification of presumptive clients, collection of sputum samples and transfer to the laboratories, and retrieval of results. This makes for efficiency and program coordination. In the other states, the CTWs are solely responsible for sputum transport to laboratories and results retrieval. Reasons include in-consistency in the regularity of sputum movement which in most instances have led to sputum spoilage. Hence the CTWs have decided to ensure prompt sputum transport to avoid wastage. A total of **58,188 presumptive clients** were identified and **6,853 detected**.

Q1 2020 TB Case Notification

Presumptive TB Cases: 58,188
Notified TB Cases – 6,853



Trained and engaged Community TB Workers (CTWs) conduct intensive house to house search within the assigned slums and densely populated areas in the ACF implementing States. CTWs are actively involved in the identification of presumptive clients, collection of sputum samples, transfer of same to the laboratories and retrieval of results. The overall performance of

the Active Case Finding in the ten (10) ACF States for Quarter 1 2020 shows a performance of 48% on the presumptive TB case target, and 57% of the target for the positives TB cases).

Addressing One of the Root Causes of Low TB Notification through Data Harmonization to Promote Accurate TB Data Reporting

One of the problems identified to be affecting Nigeria is underreporting of cases. Hence, ARFH through her State Adhoc Officers embarked on quarterly data verification meetings at

Q2 2020 TB Case Notification

Presumptive TB Cases – 48,446
Positive TB Achievement – 5,762

the State and LGAs levels involving CBO representatives, TB DOT Staff, Laboratory focal person and TBLS. The purpose of the meeting is to sensitize the facility DOT staff, review the activities of the CTWs using the facility registers, review the indicators of the project to guide and align the CBO report with that of the State TBLCP, reconcile, validate and harmonize data as well as provide feedback to the relevant key

stakeholders.



Osun State Adhoc Staff conducting Data Validation Exercise with State M&E Officer

Significance of Contact Tracing, Home Visits to Patients, and DR-TB Patient Follow-up to TB Control and Eradication.

Q3 2020 TB Case Notification

Positive TB Case Achievement – 6,927

The Community Programmatic Management of DRTB (CPMDT) activities such as contact tracing, patient follow-up and home visit to patients are all part of efforts to ensure TB cases are fully notified, treatment initiated, and treatment regimen adhered to up to completion. During home visits, CBOs/CTWs address challenges expressed

by the patients and refer clinical issues to STBLCs for the necessary review and attention. Such activities ensure greater awareness and knowledge about TB infection, control and diagnosis, as well as greater demand for TB services. In Q3 2020, a total of **61,353 Presumptive TB cases** and **6,927 positive cases were recorded** through the ACF intervention while a total of 303 new DR-TB cases were detected above the 185 target for the quarter. As at the end of the quarter, cumulatively 732 DRTB patients have been enrolled on treatment within the community.

Supportive Supervision As Key To Tracking Performance and Providing Technical Assistance



Dr. Ogbuji, TB Project Coordinator, Reviewing documents during a Supportive Supervision Visit to a CBO



Also, Supportive Supervisory Visits (SSVs) serve as avenues to review documentation regarding home visits, contact tracing and provide technical support where gaps were identified. Orientation was also given to the Staff of the CBOs, CTW and other stakeholders on identified gaps and other project guidelines during the exercise. The supervision to the CBOs served as a means of capacity building and reorientation for the stakeholders especially the CTWs.

Intensifying TB Case Finding through Community Outreaches.

Q4 2020 TB Case Notification

ACF Achievement – 8,310

Contact Tracing Achievement – 1,960

Community Outreaches – 888

Total TB Cases Notified – 11,158

With ARFH leading the innovation and with funding support from Global Fund, lead and partner CBOs adopted several strategies which include social behaviour change, interpersonal counselling, advocacy and stakeholder engagement, among others, in achieving the set objectives of the project. Health education and promotion was done through the stakeholders to enlighten the community members on basic facts

about TB. The CBOs embarked on integrated community outreaches and contact tracing to reach out to the target audience, which has helped to provide the right TB information and increase the awareness of the community members on the easily accessible screening and treatment services available in their locale.



The COVID-19 Challenge

Challenges faced during project implementation ranged from the COVID-19 Pandemic with the resulting reluctance to produce sputum and persistent restriction in gathering (despite ease in lockdown), lack of PPE and working tools (R&R tools) for CTWs, and erratic electricity supply in Laboratories among others.

HUMAN INTEREST PICTURES



Community TB awareness by the TBLs, CBO and SAO at LGAs in FCT



CTWs conducting outreach in peak location (Market) in Osun State



An Advocacy Visit to Community Leaders in Kano State



A CTW conducting house-to-house TB case search- educating households on TB.

For additional information about the Community TB Project, contact:

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