

Situational Analysis of TB/HIV Collaboration Argakhachi District, Nepal- 2012

Objective: to understand the current TB and HIV related services present and the opportunities for TB-HIV collaboration in Argakhanchi district.

Methods and materials: Review of secondary documents from the relevant health institutions and interview with various health staffs was the method used to collect the useful information. Also, in depth interviews with PLHIV and TB patients were done to understand their views on the matter.

Argakhanchi Findings: The prevalence of TB among HIV cases is mostly among marginalized sections of the society; however there is unavailability of accurate data on the number of TB cases in the district. The numbers of VCT centers have increased in the district however, the existing numbers of ART centers fail to address the required demand of the ART users. Barriers for implementation of TB-HIV joint activities in Argakhanchi district are but not limited to inadequate support from the national level, lack of funds; poor monitoring and supervision from the DHO, human resource issues, geographical difficulties etc.

Conclusion: Intensive case finding of HIV patients followed by referral to the DOTS centre for further investigation and treatment for active TB and other opportunistic infection is essential in the district. A proper referral mechanism needs to be established by strengthening the service linkage between TB and HIV programs and strengthening the capacity of the health facilities and the health workers with appropriate trainings.

