

Effective way to Provide Care and Support for TB/HIV Co-infected People in Kaski, Nepal

Background: TB/HIV collaborative is vital to prevent TB in HIV positive people, which includes activities like; HIV testing of TB patients; intensified TB case-finding among PLHIV; Isoniazide Preventive Therapy (IPT) and Cotrimoxazole Preventive Therapy (CPT) for those without active TB and for co infected patients respectively and appropriate treatment, care and support.

Objectives: To implement TB/HIV Care and Support activities for TB/HIV co-infected people and develop interventional framework.

Methods: The study was conducted in kaski district of Nepal. Documents reviewed and Borden of TB/HIV co- infection assessed in coordination with DHO and stakeholders. District TB/HIV subcommittee formed, TB/HIV capacity building training/orientation for health workers/PLHIV/volunteers; TB/HIV communication; Intensified TB case finding HIV testing and counselling; HIV AIDS care and support; antiretroviral therapy were carried in line with implementation guideline of TB and HIV/AIDS collaboration.

Findings: Cross referral linkage between the ART centres, TB treatment centres/care home established. PLHIV enrolled in ART sites were regularly screened for TB. Eighty four PLHIV received intensive counselling and psychological support in care home. PLHIV screened for TB and 13 referred to TB diagnostic centres and 2 of them were diagnosed with TB.

Conclusion: Establish link between TB and HIV programme before implementation of collaborative activities. Joint planning, resource mobilization and clarity about roles/responsibilities of stakeholders are crucial. Collaborative activities and referral linkage between TB diagnostic/treatment centre and HIV counselling/testing centre was effective.

