Impact of COVID-19 on child and adolescent TB services: experiences from Africa

Dr Anthony Enimil
Infectious Diseases Specialist
Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (Ghana)
Outline

• General covid19 epidemiology from low/high incident setting
• Ghana’s example
  • Outpatient attendance – covid19 period
  • TB diagnosis - covid19 period

• Challenges from Adolescents with TB

• Way forward
South Africa covid19 data - October 2020

- TOTAL cases - 683,000
- Recovery: 617,000
- Death: 17,103
Ghana covid19 Data - October 2020

- TOTAL Cases: 46,829
- Recovery: 46,060
- Death: 303
Impact on National OPD attendance during covid19

Ghana Total OPD attendance

- Q1 2019: 7000000
- Q1 2020: 7000000
- Q2 2019: 8000000
- Q2 2020: 6000000
National OPD attendance trends in Ghana during covid19
National TB cases diagnosed in Ghana under covid19

Total TB cases diagnosed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Cases (in thousands)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1 2019</td>
<td>4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q1 2020</td>
<td>4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2 2019</td>
<td>3500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2 2020</td>
<td>2500</td>
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TB diagnosis trends since covid19
National Childhood Tuberculosis trend from 2010 to 2018
Estimated Detection GAP in 2019 for children < 15 years

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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACTUAL</td>
<td>823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPECTED</td>
<td>8320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAP</td>
<td>7497</td>
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</tbody>
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If such was the situation in NORMAL times, surely covid19 will further worsen the GAP in case detection.
Effect on TB services during 3 weeks of covid19 lockdown

• TB clinics were closed-Follow-up visits disrupted

• Medication centers were opened but not communicated appropriately

• Transportation (vehicles) to hospitals for medication were not available in cities that were locked down
Effect post-lockdown

• Hospitals were opened but mainly to essential services. Some Adolescents were not sure if their care was essential and stayed home.

• Medication centers continued their services, yet emphasis was on staying home which seem to be preferred option for some adolescents

• Transport services resumed but transport fee was deterrent for some
Administrative challenges

- Staff cohort to manage emergency and therefore all out-patients’ clinics were suspended

- Enablers packaged which supports nutrition and transport during treatment were also suspended

- No structured system to track adolescents who needed to refill their medication
Way forward to avert future challenges with other lockdowns

• Electronic database of clients (adolescents in care) with schedule visits, and drug refill dates

• Alert system/reminders with specific instructions on where to pick medication

• Arranging for WhatsApp or telephonic consultations with clinicians on wellbeing of adolescents with chronic infectious diseases
Summary

• We must keep engaging the adolescents with chronic diseases

• Lessons from covid19 must enable us develop functional models in consultation with adolescents with TB/HIV on how best establish continuum of care doing natural disasters and outbreaks
Acknowledgment

• National TB control Programme

• [www.worldometer.info](http://www.worldometer.info)

• Communications from Adolescents TB/HIV clinic, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital