FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE: AN ANALYSIS OF TB-HIV PROGRAM INTEGRATION

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Introduction

In May 2015, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) supported a study on collaborative TB-HIV activities in 2013–2014. The study was conducted by the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) in collaboration with ActionAid, TB Africa, and Action Global Health Advocacy Partnership (ACTION) to systematically document progress on implementing the Union’s 2012 policy on collaborative TB-HIV activities as well as global and country-level lessons for future action. This report is an important part of an overall initiative to support global and country-level efforts to increasingly integrate TB and HIV responses. Reviewing the implementation of national TB and HIV strategic plans and the ability to integrate TB-HIV activities into these plans is critical for improving access to care and treatment for people living with TB and HIV.

Methodology

To examine existing global policies on TB-HIV integration as well as to document the extent of implementation of TB-HIV collaborative activities, the study relied on a robust assessment framework. The framework included an analysis of national strategic plans; an assessment of national TB and HIV program activities; an analysis of Global Fund TB/HIV and Global Fund HIV grants; and interviews with government, civil society, and donor officials in 10 countries. The methodology was designed to examine global TB/HIV integration policies and their implementation, informed by four key gaps:

1. Country-level implementation: How national TB and HIV programs are adapting policies to ensure integration
2. Global Fund support: How Global Fund TB/HIV and Global Fund HIV funding are being used to supprot TB-HIV collaborative activities
3. Multistakeholder alignment: How different groups are working together to improve TB and HIV service delivery
4. Monitoring and evaluation: How TB-HIV policies and goals are being reviewed and evaluated

Analysis of National Strategic Plans

Analysis of Global Fund Grants

Documents Reviewed

Interventions Offered

Results

All 10 of the countries examined have TB national strategic plans and state that TB-HIV integration is a priority in their plans. All countries also have TB-HIV collaborative activities in their national strategic plans. However, in only 7 of the countries do TB-HIV collaborative activities explicitly state that they are aligned with national TB and HIV strategic plans. Among the 10 countries, TB-HIV collaborative activities are most overtly visible in their national strategic plans in Cameroon and Tanzania. In all 10 countries, TB-HIV collaborative activities are mentioned in Global Fund grants. In 9 of the countries, TB-HIV collaborative activities are mentioned in Global Fund TB/HIV grants.

Recommendations

For High-TB- and High-HIV-Burden Countries

1. Governments should work with donors to incorporate TB-HIV collaborative activities into TB and HIV strategic plans. These plans outline the scope and scale of TB and HIV interventions, and how they will be delivered. These plans should identify priority TB-HIV collaborative activities and include them in the national TB and HIV strategic plans.

2. Countries should ensure that TB-HIV collaborative activities are included in Global FundTB/HIV and Global Fund HIV grants. These grants should specify the scope and scale of TB-HIV collaborative activities and how they will be implemented.

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References


