

Policy and Advocacy Bulletin

December 2010

ZAMSTAR South Africa Prevalence Survey Update



The South African arm of the ZAMSTAR TB and HIV Prevalence Survey is in its last burst of activity. They will be completing the survey on the 15th December in time for the Christmas Holiday.

Some sites already completed their targets and travel on a daily basis to help other teams enroll participants. The team spirit has certainly taken hold with staff working very long hours in order to meet the deadline. The laboratory staff have been fantastic with their handling of hundreds of sputum samples every day.

The Secondary Outcome Cohort Study (SOCS) Teams are also finishing their third SOCS visit, having followed a cohort of people from all sites for the duration of the ZAMSTAR study.

On a sad note, many, Field Staff, in particular will be finishing their work with ZAMSTAR at the end of this year, but they will certainly leave with the acquisition of many new skills and hopefully a bright future.

We wish to thank all of the staff for their hard and enthusiastic work during 2010.

ZamLab CTL goes global



ZAMBART's containerized BSL-3 laboratories are attracting attention from around the world. Groups working in Peru, Kenya, Ghana, Haiti and Zambia are placing orders for their own CTLs. In addition, two CTLs will be used to construct a new BSL-3 facility at the UTH TB laboratory in Lusaka.

At the 2010 International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD) Conference in Berlin in November, ZAMBART staff presented an update on the use of the containerized labs in the ZAMSTAR TB Prevalence Survey. Also in Berlin, BD, manufacturers of MGIT equipment and reagents, hosted a symposium on containerized laboratories featuring the ZamLab CTL.

"We had a mock CTL in the conference hall for people to tour during the recent Union Conference which gathered a lot of interest," said Barry Kosloff, ZamLab CTL Project Manager. "ZAMBART staff should be proud of the pioneering work they are doing in these unique laboratories and tell people that they were the first to work in a ZamLab CTL."

For more information on ZamLab CTL check out its [official web page](#).

Stigma-related drama performances conducted in build up to WAD commemoration in Lusaka



The Zambia AIDS Related TB (ZAMBART) Project through its Strengthening TB, AIDS and Malaria Prevention Programme facilitated eight drama performances in Chawama,

Kanyama, George and Chipata (ZAMSTAR study) communities as part of build up activities held to commemorate World AIDS Day in Lusaka, Zambia. In addition, the organization supported volunteer counsellors who were involved in conducting VCT during these satellite activities in collaboration with the clinic.

The drama performances held centered on themes such as encouraging the audience to go for VCT, TB testing and TB/HIV anti stigma messages. Over 1,380 people attended the eight drama performances. Anecdotal feedback from the audiences confirmed that they found the drama performances educational and urged ZAMBART to conduct more of these performances, especially on the topic of TB related stigma, in the future.

Community TB Case Finding Project Underway



A group 37 TB nurses, anti-stigma trainers and treatment supporters were welcomed to the ZAMBART House for an intensive training course designed to prepare them to carry out enhanced TB case finding (ECF) activities in local communities as part of an extension of activities carried out during the three year Zambia-South Africa TB and AIDS Reduction (ZAMSTAR) study intervention phase.

"As you are aware the ZAMSTAR study, a study which was conducted by ZAMBART project in 16 communities, is finishing by the end of this year," said Musonda Simwinga, ZAMSTAR study manager. "However we have secured funding to continue conducting the TB case finding activities within the communities and this training is essentially a refresher course for trainers."

Throughout the study, various local stakeholders participated in the screening of TB suspects, diagnosis, treatment and follow up of TB patients to improve adherence through the social mobilization approach. The community health workers (CHWs), more particularly TB treatment supporters, were recognized as one of the key players in the ECF strategy. Subsequently, they have shown great interest in continuing with the ECF intervention as a community initiative by utilizing the existing ECF structures such as open access screening points located at the clinics.

As a result, TB CAP, which is funding from USAID and distributed through the KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation, has allowed for ZAMBART to create the Community TB Case Finding Project which is the continuation of the ZAMSTAR TB Enhanced Case Finding (ECF) intervention.

"The Community TB Case Finding Project is the extension of the ZAMSTAR TB Enhanced Case Finding (ECF) intervention, which has come to an end. The purpose of this

workshop was to orient participants on how to manage and sustain the continuation of ECF activities, basic TB facts and the role of TB treatment supporters in TB control," said Lawrence Mwenge, ZAMBART's resident Health Economist and co-creator of the training. "The participants were also trained and had a hand in how to use different participatory teaching techniques."

Kick TB at the Union Conference in Berlin



The Kick TB campaign is now a strong brand name in South Africa. The campaign will continue for at least the next 4 years, as we believe that we now have the 'magic recipe' for making a huge difference to learners' perceptions of TB and helping them to become little 'TB case finders' in their various households.

The Kick TB campaign was very visible at the 41st UNION World TB and Lung Health Conference in Berlin, Germany (11-15 November 2010). We exhibited all the campaign elements and gave other countries guidance on how to successfully implement Kick TB in their unique conditions. At present we are working closely with India, the Phillippines, Ghana and Kenya who have shown great interest in implementing Kick TB in their countries..

Please see our vibrant Kick TB website for further information: www.kicktb.co.za.

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