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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Mailman School of Public Health

ICAP Lesotho

Innovative strategies to increase early TB case detection among miners and their families in Lesotho

Background

- Lesotho is a landlocked country completely surrounded by South Africa
- Lesotho has a new TB case rate of 632/100,000; 80% are co-infected with HIV
- Mining sector in South Africa has TB incidence ~3,000-7,000 per 100,000 miners per year
- Migratory nature of population and geography are key challenges to TB/HIV control
- ~25% of miners are migrants from Lesotho. An estimated 34,000 men are recruited to work in South African mines by The Employment Bureau of Africa (TEBA)
- Basotho miners move regularly between South Africa (the mines) and Lesotho (family), often on weekends and receive deferred pay at TEBA offices back home
- Intervention is needed to ensure early diagnosis and successful treatment of tuberculosis among Basotho miners and their families

Methods

Interventions

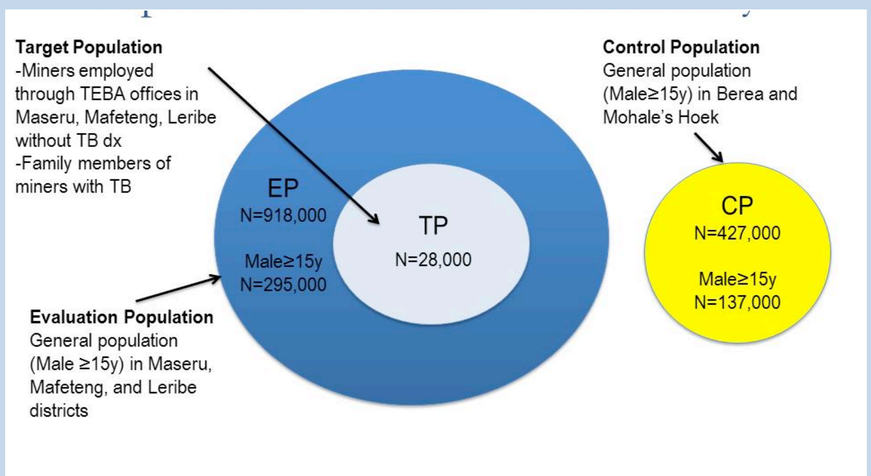
- Establish point of care in three border districts with highest recruitment of miners
- Active TB screening of miners upon arrival with a symptom questionnaire at TEBA offices (open seven days per week and visited by miners on a monthly basis)
- On-the-spot sputum collection for same day Xpert MTB/RIF testing
- Same day TB treatment initiation on-site
- Directly observed therapy through TEBA Home-Based Care Program
- Adherence monitoring and support through computer-based SMS system
- Active case finding of household contacts provided by TEBA home-based care, with early diagnosis and treatment

Innovations

- Weekend clinics at non-traditional points of entry
- TB diagnosis and treatment linked to deferred pay
- GeneXpert: same day diagnosis and on-site
- Automated SMS system
- Task shifting with on-site care supporters
- Public-Private Partnership

Evaluation

Impact evaluation: populations to assess "additionality"

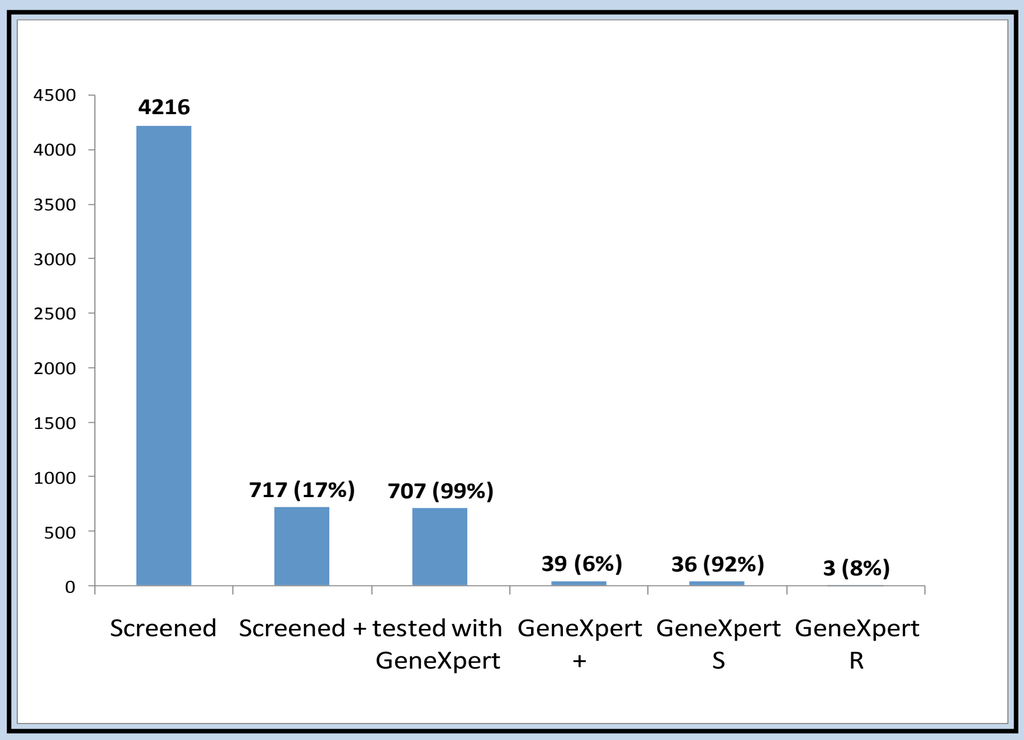


Impact Evaluation: Additionality Targets

	Baseline for Lesotho	Baseline for Evaluation Population (Male ≥15 years)	Target Case Notification for Year 1	Additionality (Year 1 minus baseline)
Population (# people)	1,876,633	918,000		
SS+/B+ notifications	3,510	1,790	2,758	968
All TB cases notified	12,621	6,555	7,776	1,221

Interventions in three TEBA district offices with highest recruitment of miners: Maseru, Mafeteng and Leribe

Official launch TB Reach Project by Minister of Health, Maseru, July 30, 2013

GeneXpert in TEBA-based Lab

Preliminary results: August-September 2013