



Accelerating progress to end TB

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Presenter
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Optimizing Tuberculosis Care: Ritshidze project's evidence-driven approach

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Background

- ❖ This presentation centers on accelerating progress towards ending TB through the Ritshidze programme.
- ❖ This is a dynamic initiative aimed at enhancing the quality of HIV and TB service delivery in South Africa.
- ❖ Focused on the latest advances and innovations in TB prevention and treatment, Ritshidze explores groundbreaking strategies across diverse settings.
- ❖ Emphasizing integrated care for individuals with comorbidities, the programme addresses TB service delivery within the health system and community, and cost-effective interventions for improved quality across the TB care cascade.



Methodology

- ❖ Ritshidze employs a thorough and comprehensive methodology for evidence gathering at 400 clinics and community healthcare centers across 27 districts in 8 provinces in South Africa.
- ❖ With a quarterly data collection cycle, the Ritshidze utilizes both online surveys through the "CommCare" app and traditional paper surveys.
- ❖ The objective of Ritshidze is to improve the quality of HIV, TB, and other health services for people living with HIV, people who use drugs, sex workers, the LGBTQIA+ community, and other public healthcare users in South Africa.
- ❖ Through Ritshidze, community members systematically collect data at local clinics that are analysed, and then used to generate solutions to problems that are put to duty bearers for action.




Results

- ❖ Preliminary findings from the Ritshidze project provide insight into the challenges faced by individuals accessing TB services.
- ❖ Derived from both clinic-based and community-based monitoring, results highlight critical aspects such as waiting times, clinic functionality, staff professionalism, TB infection control measures, and the patient perspective.
- ❖ Ritshidze scrutinizes the functionality of adherence clubs, facility management perspectives, and stockouts/shortages of medicines, forming the basis for evidence-based recommendations.

How do we know if our clinics have good TB infection control?

- Is there enough room in the waiting area?
- Are the windows open?
- Are people who cough a lot or who may have TB given tissues or TB masks?
- Are there posters telling you to cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing?
- Are you seen within 1 hour 15 minutes of arriving at the facility?
- Are people in the facility waiting area asked if they have TB symptoms?
- Are people who are coughing separated from those who are not?

SCORING SYSTEM:
RED 3+ questions answered "no"
YELLOW 1-2 questions answered "no"
GREEN 0 questions answered "no"



Lessons learnt

- ❖ Implementation of the Ritshidze project has yielded invaluable lessons for optimizing TB care.
- ❖ Establishing good working relationships with clinic managers, ensuring a thorough introduction to the project, and navigating challenges effectively are key lessons.
- ❖ Ritshidze emphasises the importance of collaboration, continuous engagement, and data verification for successful implementation and comprehensive service enhancement.
- ❖ People living with HIV and members of key populations need the public health system to work, so they are the first to notice when it doesn't.
- ❖ Ritshidze empowers communities to monitor the health services they receive and to advocate for the changes needed. This type of community-led monitoring is an indispensable strategy to hold duty bearers accountable to improve the quality of health services that people living with HIV and members of key populations receive.
- ❖ We need Ritshidze now more than ever.



Recommendations

- ❖ Based on the research findings and lessons learned, Ritshidze puts forward recommendations for advancing TB care.
- ❖ Strategies include optimizing clinic functionality, enhancing staff professionalism, strengthening adherence club functionality, and addressing stockouts/shortages of medicines.
- ❖ Ritshidze advocates for the integration of these recommendations into health systems, emphasizing system strengthening, health promotion, and environmental health.
- ❖ Continuous monitoring and evaluation are proposed for sustained impact, contributing significantly to accelerating progress in the global mission to end TB.



Thank you!!

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