Assessing TB-HIV Service Collaboration in Ukraine

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Background

Since 2001, TB-HIV co-infection incidence has been rising steadily in Ukraine, reaching its highest levels among people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA). The number of cases of co-infection increased sharply from 2001 to 2005, from 1,258 to 10,333. Since 2001, TB-HIV co-infection is considered to be a ‘Notifiable Disease’ in Ukraine with reporting mandatory. The number of TB-HIV cases in Ukraine has increased steadily between 2001 and 2005, rising from approximately 1,258 cases to around 10,333 cases. The number of cases peaked in 2005 when they were at their highest. The number of new TB-HIV cases in Ukraine in 2005 was 10,333 and this represents an increase of more than 85% from the figures in 2001. Since 2001, TB-HIV co-infection incidence has been rising steadily in Ukraine, reaching its highest levels among people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA). The number of cases of co-infection increased sharply from 2001 to 2005, from 1,258 to 10,333. Since 2001, TB-HIV co-infection is considered to be a ‘Notifiable Disease’ in Ukraine with reporting mandatory. The number of TB-HIV cases in Ukraine has increased steadily between 2001 and 2005, rising from approximately 1,258 cases to around 10,333 cases. The number of cases peaked in 2005 when they were at their highest. The number of new TB-HIV cases in Ukraine in 2005 was 10,333 and this represents an increase of more than 85% from the figures in 2001.

Methods

A total of 10 respondents participated in this study. Sites included HIV/AIDS centers, TB dispensaries, regional health authorities, primary health care institutions, and sanitary epidemiological stations. Data were gathered using in-depth interviews (IDIs) with the following groups:

- TB patients - total of 36 IDs (15 interviews in each city: Gorlivka, Mariupol’, and Dniprodzerzhynsk).
- PLHA - total of 30 IDs (10 interviews in each city).
- Medical providers - total of 10 IDs in three cities.
- TB and HIV experts - total of 15 IDs in three cities.

The IDIs were conducted according to pretested interview guides.

Results of IDIs with TB Patients and PLHA

Awareness about TB-HIV co-infection and perceived risk of getting infected are low among the majority of TB patients and PLHA. Only one third of PLHA and some TB patients feel that they are at high risk of TB-HIV co-infection.

Participants expressed a lack of knowledge about TB-HIV collaboration between the services. Providers’ lack of knowledge and skills are also significant.

Participants were asked if they knew that TB and HIV could co-infect a person. They perceived that awareness about TB-HIV co-infection is low among the majority of PLHA and patients.

Participants were asked if they received any information about TB-HIV co-infection. They perceived that awareness about TB-HIV co-infection is low among the majority of PLHA and patients.

Conclusions

There is an urgent need to adopt and implement the World Health Organization’s recommendations for collaborative TB-HIV services in Ukraine. Collaboration between the two programs is still at very early stages and implementation is not adjusted to the needs of PLHA and TB patients. There is an urgent need to adopt and implement the World Health Organization’s recommendations for collaborative TB-HIV services in Ukraine. Collaboration between the two programs is still at very early stages and implementation is not adjusted to the needs of PLHA and TB patients. There is an urgent need to adopt and implement the World Health Organization’s recommendations for collaborative TB-HIV services in Ukraine. Collaboration between the two programs is still at very early stages and implementation is not adjusted to the needs of PLHA and TB patients.