Kenya is among the 22 TB high burden countries in the world and is among the top five from sub Saharan Africa. 75% of childhood cases occur annually in these 22 high-burden countries that together account for 80% of the world’s estimated incident cases. The risk of progression from TB infection to disease and development of disseminated TB is increased in the very young (0-5 years), immuno-compromised and malnourished children. Despite this reality, most malnourished children under-five receive treatment for malnutrition, but TB screening is not routinely done.

Results
A total of 48 children below five years with malnutrition were screened. 12 (25%) of these had presumptive TB. 7 (15%) were diagnosed with TB and started on treatment. Out of the seven children, 6 (86%) had Cough and 5 (71.4%) had history of close contact with a person with TB.

Background
To conduct intensified case finding for TB among malnourished children below five years old attending Isiolo County Referral Hospital MCH.

Objective
To conduct intensified case finding for TB among malnourished children below five years old attending Isiolo County Referral Hospital MCH.

Methodology
To conduct intensified case finding for Tuberculosis among children below five years old with malnutrition, sensitisation was done to MCH staff after gaining buy-in from the hospital management. This was facilitated by the CTLC, SCTLC and implementing partners.

Standard national ICF screening tool customised to capture the weight, and MUAC was used. Triaging of children attending MCH was done by the nurse and any child below five years old with any form of malnutrition was referred to the clinical officer who administered the screening tool. Children with presumptive TB were subjected to a Chest X ray and managed appropriately. The activity took place for one month.

Data from the screening tools were then summarised in Excel and basic analysis was done. The total number of children screened, total number of children with presumptive TB, and total number of children diagnosed with TB, were the parameters analysed.

Results

Results of Tuberculosis screening among malnourished children below five years old in Isiolo County Referral Hospital (n=48)

- 75% No clinical symptoms or signs
- 25% Presumptive TB
- 15% TB Diagnosed

Lessons Learned
- Intensified case finding for TB among children below five years with malnutrition helps enhance Childhood TB diagnosis
- Involvement of all stakeholders in the facility is key for success of TB ICF to ensure no missed opportunities
- Further research is required to determine the incidence of TB among children below five years with malnutrition in the community

Conclusion
Intensified case finding for Tuberculosis among children below five years with malnutrition attending MCH clinics is possible and enhances early diagnosis and treatment for Tuberculosis in the high risk group.

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