Aligning TB Control Activities to Devolved System of Governance in Kenya

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Background

• Kenya adopted a new constitution in 2013
• As a result, all aspects of health care services including TB control activities were devolved to the 47 newly created semi-autonomous counties
• One of the consequences of devolution in TB control in Kenya was lack of coordination of control activities leading to severe shortage of TB drugs experienced in 2014
• During that year, neither the counties nor the national government budgeted for procurement of the drugs
• The country was forced to get drugs from Malawi
• To ensure proper coordination of TB control activities under devolved system, there was need for the national TB control program to realign with the system

Methods

• In 2014, two consultative meetings were held between National TB, Leprosy and Lung Disease Program (NTLD-Program) and County Health Managers from all the 47 counties
• All counties have agreed to appoint County TB and Leprosy Coordinators (CTLCs)
• Number of TB control zone coordinators rose from 257 in 2013 to current 289
• Counties have been organized into 17 clusters for ease of coordination and facilitation of quarterly data review meetings based on county proximity to each other and similarities in TB burden
• Each of the 17 clusters have held independently 8 quarterly meetings with technical assistance from NTLD-Program

Results

• As at February 2016, all the 47 counties had appointed County TB and Leprosy Coordinators (CTLCs)
• NTLD-Program has conducted 4 technical assistance missions jointly with county health officials
• Two data quality assessment missions
• Counties have access to their specific TB data
• Few counties have set aside money for TB control activities in their annual budgets
• However, there are still aspects that counties need to take up including facilitating sub county coordinators to conduct routine support supervision, provision of tools, and support of the electronic surveillance system

Conclusion

• Efforts made by NTLD-Program to align TB control to the devolved system have borne fruits.
• There is clear coordination of service delivery and little disruption of services
• NTLD-Program has continued to engage county leaders on matters related to TB control

Quarterly meetings

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County Health Directors and County TB Coordinators at the Consensus Building Meeting in Nairobi, 2014

Quarterly meetings