

**PS-100224-13 TB control activities in conflict-ridden Ituri in Democratic Republic of Congo**

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**Background:** In 2006, NTP assessed performance of Provincial Coordination Units (PCU) in the whole nation and identified 5 underachieving PCUs. Among them, Province Oriental East (POE) in Ituri district in north-eastern region, which faced the ethnic conflict (2001–2004) and under insecure situation even after the ceasefire, failed in improving the performance.

**Objectives:** To identify influential factors associated with conflict in order to protect the people for TB.

**Methods:** We compared the POE data with Bas Congo West (BCW), PCU in relatively peaceful region. Aggregated available data were obtained from POE and BCW archives for the past ten years: 3 years pre-conflict, 4 years conflict and 3 years post-conflict phases. The major compared indices were detection rate and treatment outcomes of new smear positive (SS+) and relapse cases.

**Results:** Of new SS+, both case detection and cured rates in BCW were significantly higher than that in POE ( $P < 0.0001$  and  $P < 0.0001$ , respectively). Default rate was significantly higher in POE ( $P < 0.0001$ ) than BCW. In POE, 32.1% of patients were not evaluated in 2001, and about 112% of patients were evaluated in 2004. For relapse cases, cured rate of POE was remained less than 60% with high fluctuations. Death, default and failed rates were still higher in POE than BCW. TB-HIV was reported by many NGO's as life threatening conditions for people in Ituri.

**Conclusion:** The magnitude of the problems influenced on the default rate was great in POE, which seems due to destruction of health facilities and displacing population led by the conflict. With paying more attention on MDR-TB emergence in Ituri, we recommend: 1) Promoting public education by utilizing former TB patients; 2) Launching alternative DOTS strategy for conflict area; 3) Establishing better surveillance system in collaboration with humanitarian agencies; and 4) Providing care for co-infected TB-HIV with active case detection activities.