Implementation of TB activities in Prisons in Cambodia

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Background: Closed-settings such as prisons where effective TB-control services are often lacking, promote TB-transmission. With support from USAID through TBCARE I, FHI 360 supports the Cambodia government to provide TB/HIV services in prisons.

Intervention: Prison health post staffs were trained to identify TB suspects among prisoners, collect and prepare sputum smears; sending to a TB microscopy laboratory for diagnosis. All positive prisoners were offered HIV-testing. Smear negative TB-suspects, seriously ill TB-patients with/or HIV co-infected were referred for diagnosis and management to hospitals. In addition to routine case finding, mass-screening of all inmates was conducted annually using symptom-screening, chest X-ray and sputum smear microscopy. The project expanded from three prisons (3,034 inmates) in 2009 to seven prisons (4,901 inmates) in 2011.

Results:

TB Notification Rate among General Population and Prison from 2009 to 2011

Treatment Success Rate Among General Population and Prison from 2009 to 2011

Conclusions and key recommendations: It is effective to provide quality TB/HIV-services in prisons using existing staff. Routine TB-case finding, coupled with annual mass-screening of all inmates, lead to rapid decrease in TB-case-notification rates in prisons. Despite the decline in the past three years, the case-notification rate in prisons is still seven-times higher.