

# **Determinants for the Successful Project Implementation of Myanmar Medical Association Active Case Finding TB Project in selected Townships**

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## **Abstract**

Myanmar Medical Association (MMA) implemented the Active Case Finding (ACF) tuberculosis (TB) project in twelve townships with trained community health volunteers (CHVs) in collaboration with National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP) since 2014. This study aimed to find out the determinants for implementation of active case finding of TB by MMA and its contribution for NTP. A mixed method study was conducted in 2018 in Sintgaing and Kyauktan townships. The secondary data of MMA ACF project from 2016 to 2017 were analyzed. Two focus group discussions (FGDs) with community health volunteers and two FGDs with TB patients, 14 key informant interviews with lab technician, X ray technician, TB coordinator, local authorities and basic health staffs and four in depth interviews with field medical officer and field assistant from MMA ACF projects and also pair-wised ranking with each group of FGDs were conducted to identify most important factors for success of ACF for TB. Nearly one third of all forms of TB (4049/14152) and bacteriological confirmed TB cases (1503/5179) were contributed to NTP by MMA ACF TB project. Among examined 1953 contacts of TB patients from 2016 to 2017, 104 (5.3%) were positive TB. High knowledge was prominent in about cause and transmission of TB, diagnosis of TB by signs and symptoms and sputum examination, duration and timing of drug taken, preventable method by covering mouth. The proportion of high knowledge on TB was 52.4% in Kyauktan and 45.8% in Sintgaing Townships. There was no significant difference in knowledge level of CHV on TB ( $p=0.661$ ). Almost all CHV had satisfactory attitudes on prevention and control of TB care as well as care on TB patients. Two third of CHV referred presumptive TB patients ( $\geq 6$  patients per month) and three fourth of CHVs accompanied them to township hospital. There was no significant difference in knowledge and attitude on TB prevention, control and care in both townships. During ranking, volunteers mainly highlighted on financial support to patients/volunteers, volunteer selection and training as the important determinants while patients prioritized on providing health education and volunteers accompanying to health facility. Key informants mentioned that collaboration and supervision of public health sector and leader role of MMA field medical officers were also essential for success of ACF project. Other determinants included community acceptance on volunteers and their involvement, close monitoring and supervision to volunteers, providing reasonable incentives for volunteers, having a strong communication with volunteers and local assigned providers, and increasing the manpower of technicians for diagnosis at public sector. In conclusion, number of all forms and bacteriological confirmed TB cases contributed to NTP by MMA ACF TB project was high. Not only financial support for patients/volunteers but also volunteer selection and performance were key determinants for successful implementation of ACF TB project. Human resources at public health sector and community involvement are also essential.