

Lesotho

Background Information

Lesotho is completely surrounded by South Africa

It is among the least 49 developed countries

The gross domestic product (GDP) IS 2.420 USD

58% the population live below the poverty line

80% of the population depends on agriculture

The population is 2.2 million



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General info (latest available data 2005 cohort)

Case detection rate:	80%
New cases:	696/100.000
HIV prevalence in total population	23.4%
HIV prevalence in TB cases	64%
Re-treatment cases:	638
Smear positive cases	4935
MDR-TB cases	
Among new patients	0.9% and 0.4%
Among previously treated patients	

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TB control programme performance (2005 cohort)

Cured 3958 (73%)

Failed 50 (1%)

Defaulted 205 (4%)

Died 456 (8%)

Transferred out 322 (6%)

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MDR treatment and management

**MDR/TB patients are treated as ambulatory as we don't have enough isolation wards
Renovation of MDR hospital is in progress with three isolation wards**

Treatment is observed throughout the initial phase and continuation phase

Second line treatment were introduced late in 2004 four patients were put on treatment one patient survived and three died

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MDR treatment and management

All cases that are resistant to rifampicin and isoniazid are treated with second line drugs

Standardized treatment with 2nd line drugs: drugs used in the initial phase are **amikacin, ethionamide, pyrazinamide, ciprofloxacin and ethambutol**. Continuation phase drugs are **ethionamide, ciprofloxacin, and ethambutol**

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History and current availability of second-line anti-TB drugs

Second line drugs are available in public sector only as they have been introduced recently in 2004

Application was submitted to GCL in 2006 and approved for 40 patients

PIH submitted the proposal with the support of ministry of health

Country

The Laboratory network

There is 1 reference lab (Central Lab) and 17 other labs that are all fitted with Class II safety cabinets and all perform smear microscopy

All culture and DST is performed at the Central Lab

Central Lab is responsible for supervising all other labs

Culture/DST activities

All culture and DST is performed using Lowenstein-Jensen solid media

DST for isoniazid, rifampin, ethambutol, and streptomycin is performed using the proportion method. No capacity to perform DST for 2nd line drugs in-country. Find is working hard to improve laboratory capacity

In 2006 150 cultures and only 30 DST's were performed.

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Culture activities

All culture and DST has previously been performed per clinicians request

NTP policy has been recently reviewed and Culture and DST is to be performed for all retreatment cases and also at the clinicians request

Culture/DST activities

- **In 2006 a lot effort has been made into improving the culture and DST capabilities of the Central Lab**
- **A relationship with the SA MRC supra-national lab has been recently established for proficiency testing.**

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Drug Resistance surveillance/surveys

The last nationwide MDRTB survey conducted was in 1995 and the prevalence was 0.4%

With the assistance of PIH and URC and the Massachusetts supra-national lab a rapid XDRTB survey was conducted in 2 districts bordering Kwa-Zulu/Natal

Country

Drug Resistance surveillance/surveys

HIV testing has been offered to all survey participants and most have been tested

A nationwide MDRTB survey is being planned to start in the third quarter of 2007.

All participants of the survey will be offered HIV testing and Anonymous unlinked HIV testing of the sputum samples will be conducted as part of the survey

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Technical Assistance needs for drug resistance surveillance and control

Culture and DST capabilities of the Central Laboratory require strengthening and especially the introduction of liquid media for culture and DST. FIND IS assisting Lesotho to improve culture and DST. T. A. now available

CDC and URC is assisting in the design of MDR TB protocol

TA is required for continued survey protocol design.

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ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2006

APPROVAL OF GDF DRUGS

APPROVAL OF GCL DRUGS

RENOVATION OF MDR HOSPITAL

**RECRUITMENT OF STAFF FOR MDR
HOSPITAL, 2 DOCTORS 4 NURSES 6
NURSING ASSISTANTS**

**TRAINING OF HEALTH WORKERS ON
MDR MANAGEMENT**

ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2006

- **IMPROVING LABORATORY CAPACITY**
- **RENOVATION OF LABORATORY TO PERFORM DST.**
- **T,A FROM FIND IN PLACE**

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- THANK YOU
- KEA LEBOHA
- CPACIBO BOLSHOUE