



SUCCESS STORY

Empowering Community-Based Organizations to Fight TB

Involving CBOs is key to increasing access to information and TB services for rural communities in a large country where the prevalence rate is estimated at 257 per 100,000 people.



MSH

Kiden Selina (left) photographed with colleagues during the Trainer of Trainees training session in Juba, South Sudan.

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-- Kiden Selina, field supervisor, TOT trainee

Kiden Selina exudes confidence as she talks excitedly about completing the training of trainers (TOT) organized by USAID-funded Challenge TB (CTB) for its community-based organization (CBO) partners in Juba, South Sudan.

“We will be choosing TB patients under treatment and then traveling to their respective villages to investigate their close and household contacts, and bring those with TB symptoms to the hospital for diagnosis,” said Selina, currently a field supervisor for Yei Martha Clinic based in Yei, South Sudan.

Selina supports and supervises Home Health Promoters (HHPs) and compiles reports on their activities. However, as a new recruit, her knowledge of TB was very limited. Through the TOT in April 2016, she gained understanding, inspiration and confidence.

“I have learned very many things, including how to prevent TB, how one can get infected, and how to conduct a contact investigation,” she said. “This training has taught me what I need to know about TB in order to do my work. I am going to reach out to our young ones in the villages and those who are affected by TB so that they can get treatment.”

Decades of war and underdevelopment in South Sudan mean that rural communities now have limited access to health care due to weak health systems and scant infrastructure. Involving CBOs is key to increasing access to information and TB services for rural communities in a large country where the prevalence rate is estimated at 257 per 100,000 people.

The 13 TOT participants (nine men, four women) represented four CBOs in Juba, Yei, Mundri and Morobo counties. The CTB team introduced the basics of TB, community-based TB prevention and control approaches, DOTS strategies and management, donor financial policies, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting.

“It’s not only health professionals who should be concerned with the management of TB patients: fighting TB in South Sudan is everyone’s challenge,” said Shadrach Kia, Program Coordinator for AIDS Resistant Trust, after the session.

“Through this workshop, I’m encouraged to contribute to the fight against TB, and we are going to get everybody involved—our community leaders, church leaders, youth and women leaders—because everybody is at risk of contracting TB.”