

Tuberculosis Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices in Bhutanese Refugees

Background:

Tuberculosis is common in the UNHCR Bhutanese refugee camps. The IOM has identified that refugees who are not actively screened for TB through third country resettlement protocols have sputum smears with increased infectiousness. This suggests that refugees waited a prolonged period of time between the onset of symptoms and the start of treatment. This increases the risk of transmission to others due to higher levels of bacteria in the sputum and longer periods of exposure. Delay in seeking care is related to a lack of TB knowledge.

Objectives:

What are the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) related to TB of Bhutanese Refugees living in the four UNHCR Refugee Camps in Nepal?

Methods:

A cross-sectional survey of the TB-KAP of Bhutanese refugees will be conducted over a three-month period in the refugees camps. A 53-item TB-KAP questionnaire will be administered to 385 Bhutanese refugees. Demographic and camp characteristic data will be also be collected. A randomized household list was provided by the UNHCR. Participants within a household will be selected randomly. A focus group will be conducted to explore refugees' interpretation of the quantitative TB-KAP results.

Results:

Results of this study will provide IOM with needed data on specific aspects of TB-KAP. The TB-KAP data will be presented as frequency distributions and percent Data collection and analysis will be completed in December 2012.

Conclusions:

Findings of this study will be used to create TB programming that targets the specific barriers to seeking care for TB symptomatology.