

TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Active Engagement of Community Advisory Committee to Promote Accountability for Micro-Elimination of Hepatitis B research transmission in peri- urban Yangon, Myanmar
Туре	Oral Presentation
	Working with Underserved Populations towards Community Empowerment
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Micro-elimination of vertical hepatitis B (HBV) transmission requires identification of all pregnant women with HBV in an area, and delivery of evidence-based interventions to each mother and newborn. Improving coverage of HBV interventions requires not only public and NGO sector health services but also active community engagement. Community Advisory Committee (CAC) participates in design and evaluation processes of a project aiming to eliminate HBV vertical transmission in two periurban Yangon Townships. Meeting notes from guarterly CAC meetings and individual meetings from the project's first two years were reviewed to capture expressed opinions and consensus decisions. The CAC's 23 members include government representatives, which contributed to screening of 6152 pregnant women at government facilities, sharing data, and referral to BKKee Clinic (project NGO) for additional workup of HBV+ pregnant Content women. The CAC recommended that the project engage the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association to conduct community-based health education on HBV and outreach visits, and to identify pregnant women, which led to enrolment of approximately 200 pregnant women per year, 42% of whom had not previously engaged in antenatal care (ANC). The CAC indicated that working pregnant mothers cannot access ANC at facilities on weekdays, and consequently the NGO clinic opens on Sundays. The active involvement of the CAC facilitated project implementation and contributed to the prevention of HBV vertical transmission. CACs may provide a template to augment governance structures of other population-based programs aiming to deliver complex evidence-based interventions in low-resource health systems

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