Incentives that Influence Low Income Filipinos with TB Symptoms to Change Health-seeking Behaviour: A Randomized Controlled Trial

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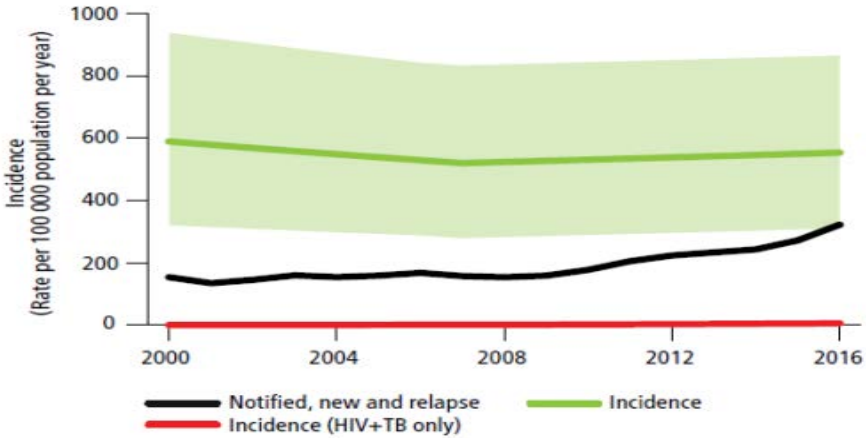
INTERNATIONAL CARE MINISTRIES 25 UNWAVERING PASSION. STEADFAST HOPE

Philippines

Population: 103.3 million
7,641 islands (2000 inhibited)
GDP per capita: $2753.30 USD
Middle income country
Developing -> Developed country

National TB prevalence surveys



Estimates of TB burden,[a] 2016

	Number (thousands)	Rate (per 100 000 population)
Mortality (excludes HIV+TB)	22 (22–22)	21 (21–22)
Mortality (HIV+TB only)	0.3 (0–2.6)	0.29 (0–2.5)
Incidence (includes HIV+TB)	573 (321–895)	554 (311–866)
Incidence (HIV+TB only)	6 (2.5–11)	5.9 (2.4–11)
Incidence (MDR/RR-TB)[b]	30 (21–40)	30 (20–39)

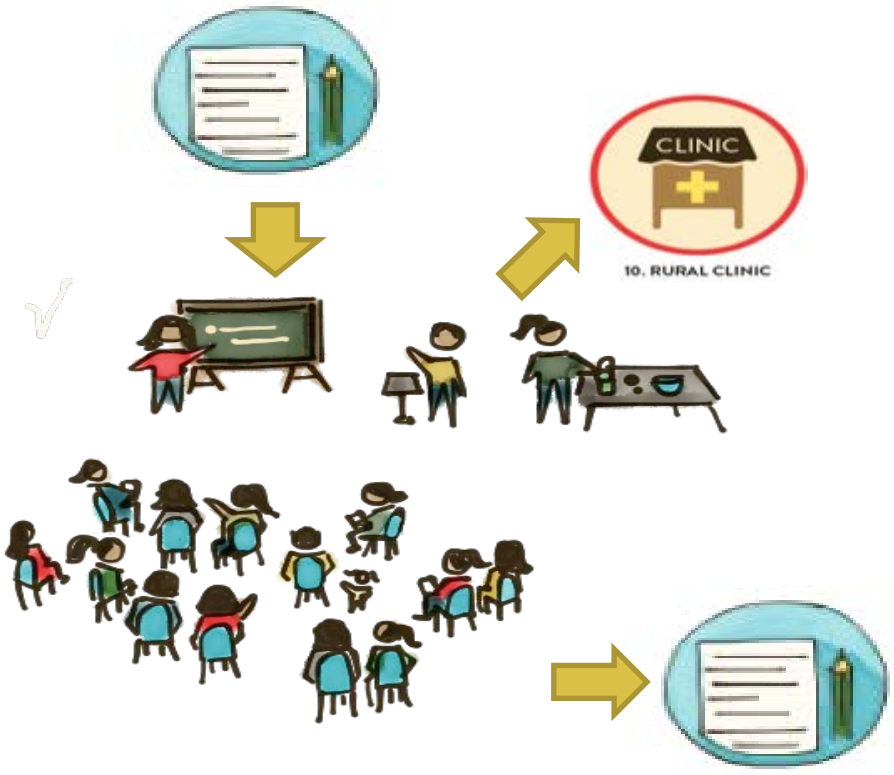
Estimated TB incidence by age and sex (thousands),[a] 2016

	0–14 years	> 14 years	Total
Females	33 (16–50)	136 (68–205)	169 (84–255)
Males	37 (18–56)	366 (182–550)	403 (200–606)
Total	70 (35–106)	502 (249–755)	573 (321–895)

We wanted to

Understand how incentives (financial or food) might influence active case-finding outcomes among ultra-poor Filipinos.

Methods



- part of ICM's *Transform* program
- About 8000 ultra poor ($0.50/day) Filipinos per batch
- ACF: TB symptoms (week 2 of 16 week program)
- referral to the closest rural health unit (RHU) for TB testing.

Methods

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
1. Referral only	1. Referral 2. 4 Nutripacks before RHU visit 3. Additional 4 Nutripacks*	1. Referral 2. Round trip transportation cost $ before RHU visit 3. Additional transportation cost $*	1. Referral 2. 4 Nutripacks & transportation cost $ before RHU visit 3. Additional 4 Nutripacks & transportation $*

*ONLY for those who need to go back to check test result at RHU

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Methods

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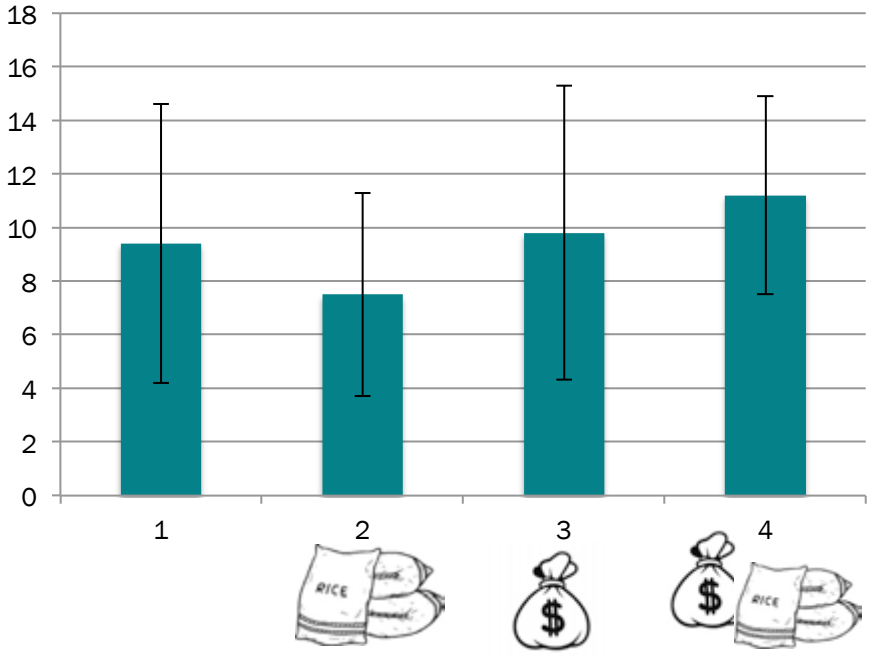
Results

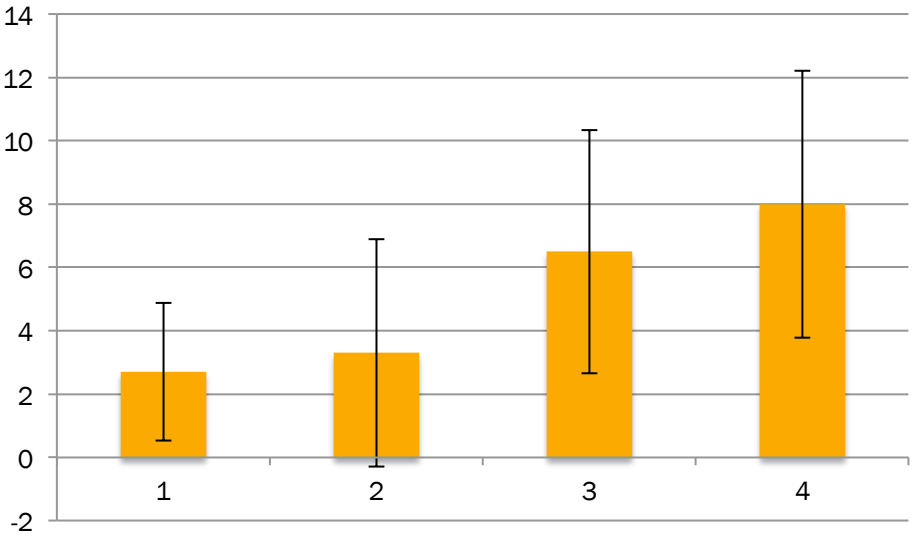
	# RHU visited by group					# referred by group					
base	a	b	c	d	total	a	b	c	d	total	visited/referred
bac	0	4	6	5	15	1	4	6	5	16	94%
bohol	1	0	2	9	12	12	7	17	20	56	21%
cebu	0	1	1	6	8	3	1	0	6	10	80%
dipolog	10	15	14	17	56	17	21	14	17	69	81%
dumaguete	2	0	18	12	32	28	5	24	12	69	46%
general santos	1	0	2	9	12	3	7	3	10	23	52%
iloilo	2	13	3	20	38	2	13	3	20	38	100%
koronadal	8	0	1	0	9	11	7	1	8	27	33%
palawan	0	0	13	1	14	11	10	22	10	53	26%
roxas	3	0	5	1	9	6	0	8	4	18	50%
total	27	33	65	80	205	94	75	98	112	379	
	13%	16%	32%	39%		25%	20%	26%	30%		54%
	29%	44%	66%	71%							

Results

Average number of referral by base



Average number of TB tested by base



Conclusion

In a remote, resource limited setting where TB suspects face financial and geographical restrictions, financial assistance for transportation could change health-seeking behaviour.

Future direction

Providing incentives, both food and transportation subsidy (cash), worked in our setting

To increase case detection, **public health policy makers should consider subsidizing transportation cost for those living in poverty in the Philippines.**

Provide further assistance to getting access to TB testing for TB symptomatic + contacts

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Questions?

Thank you!

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