

TB and Micro Credit Programme: BRAC Experience

Sarker AS, Rifat M, H Kabir, Islam MA

BRAC Health Programme

75 Mohakhali, Dhaka -1212, Bangladesh

Phone: (88-02)-9881265; Fax : 88-02-8823542;

880-2-8823614

Email: rifat.m @brac.net

Introduction

- ◆ BRAC a Bangladeshi NGO utilizing holistic approach for poverty alleviation and empowerment of the poor
- ◆ Core programmes are health, education, and economic and social development
- ◆ BRAC also started a programme in 2002 to reach ultra poor people
- ◆ Health programmes including TB component are also given priority to reach poor and ultra poor

Programmes for Poor and Ultra Poor

- Micro credit support for poor
- Special financial grants for ultra poor
- Employment and enterprise development training for both
- Social development programme for both
- Essential health care services for both,
- Special medical grants for sever illness for ultra poor families

BRAC TB Control Programme Coverage

- ◆ **NTP-BRAC jointly expanded DOT services to 283 sub districts ,municipalities in 37 districts & part of 5 city corporations**
- ◆ **22 teaching hospitals and prisons in 42 districts**
- ◆ **EPZ and industrial areas in districts/cities**
- ◆ **17 External Quality Assurance laboratories established**
- ◆ **Population Coverage: 86 million**
- ◆ **68,000 community health volunteers (Shasthya Shebikas) are involed in DOTS expansion**

BRAC TB Control Programme Strategy

- **Female community Health volunteer (Shasthya Shebikas) identify and refer TB suspects**
- **Organize outreach sputum collection and smearing centers**
- **Sputum examined at government/BRAC laboratories**
- **Treatment initiated under the guidance of medical doctors as per NTP guidelines**
- **Shasthya Shebika ensures daily intake of medicine (DOT)**
- **In certain cases self administered treatment given with support of family members**

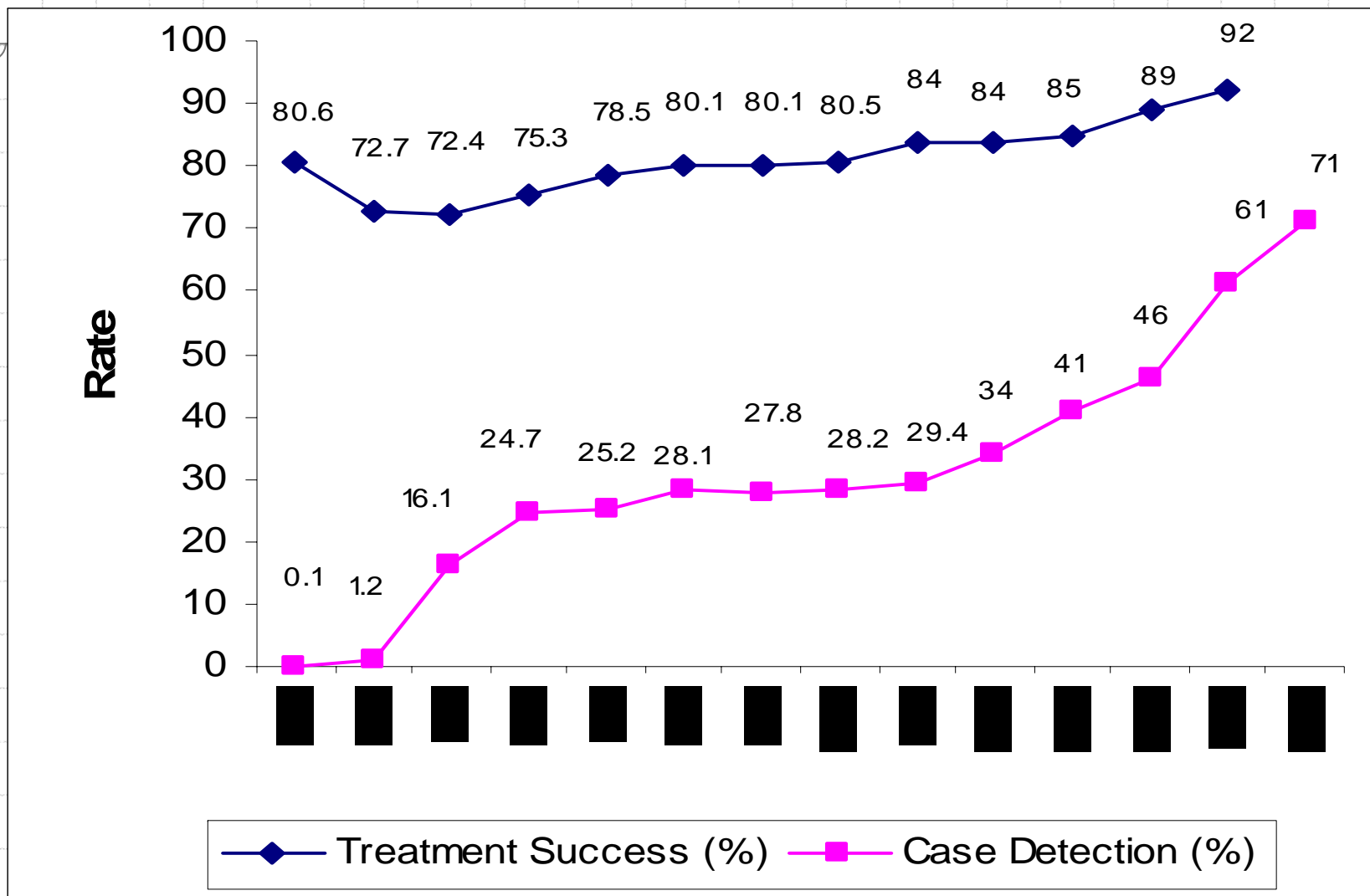
TB Services to Poor and Ultra Poor Patients

- ◆ TB programme integrated with ultra poor programme in 2003
- ◆ Deposit money of 200 taka (US\$3) is taken from TB patients during start of treatment and the money is refunded after treatment completion
- ◆ Waiver of deposit money for poor who can not pay
- ◆ No deposit money taken from patients from ultra poor
- ◆ Intensify advocacy, communication and social mobilization activities to reach poor and ultra poor
- ◆ Ensure equitable TB services to reach every patients

Support to ultra poor and poor TB patients

- ◆ In 2006, 50,000 ultra poor households covered for livelihood support including health
- ◆ Total 145 TB patients identified among ultra poor families in 2006
- ◆ In 2006, 8,933 (10.3%) out of 87,078 TB patients are receiving BRAC micro credit support

Case Detection and Treatment Success Rate



Conclusion

Specially designed tailor-made programme is required in reaching the poor and ultra poor TB patients and keeping them on treatment