



Positive impact of text message reminders to Private Health Service Providers on TB case notifications in Anambra State Nigeria.

C. Uzoigwe,¹ C. Ezeanya,¹ T. Ali,² ¹Institute of Human Virology, Global Fund TB PPM Project, Asaba Region Nigeria, ²Institute of Human Virology, Prevention, Care and Treatment, Abuja Nigeria. e-mail: cuzoigwe@ihvnigeria.org



Background: Nigeria is ranked 8th among the high Tuberculosis (TB) burden countries globally. The major issue in TB programme in Nigeria is low TB case finding as Nigeria accounts for 9% the of missing cases worldwide. TB screening of every client attending out-patient department (OPD) is one of the active case-finding strategies that has proven to yield result. In Anambra, less than 7% of the trained private health sector providers were reporting TB data and the major culprit to this trend are the patent medicine vendors (PMV) which were the largest private providers trained.

The objective is to review the impact of continuous engagement of private sector TB service providers through biweekly text message reminders in Anambra State, Nigeria.

Methods: Ensuring 100% OPD TB screening was one of the key messages to the TB service providers. During their trainings, phone details of health care workers (HCWs) were collected and archived. TB screening guide were shared to all the HCWs, also placed in strategic areas in their facilities and biweekly text message reminder on TB screening were sent by the researchers. Linkage Coordinators collate and send report weekly.

Conclusions: Text message reminders to healthcare providers is a low-cost intervention which is very effective in increasing their index of suspicion of TB, conducting screening, and finding the missing cases.

Results: The intervention period is July to December 2021. Six months pre- and post-intervention data were analysed; 75% and 63% increase in presumptive and notified TB cases respectively, were observed following the intervention.

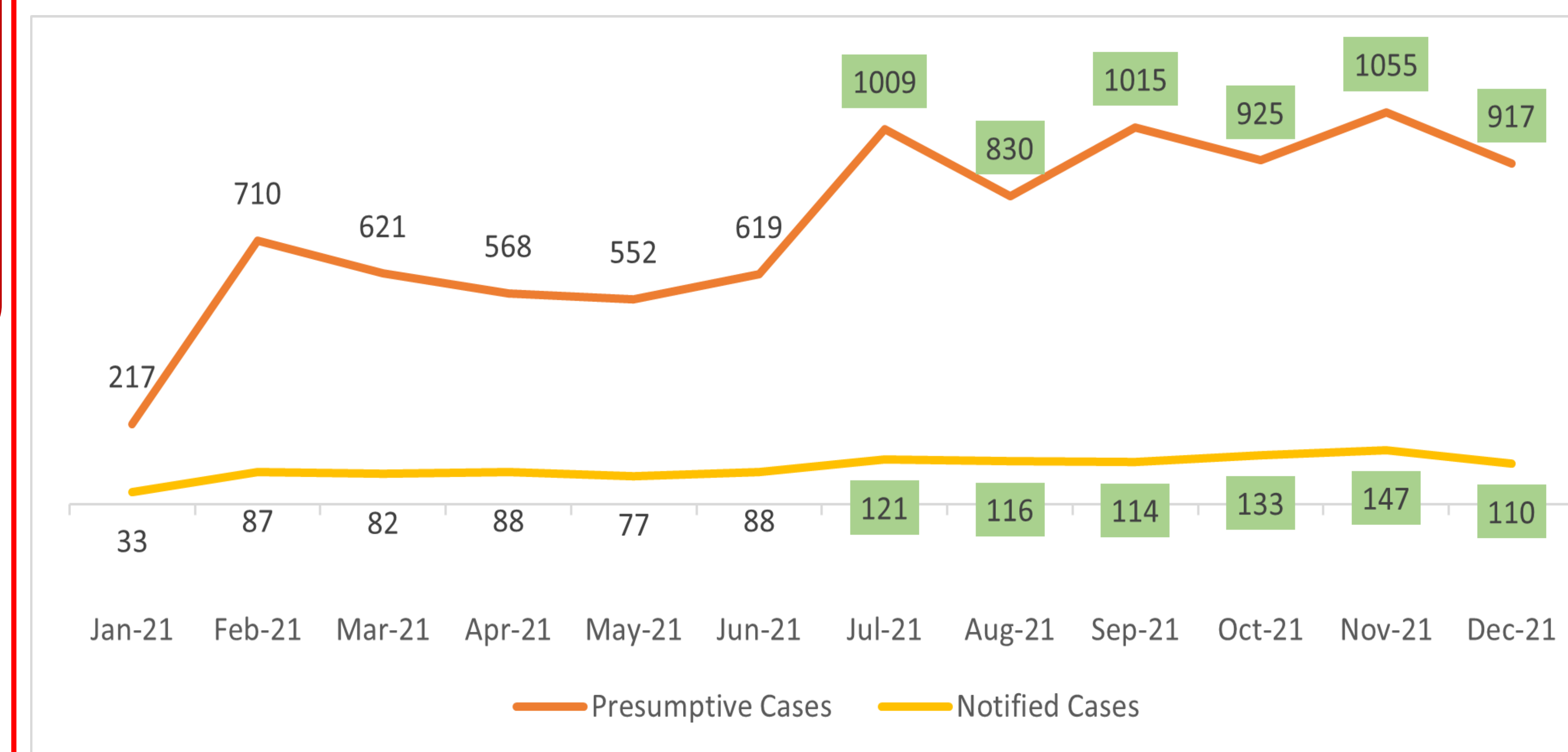


Figure: Pre- and post-intervention



Contact Information

Dr Chukwuemeka Uzoigwe
Program Manager, Childhood/DRTB, USAID TB LON 3 Project IHVN
Email: cuzoigwe@ihvnigeria.org uzoville@yahoo.com
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/chukwuemeka-uzoigwe

Chukwuemeka is a passionate, dynamic and disciplined medical professional with over 10 years' experience in public health programs and clinical practice. Adept in program planning, implementation and management, operational & implementation research, capacity building, training facilitation, monitoring and evaluation, disease surveillance and supply chain management. I have a MBBS degree with MSc. public health, currently working with the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN). A strong leader with excellent communication skills and verifiable track records of achievements.