

Increasing TB Case Identification Through Contact tracing at TASO-Tororo

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Background

Tuberculosis (TB) is a major public health threat especially among the PLHIV.

The quality of care and treatment for tuberculosis (TB) is a major barrier in global efforts to end TB as a global health emergency. Despite a growing recognition of the need to measure, assure, and improve quality of TB services, implementation of quality improvement (QI) activities remains limited.

TASO -Tororo with over 8100 people living with HIV in her care primarily identifies TB cases by carrying out regular TB symptom screening at each clinic visit.

To improve TB case identification, the facility carried out a quality improvement project in which every identified TB client had the contacts screened.

Methodology

Through a learning session, the TB symptoms were emphasized to the identified cough monitors and staff supporting the health facility TB unit.

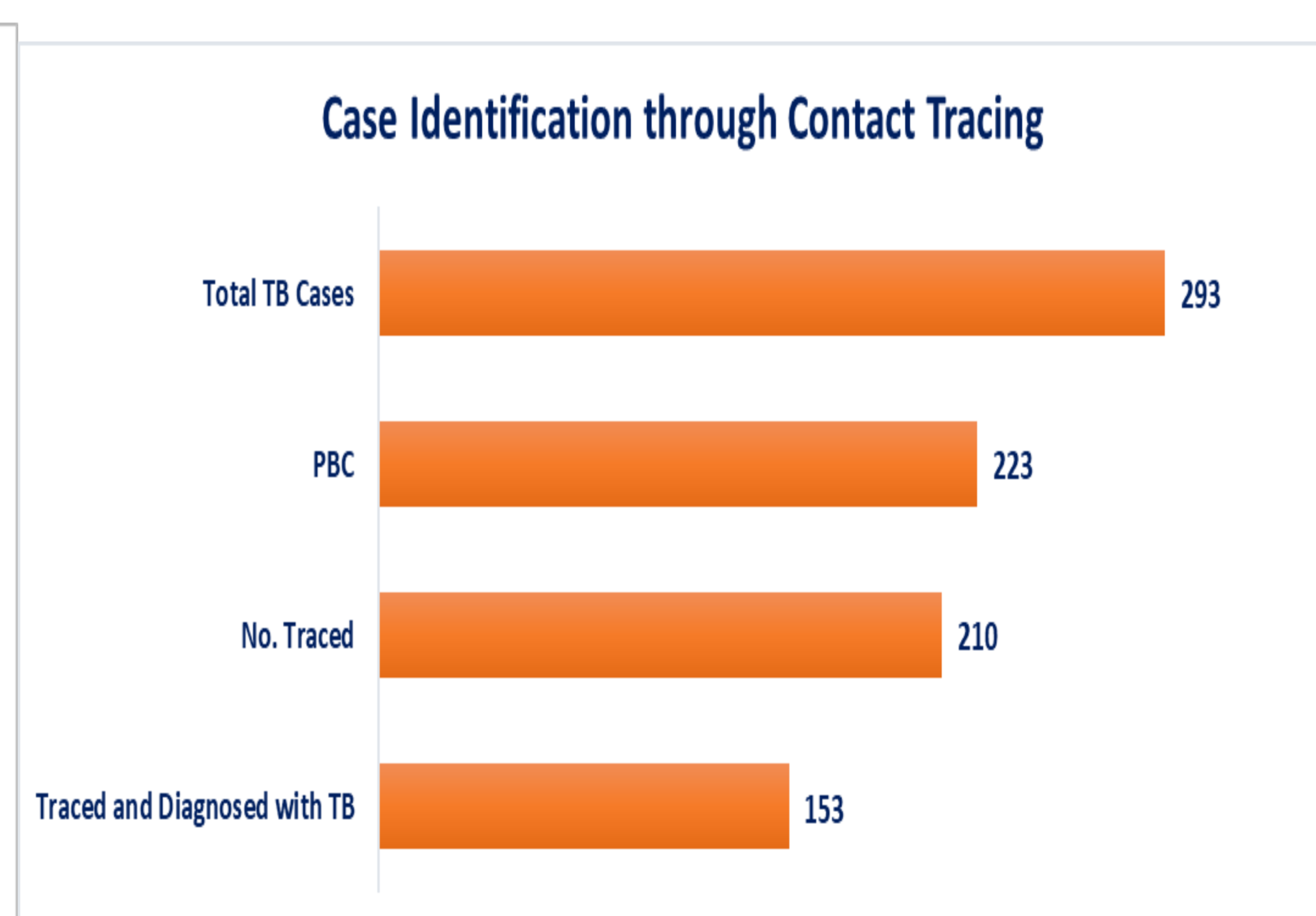
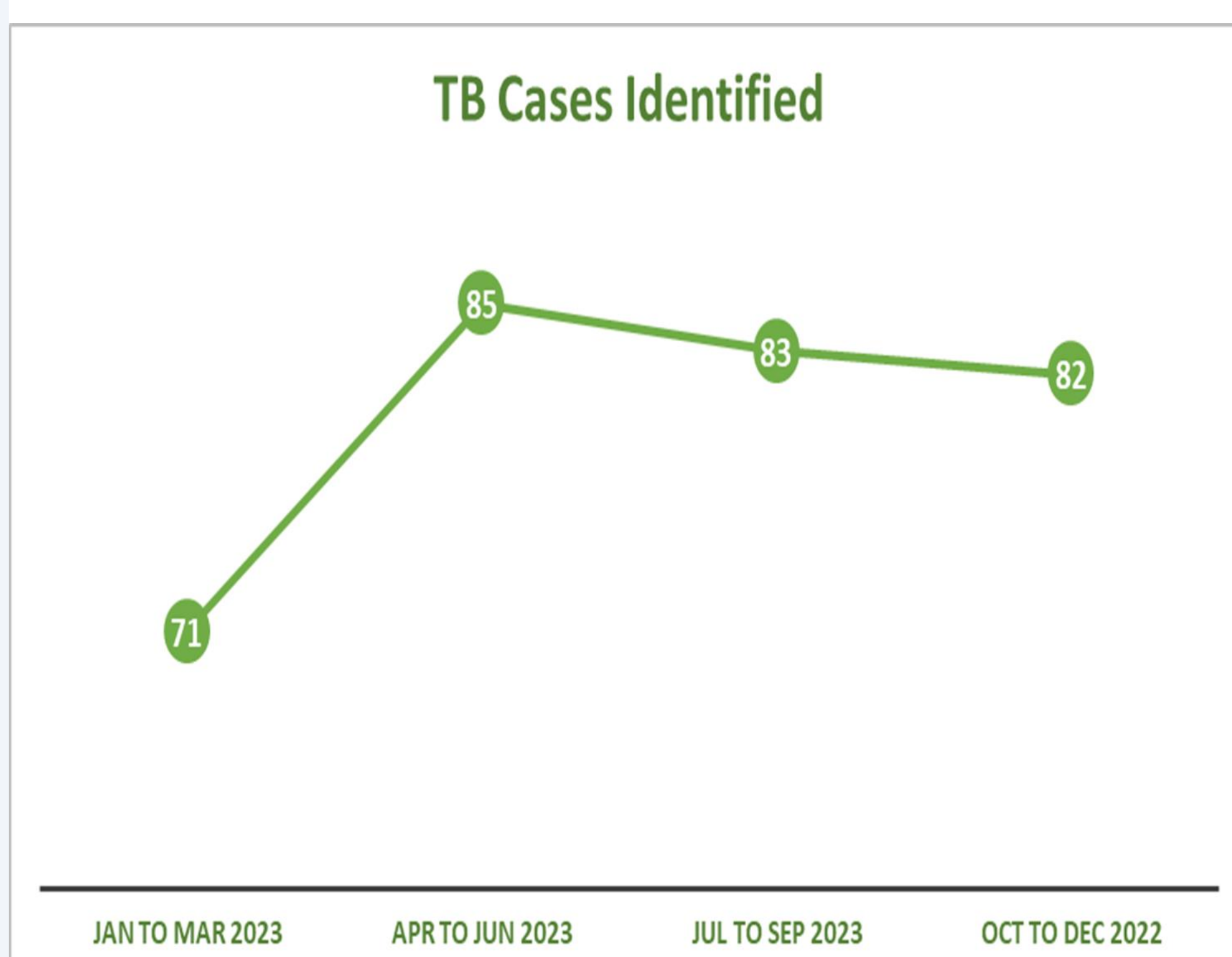
At enrolment to TB care, each bacteriologically confirmed (PBC) client listed the house hold contacts.

The index client was initiated on treatment within a week, a home visit conducted by the health facility staff or cough monitors to screen the contacts.

The contacts with a positive symptom screen had sputum samples collected for gene Expert testing and thereafter started on anti TB medications if MTB was detected.

Those with a negative symptom screen were initiated on TB preventive therapy.

Results



Lessons Learned

Application of contact tracing in Tuberculosis case identification aids quick discovery and prevention of the disease. It is a cheaper and more sustainable method.

Conclusion

With health facilities and policy makers emphasizing the need to adopt targeted interventions, the country can achieve epidemic control of infectious diseases; this was well appreciated during the country response to COVID-19.

Improving Tuberculosis contact tracing improves the quality of Tuberculosis care and prevention. This practice increases tuberculosis case identification through targeted testing and ensures that individuals most at risk for tuberculosis acquisition receive preventive treatment.

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