

TB and Poverty in Cambodia

Definition of national poverty line

- Less than 2,100 calories of food, plus a small allowance for essential non-food expenses, per day ie:
 - Phnom Penh 1,629 Riels
 - Other urban areas 1,214 Riels
 - Rural areas 1,036 Riels

Proportion of population living below the poverty line

- 36% of the Cambodian population lives below the poverty line of US\$0.40-0.63 at the current exchange rate
- Cambodia is placed 130 out of 173 countries in the Human Development Report

Proportion of population belonging to ethnic minority groups

- National Population Census (1998):
- 1% of the total population
- 17 indigenous groups
- 112,000 in 4 provinces
- NB: some earlier reports have suggested that there are 36 ethnic minority groups, which accounted for 3.6% of the 8.6 million population of Cambodia in 1996

Proportion of population living in rural and urban areas

- Urban: 18.4%
- Rural: 81.6%

Top 3 barriers to increasing case detection

- Inability to meet treatment costs and transportation costs (or get a loan)
- Health-seeking behaviour (including myths about TB and taboos)
- Inadequacy of the health sector reform to address the needs of the poor and those in remote areas (eg. location of health centers, staffing, working hours, user fee scheme and exemption for the poor)

Innovative interventions

- Rapid expansion of DOTS to HCs to increase accessibility for the poor and vulnerable populations (100% coverage by 2005)
- Implementation of Community DOTS for the poor in selected operational districts in collaboration with NGOs and village health support groups

Innovative interventions cont'd

- Home Care DOTS in Phnom Penh city
- Reinforcement of “Free of charge” TB services at all government health facilities
- Partnership with an NGO to develop audio-visual health education messages for ethnic minorities who speak different languages