

Supplementary material 4 - DrOTS Perception Study Semi-Structured Interview Guides

Interview guide for DrOTS enrolled patient

(can be pared down for villagers who have tested negative for TB through The TB Project, and for villagers hesitant, unable or who have declined The TB Project participation)

Introduction

Thank you agreeing to take part in this interview. In our discussion today, I am going to ask you some questions about your experience with The TB Project. You are one of the first people in Madagascar and the world to engage with this new tuberculosis elimination program that involves these new technologies – drones, tablets, and medical event reminder boxes. It is very important we learn about your experience.

Part 1: First contact with The TB Project

- 1.1 How did you first find out about (or hear or learn: whichever most contextually appropriate) The TB Project?
- 1.2 Can you remember how you felt when you first found out/heard/learnt about The TB Project? What did you think?? Did you ask any questions?
- 1.3 Did you (also) attend an information meeting in the village? Why/why not?
- 1.4 Had you ever heard of TB before?

Part 2: Perception and experience of TB testing

- 2.1 The TB Project medical team does tests to see who might have TB. What motivated you to get tested?
- 2.2 When and where did you get tested?
- 2.3 Did you consult anyone in making your decision about whether or not to be tested?
Probe: Why/why not? If yes, what did they think/say? How did that impact on your decision?
- 2.4 Was that the first time you had ever been tested for TB?
- 2.5 Was anything about getting tested difficult for you?
- 2.6 Did the healthcare team use a tablet?
Probe: What was your understanding of what they were using the tablet for?
- 2.7 Did you watch a video on the tablet?
If yes: what was the message of that video?
- 2.8 (If tested) When and how did you receive the results?
- 2.9 How did you feel and what went through your mind when you got the results? (If positive result: Did you worry about people finding out about the results? What worried you about people finding out (if the case)?)
- 2.91 What happened next?
- 2.92 Did you share the results with anyone? Why/why not? If yes, what was their reaction?
How did that make you feel?
- 2.93 Do you think people outside those in your family know you have TB?

Probe: Was it your choice to tell them? If not your choice, how did they find out?

2.94 Is there anything the medical team or healthcare workers could do to that would make it easier for people with TB to stop their neighbors or other villagers finding out about their TB status if they want to keep this secret?

Part 3: Experience of The TB Project as a patient

Note: Skip section 3 for villagers who have tested negative for TB

3.1 What is involved in receiving TB treatment through this project?

3.2 Who is the CHW that you see for your treatment? How often do you see them? Where do you see them (do they come to your house)?

3.3 Is this the first time you are speaking regularly with the Community Health Worker about a health problem?

3.4 Tell me about the medicines: What has it been like for you, taking the medicine?

Probe: Have you experienced any side effects?

3.5 Has it been difficult or easy for you to follow the treatment?

3.6 What do you think of the little boxes / MERMS?

3.7 Have you ever had to travel with the MERM? If so: Is that difficult?

3.8 What is hardest thing about being a The TB Project patient, in your experience?

Part 4: Enrolled Patient general reflection on their experience

4.1 Are you happy you became a patient in this program? Why/why not?

4.2 What do you think is the most important thing for someone to know or consider before they decide whether or not to accept receiving treatment through this program?

4.3 Is there anything about the testing or treatment process you wished had happened differently?

Probe: Please explain why that is important to you.

Part 5: General reflections on The TB Project in the village

5.1 Have you recommend to anyone else in your house or village to get tested for TB with this team? Why/why not?

5.2 In your view, are there any advantages or disadvantages to getting tested through The TB Project as opposed to at a healthcare centre outside the village?

5.3 You are one of the few Malagasy with The TB Project experience. Has anything in this experience really marked you or surprised you?

5.4 Is there anything you had trouble understanding when you first heard about The TB Project, that those running the program might explain more clearly to future patients?

5.5 Do you think anything about the The TB Project program could be improved?

Rephrase: Has anything about this program been a little difficult for some in the village

5.6 What will be the impact here in the village if funding for The TB Project ends?

5.7 Would you like to see drones used for more things in your village in the future?

Rephrase: Do you envision drones being useful in other ways for your village in the future?

Conclusion

Thank you. I have learnt so much. Is there anything you would like to add? Is there anything we missed?

Semi-Structured Interview Guide for leaders (Community health worker, King, Chief Fokontany)

Part 1: General context for The TB Project

1.1 What are your responsibilities related to health in the village?

1.2 What do people in the villages for which you are responsible usually do if they get sick?

Probe: Do people use home remedies? Go to the pharmacy? What if somebody is too sick to get to the healthcare center? What then?

1.1 Have other groups of foreigners come to this area/or village in the past?

Probe: What were they doing here?

1.2 Have other projects with medical teams come to these villages before this The TB Project program?

Probes: When? What services did those other teams offer? (Or, why do you think no one has come before?) Did you invite these medical teams? How did they decide to come to this/these villages in particular, in your understanding?

1.5 Is the The TB Project team doing something pretty similar to what those earlier teams did, in your view then?

Probes: Do the projects seem organized and run in a similar way? Are you involved in a similar way with these visiting teams? Do you find interactions between the medical teams and the villagers similar to those you have observed in the past between villagers and visiting medical teams? Is it unusual to have the same group of people coming back?

Part 2: Understanding of and first contact with the TB project of Centre ValBio

2.1 How did you first find out about (or hear or learn: whichever most contextually appropriate) the TB project of Centre ValBio?

Probes: Did you ask any questions that first time you heard about it?

2.2 When you first found out/heard/learnt about this TB project, what went through your mind?

Rephrase/Probes: What did you think? Were you excited? Did you have any concerns?

2.3 Do you still see TB project in this way?

Probe: What made you change your mind? Are there some in the village who think differently about the project?

2.4 How has this experience been for you? Does the TB project create more work for you?

Probe: Why? How?

How do you make time for this project?

2.5 How do you explain what the TB project/The TB Project is to the villagers? (for example, when you called them to attend the first meeting, what did you tell them?)

Probe: Do you explain it in the same way to all villagers, regardless of their education level?
What do you say exactly?

2.6 Have you encountered any challenges in terms of mobilizing support for The TB Project in these villages?

Probe: How did they react? What did they say? If yes, why do you think? If there is an exception, ask for details: Could you tell me more? What do you think that caused that? What did you do? Did that help?

2.7 Have people in the village(s) asked you any questions about the project?

2.8 Has a The TB Project patient or their family ever shared any concerns with you about The TB Project?

Probes: What is that concern about? What was your response? Is that common in your experience?

Part 3: Perceptions and experiences of TB testing and patient enrollment

3.1 The The TB Project medical team provides testing in villages to see who might have TB. In many parts of the world, people do not like to talk about illness or about T. Did you have any concerns about their plan to test for TB in the villages with whom you work?

3.2 Was it difficult to ask villagers to get tested for TB?

Probe: How/why? What was your role when it comes to mobilizing villagers for testing? Do you help explain the testing to villagers?

3.3 What response have you observed when villagers are invited to get tested for TB?

Probe: Has that been the same in all villages where you work? What do you think accounts for that response?

3.4 Are there any cultural ideas, beliefs, or practices that might make it difficult for people to get tested?

Probe: Have you observed such things?

3.5 How are test results shared with patients (to the best of your knowledge)?

3.6 What happens once a patient tests positive for TB, now that The TB Project is here?

Probe: Could you describe what that involves? Were you involved at all in discussing the treatment plan with the patient? If yes, did you feel well prepared for that?

3.7 Did the patient or their family have any concerns about joining the The TB Project program that they shared with you?

Probe: Do you understand those concerns? What did you tell them?

3.8 Is there anything about the way the The TB Project team goes about testing or informing patients of their results that you might recommend be done differently?

3.9 In your view, are there any advantages or disadvantages to getting tested through this TB project as opposed to at a healthcare centre outside the village?

Part 4: Perceptions and experiences of the Drones

4.1 What did you think when you first saw the drones?

4.2 Do you like this idea of using drones to transport medications and test results in and out of the community? Why/why not?

Probe: Why is the The TB Project team using drones? Would you prefer a person going by ground to transport medications in and out of the village?

4.3 Does anything about these flying in and out of your community bother you?

Probe: Have you experienced any challenges related to the use of these technologies in the village? Have you had any unpleasant experiences with the drones? Have the drones scared any one here in the village?

4.4 If you had TB, how would you feel about receiving your medications through a drone?

Probes: Would you feel the same way about receiving medications for other conditions? Do you think medications for TB coming in on a drone will make it easier to know who has TB in the village? Is that a concern for you? Do you think some patients and families might not want to receive medicines through drones?

4.5 You spoke of a number of health problems at the beginning: do you imagine these drones could help with other problems in the village, health-related or others?

Rephrase: Do you envision drones being useful in other ways for your village in the future?

Part 5: Perceptions and experiences of the tablets and education videos

5.1 How have you used the tablets and educational videos put out by The TB Project?

5.2 Do you feel these are an effective strategy for sharing information about TB and The TB Project?

Probes: Why/why not? Have you observed any challenges related to the use of these tablets?

5.3 Did you get a chance to actually operate the tablet? If yes, was it easy to use or difficult?

Probe: for specifics of what was easy or difficult and why.

5.4 Do you think sharing information about health and treatments for sicknesses through tablets is a good strategy for getting people in the village to learn about these things? Why or why not?

Part 6 – Perceptions and experiences of Evrimeds

6.1 The entire community gets to see the Evrimeds/little boxes during sensitization. Did people ask any questions when they saw those?

6.2 Have you heard of any challenges related to Evrimeds?

Part 7: Closing reflections on The TB Project and technologies for health

7.1 What has been the best part of working with The TB Project?

7.2 What challenges have you encountered?

7.3 You have experience with The TB Project now. What health problems can technologies solve, and which ones can they not solve, in your view?

7.4 What about the The TB Project program could be improved?

Rephrase: Has anything about this program been a little difficult for some in the village?

Conclusion

Thank you. We have learnt so much. Is there anything you would like to add? Is there anything we missed?