

Tanna and Efate Mass Campaign for NTD

MDA and NCD Screening, Oct 2019

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Affiliations: Neglected Tropical Disease.

Background

- The Neglected Tropical Disease Program was launched by MOH in July 2012 and aims for Yaws elimination in Vanuatu.
- A series of Mass Drug Administration (MDA) was conducted in (2013, 2016 and 2019)
- The MDA has successfully reduced the clinical Yaws cases from 2500 cases in 2013 to 600 cases in 2018.
- Shefa and Tafea provinces are the remaining two provinces that still report confirmed Yaws cases. Four (4) provinces achieved zero reporting of confirm Yaws cases in 2018.
- The 130 confirmed cases in these two provinces Shefa and Tafea in 2020 triggered the NTD program to conduct another round of MDA this year (2021).
- Non-communicable disease (NCD) screening (comprising of screening of patients with NCD medical conditions and other people of age 25 and above) was integrated into the MDA campaign as an opportunity to effectively target hard to reach and low-income communities and to assess NCD prevalence within the communities.

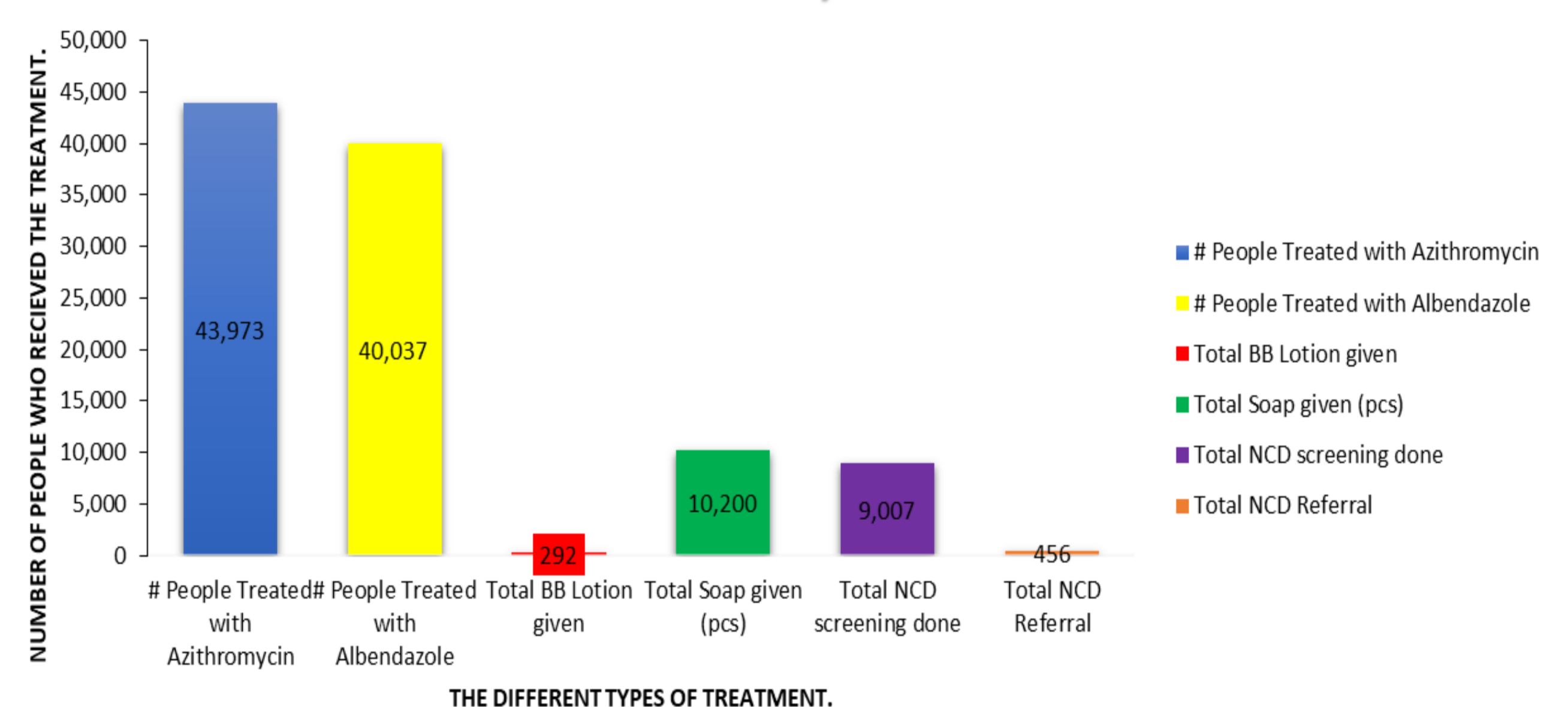
Methods

- Over 200 health workers and public health officers were mobilized in 50 villages on Tanna and Efate for 2 weeks operation to conduct the MDA and to do NCD screening in month year
- In the MDA people received:
 - Azithromycin (30mg/kg body weight) for yaws treatment for the targeted age groups of 6 months and above.
 - Albendazole (400mg per person) for Deworming for targeted groups of 2yrs and above.
 - Benzyl Benzoate (BB) lotion for scabies treatment was given to scabies patients.
 - And FREE NCD screening provided for everyone above 25 years old.
- Health zones were selected based on the number of confirmed Yaws cases reported from health workers at health facilities through HIS and NTD reporting channel to HIS and NTD Focal point on both islands
- Community awareness were conducted to educate people about the importance of the MDA operation, why they need to take part in MDA, What is NCD, why they need to have regular NCD screening.

Results

- 43,973 people were treated with Azithromycin Including children of 6months and above.
- 40,037 people were treated with Albendazole.
- There is a difference in these numbers because Albendazole is only given to children of age 2yrs and above, while Azithromycin is given to age groups of 6months and above.
- 292 people were treated with benzyl benzoate lotion.
- 10,200 soaps were given to people to use.
- 9,007 people were screened for NCD.
- 456 people were referred to the nearby health facilities for proper NCD diagnoses and treatment.

Tanna and Efate data collection during the MDA and NCD Survey.



Conclusions and Recommendations

- Despite all the awareness conducted, there are few communities which refused to take medication during the operation. Program received support from the mobile force to join the team during the 4 days follow up which targeting mainly the refused communities and people who missed the treatment during the operation.
- Coverage survey for Efate shows out of 1,218 people who had been interviewed, 913 people (76.4%) said they know about the mass campaign and 802 people (67.6%) said they actually took the medication during this campaign. 32.4% who did not take the medication during this mass campaign said they missed the team during the mass campaign and 66% with no reason.
- Major challenges and feedback of this integrated campaign were:
 - a) Coordination of the 2 major operation to be implement in parallel is very challenging, need a lot of effort and commitment from both programs.
 - b) Electronic reporting tools for NCD screening slowing down the operation due to weak internet connection therefore NTD program decided to change the MDA reporting by using tally sheet to simplify and speed up the process.
 - c) Electronic reporting also delays almost a year to get access to despite advance technology being used
 - d) General public very much welcome the integrated campaign in which they have access to multiple and free health services in one visit.
 - e) massive logistic arrangement for the operational teams, supplies, ensure proper recording and strong political commitment
 - f) Free treatment for NTD MDA is already well known by general public however they also interested with FREE NCD screening at their village level as they are aware of NCD but no access to free checkup.
 - g) Lengthy financial process has cost delayed in releasing payment to public transport owners and as the result very challenging for the team in the field.

References

Taleo, F. (2019). Efate Mass Campaign for NTD MDA and NCD Screening, Nov 2019.

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