SMRU.
Shoklo Malaria Research Unit

มูลนิธิ เดอะ บอร์เดอร์แลนด์ เฮลท์
The Borderland Health Foundation

ANNUAL TB REPORT 2024

Background

SMRU TB Program has been providing TB services and care for marginalized, undocumented migrants at the Thailand-Myanmar border, as well as, poor ethnic minorities in hard-to-reach area since 2010. The funding is supported by Global Fund TB grant for Thailand and Myanmar. The aim is to improve access to TB services and achieve TB control in the border region.

Objectives

- To provide a comprehensive care package.
- To improve case finding for TB, TB/HIV, MDR-TB.
- To provide case management, to improve case holding through patient-centered care.
- To develop effective cross-border referral collaboration.

Coverage Area

Tak Province in Thailand and Kayin State in Myanmar.

One TB clinic is located in Mae Ramat District, Thailand, and three clinics are located in Kayin State, Myanmar.

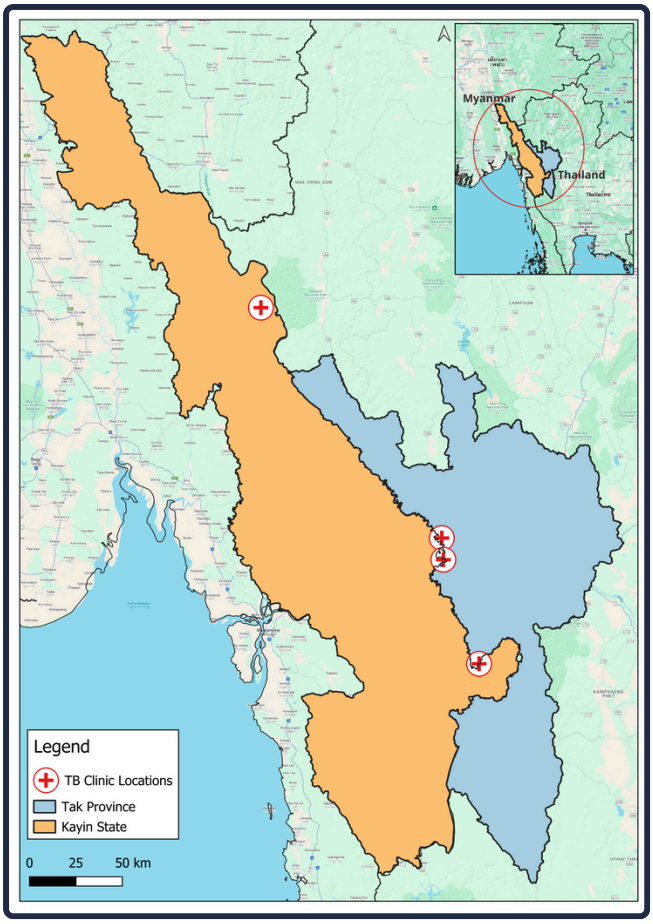

Figure 1: Map of Thailand-Myanmar Border Showing Locations of SMRU TB Clinic Sites.

TB Activities and Achievement

Passive Case Findings in OPDs

In 2024, there were total presumptive TB screenings to 1,770 TB suspects in all SMRU clinics and Mae Tao clinic. 97% of them (n= 1,714) received Chest X-ray imaging, and 1,599 suspects (90%) were tested for GeneXpert PCR testing. We have diagnosed 519 TB cases, resulting in a case detection rate of 29%. A total of 454 TB cases (306 males, 148 females) received anti-TB treatment through the SMRU TB Program. Among the treated TB patients, 361(80%) cases were bacterially confirmed pulmonary TB cases, while the remaining 72(16%) were clinically diagnosed pulmonary TB cases and 21(4%) were extrapulmonary TB cases.

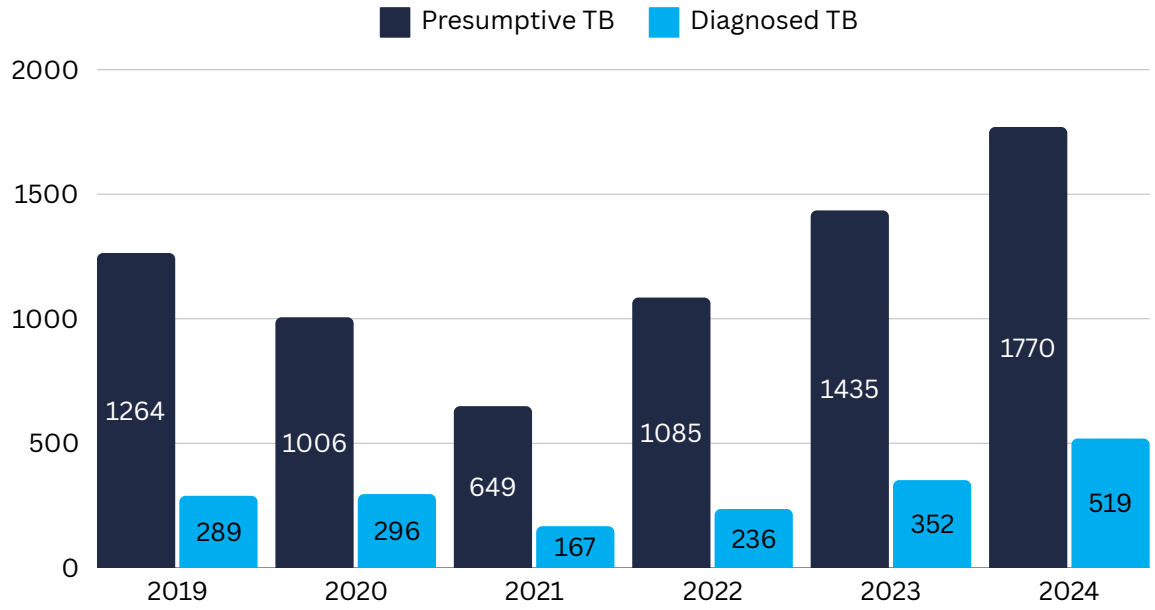

Figure 2: Yearly Presumptive TB Screenings and TB Cases Detected (2019-2024) at OPD Clinics.

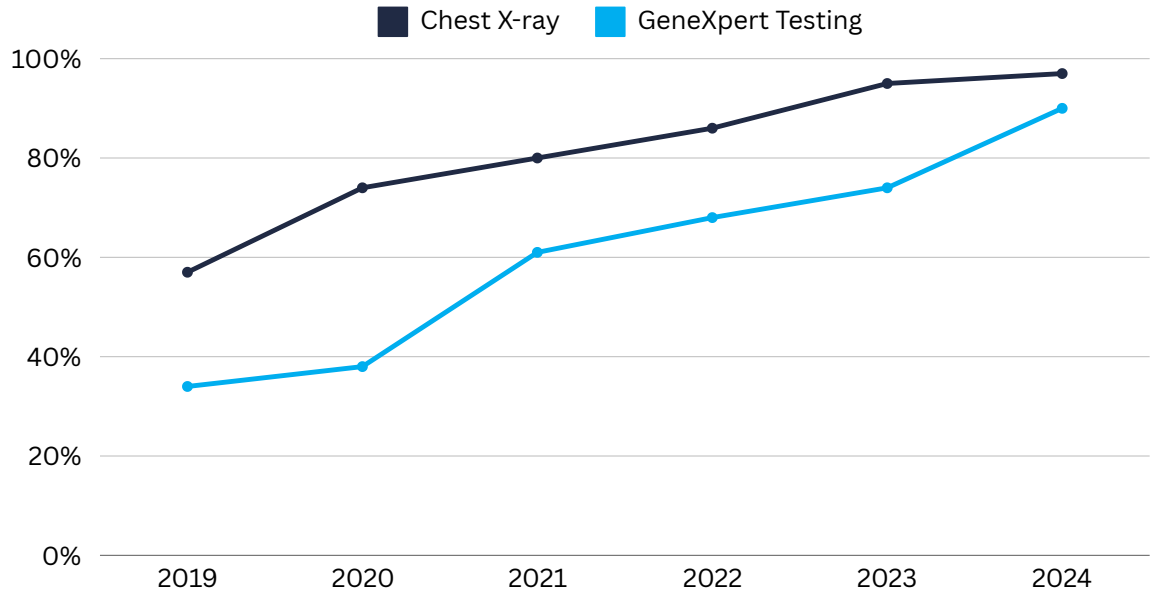

Figure 3: Yearly Chest X-ray Screenings and GeneXpert Testing Among Presumptive TB Patients (2019-2024) at OPD Clinics.

TB Activities and Achievement

Contact Screening and LTBI Treatment

We performed active case finding through contact investigation among 854 contacts of TB patients, 23 diabetic patients, 25 people living with HIV, 13 healthcare workers, and 228 other patients in 2024. Among them, 18 TB cases were found among contacts, and 7 cases were identified among other patients in 2024. TB Preventive Therapy (TPT) for Latent TB Infection (LTBI) was provided to 60 out of 62 contact children aged 5 and under.

Mobile CXR Outreach Screening in the Community

In addition, we have strengthened collaboration with local stakeholders and adapted case-finding strategies for Thailand-Myanmar border TB control. SMRU has integrated community engagement to mobilize communities to participate in TB screenings, facilitate early case detection, and find missing cases within the communities. During 2024, TB outreach teams have screened 7,049 migrants and villagers in community outreach screenings in Phophra, Mae Ramat and Mae Sot district of Thailand and in the villages along the border of Myawaddy district in Myanmar. These activities resulted in the identification of 56 TB cases (0.8%) in the community during 2024.

Overall SMRU Achievement

During 2010 to 2024, there are 3,585 TB cases receiving anti-TB treatment in SMRU TB Program with 16% HIV co-infection rate (563 TB/HIV patients). Moreover, the program can identify 215 MDR-TB cases since the beginning of the TB program in 2010.

In addition to providing standard treatment, we also enhance holistic care for the physical, mental, and social well-being of patients, ensuring they complete the long duration of treatment with good adherence. The Treatment Success Rate for registered TB patients in 2023 was 90.1%.

TB Activities and Achievement

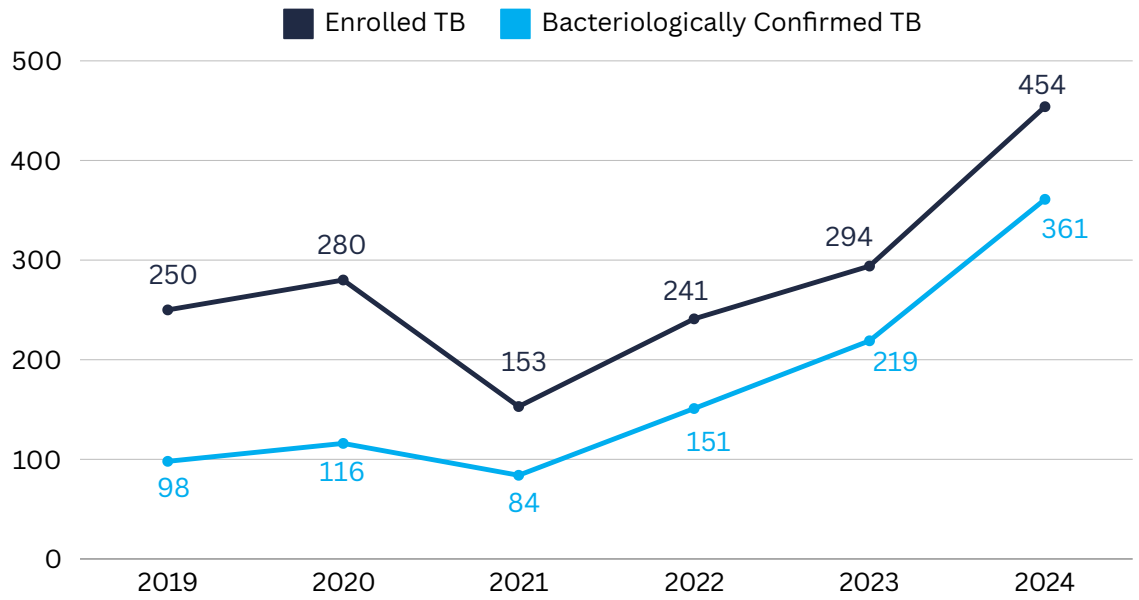

Figure 4: Trend of Enrolled TB Cases and Bacteriologically Confirmed Pulmonary TB Cases (2019–2024).

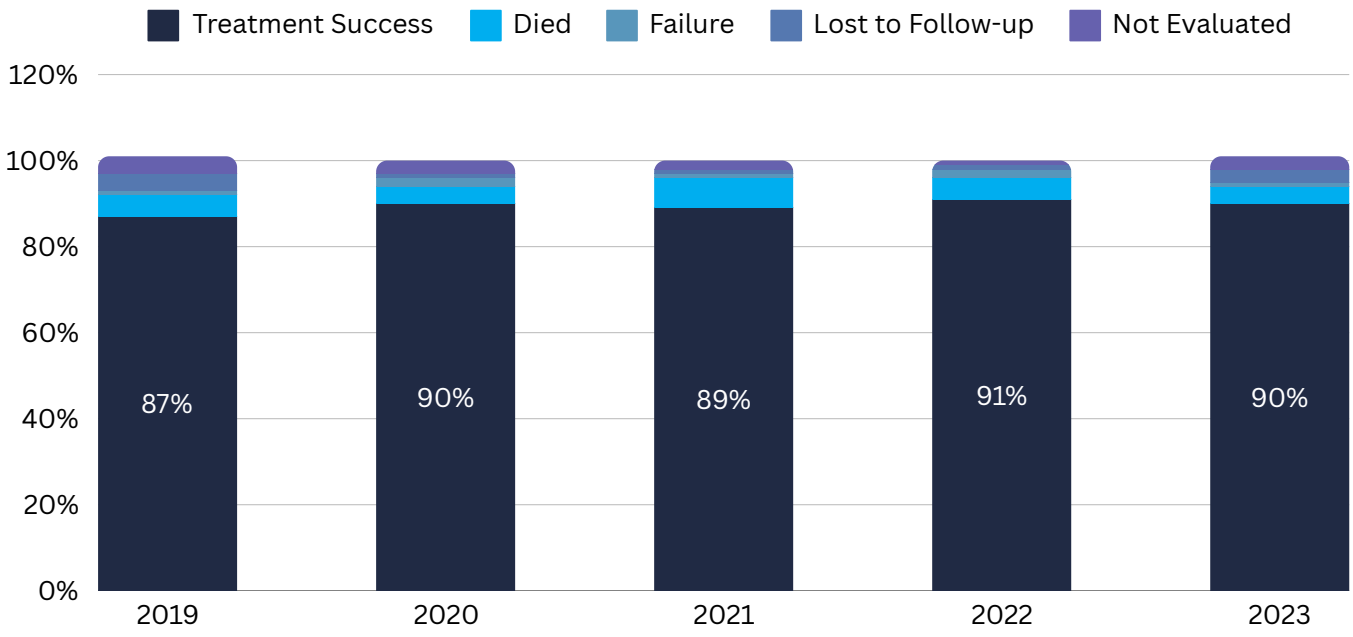

Figure 5: Treatment Outcomes of Enrolled TB Patients (2019–2023 Cohort): Focus on Treatment Success Rate and Mortality Rate.

Compared to 2019, there was a 4% increase in the successful treatment outcomes of TB cases in 2022 and a 3% increase in 2023 among SMRU enrolled TB patients. With the rise in successful TB treatment outcomes, there is a 1% decrease in death outcomes and loss to follow-up outcomes in 2023 compared to 2019.

THANK YOU