



Quality of Tuberculosis Care in Conflict-Affected Health Facilities in Northern Ethiopia: A Cross-Sectional Assessment Using the Donabedian Framework

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Background: The conflict in Northern Ethiopia since 2020 severely disrupted healthcare, with more than 70% of health facilities destroyed or damaged, yet evidence on post-conflict TB care quality remains limited. This study assessed Tuberculosis care quality in conflict-affected Northern Ethiopian facilities using the Donabedian Structure-Process-Outcome framework.

Methods: A facility-based cross-sectional study was conducted in nine purposively selected public hospitals from Tigray and Amhara regions. Data were collected from TB patients and healthcare professionals using facility performance monitoring checklists, and patient exit interviews. Data were analyzed using SPSS version 26, employing descriptive statistics.

Results: A total of 378 TB patients and healthcare professionals across nine conflict-affected facilities were assessed. Overall TB care quality was good (87.1%), demonstrating healthcare system resilience despite severe conflict disruption. Structural quality averaged 82.1%, with service accessibility critically weak (22.2% meeting standards). Process quality was 83.1%, revealing high health professional knowledge (92.6%) but moderate patient knowledge (79.9%), with critical gaps in symptom recognition (42.1%). Patient satisfaction was good (77.8%) but varied widely (54.6-100%). Outcome quality was excellent (96.1%), though sputum microscopy documentation was weak (68.7%). Conflict impact was devastating: 66.7-83.3% of Tigray facilities were non-functional during hostilities, 59.5% of patients could not access medications, and 100% reported safety fears accessing healthcare.

Conclusions: TB care quality is being recovered to good levels post-conflict, demonstrating healthcare system resilience. However, critical gaps in accessibility, patient knowledge, and sputum documentation require urgent intervention.

