(India, Spring 2021) Tarak is a 42yo father of six living in a slum in major city. He works in a local factory. He struggles to ensure his children eat and he is continuously worried about money.

He had a cough for several months and colleague suggested he take a morning off work to visit the local health center. He finished the medicine but feels no change and has lost a lot of weight. A neighbor who recovered from TB last year encouraged him to go to a public hospital for a variety of tests, including TB tests. He was supposed to return for a morning sputum sample, but he could not get the time off work.

A year later, he collapsed and was rushed to a local hospital. He was diagnosed with MDR-TB. Now, all his family members also have symptoms. He is hospitalized with a lengthy course of treatment ahead of him.

Tarak and his family are supported with medical, financial, and nutritional care by a local health organization. Their health is improving, but the cost burden of healthcare has kept them in severe poverty.

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In his hospital bed, he reflects on his ill health. He had started drinking to cope with the stress. Unable to work, the family is relying on his children's wages to survive.

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You need to visit your local TB clinic and provide a sample to for testing.

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After 4 months, he feels progressively worse. He sees a doctor in a private facility, costing him 2 weeks of wages.

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