Finding 140,000 new cases means saving 70,000 lives and preventing 1.4 million new infections.

More than nine million people around the world become ill with tuberculosis (TB) each year. About one-third of them fail to get an accurate diagnosis or effective treatment and are more likely to die from this curable disease.

TB REACH offers a lifeline to people among this missing 3 million by finding and treating people in the poorest, most vulnerable communities in the world. In areas with limited or non-existent TB care, TB REACH supports innovative and effective techniques to find people with TB quickly, avert deaths, stop TB from spreading, and halt the development of drug-resistant strains.

- TB REACH was launched in 2010 and will run until 2016, thanks to a CAD$ 120 million grant from the Canadian International Development Agency.
- TB REACH is committed to getting funds to projects with a very short turnaround time.
- In its first 18 months, TB REACH committed nearly $50 million to 75 projects in 36 countries aiming to find and treat more than 140,000 people with TB who would otherwise have gone undiagnosed.
- Finding 140,000 new cases means saving 70,000 lives and preventing 1.4 million new infections. Scaling up successful TB REACH projects would multiply these figures.
HALTING THE SPREAD OF TB IN ZAMBIA’S PRISONS

The Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) is working with local partners to run a comprehensive TB testing programme at prisons across Zambia. Thanks to a system that involves prison officers, doctors and inmates themselves, tests are conducted on entry, exit and at mass screening sessions. A mobile laboratory enables hundreds of inmates to be tested in a single day using the latest equipment. Thanks to TB REACH funding the Zambia prisons service has the opportunity to be a regional model for TB control and HIV detection.

RAPID TESTING ARRIVES IN RURAL TANZANIA

In Mbeya, Tanzania, a partnership between the University of Munich and the National Institute for Medical Research is using a mobile laboratory to provide rapid TB and HIV testing in remote rural areas, using a revolutionary new diagnostic tool, the Xpert MTB/Rif test. This is the first time that this new diagnostic tool has been used at a community level at rural health centres and on a mobile van. The project aims to detect 1350 additional cases during its first year. The mobile van serves as laboratory during the day time and a mobile cinema by night, showing educational films on TB and HIV/AIDS.

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