

# TB REACH NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAMME

Finding and treating people with TB in

# Benin

- Mobile teams armed with LED Florescent microscopy increase screening and case detection in 120 different communities
- 20% increase in screening numbers and additional case detection in areas with poor access to health services
- Local awareness campaigns carried out by village and area leaders encourage participation



**Cotonou** - In Benin, the National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP) has launched an initiative aimed at increasing case detection of tuberculosis (TB) in areas with limited access to health services. In spite of a good record of case detection and treatment in Benin, results had leveled off in recent years due to a reliance on passive screening. Due to a number of causes, including financial and geographical limitations, lack of information and cultural stigmas, people often went undiagnosed or were identified at such a late stage in the disease that they could not be treated successfully.

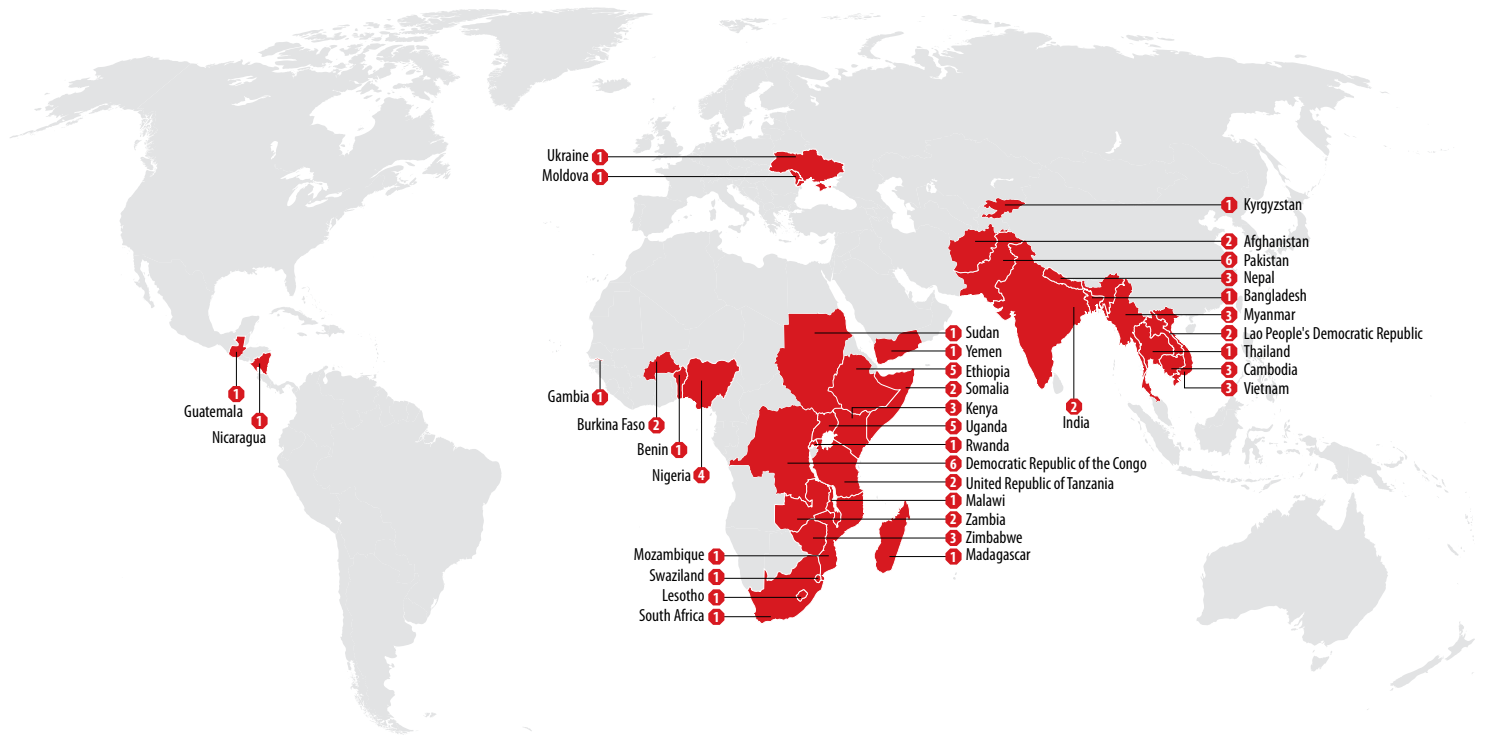
To address this situation, the NTP has established three mobile teams, each consisting of a doctor, a nurse and two laboratory technicians, to serve 120 poor and/or underserved districts nationwide by conducting consultation fairs. In each district the arrival of a mobile team

is preceded by a programme to raise awareness of TB and its treatment, carried out by village and area leaders. Health workers direct people to the place where the mobile team's staff and equipment are set up to carry out free consultations and sputum diagnosis using LED Florescent microscopy, both completed on site. Those whose samples are found to be positive are referred to the treatment centers. In addition to the free TB drugs provided by the NTP, free drugs are also available through the programme for people with other respiratory ailments. These campaigns allow for early case detection and help stop the spread of the disease.

After seven months the consultation fairs have diagnosed 62 additional cases of smear positive TB and the publicity associated with the program has also resulted in a 20.2% increase in the number of TB suspects.

# TB REACH

## FINDING AND TREATING PEOPLE WITH TB IN THE WORLD'S POOREST COMMUNITIES



**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.

**Stop TB Partnership**

 Canadian International Development Agency  Agence canadienne de développement international

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