

TB REACH NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAMME

Finding and treating people with TB in

Democratic Republic Of **Congo** Kasai occidental

- Former TB patients identify TB suspects and combat stigma
- 50% more cases have been found in the project's first nine months compared than in all of 2010
- Project provides economic support to help patients who cannot afford the costs of basic care



Kasai Occidental Province – The Democratic Republic of Congo is 10th on the list of the 22 countries with the highest TB (tuberculosis) burden globally and third among African countries. In Kasai Occidental province, the National Leprosy and Tuberculosis Programme (NLTP) is making progress towards better case detection and treatment using innovations developed after a careful analysis of the situation in 18 health zones. The NLPT found that barriers to detection and treatment included: general ignorance about TB; inability of patients to pay for diagnosis and treatment; difficulty of travel to diagnostic centers; and weak laboratory services, and have designed interventions to address them.

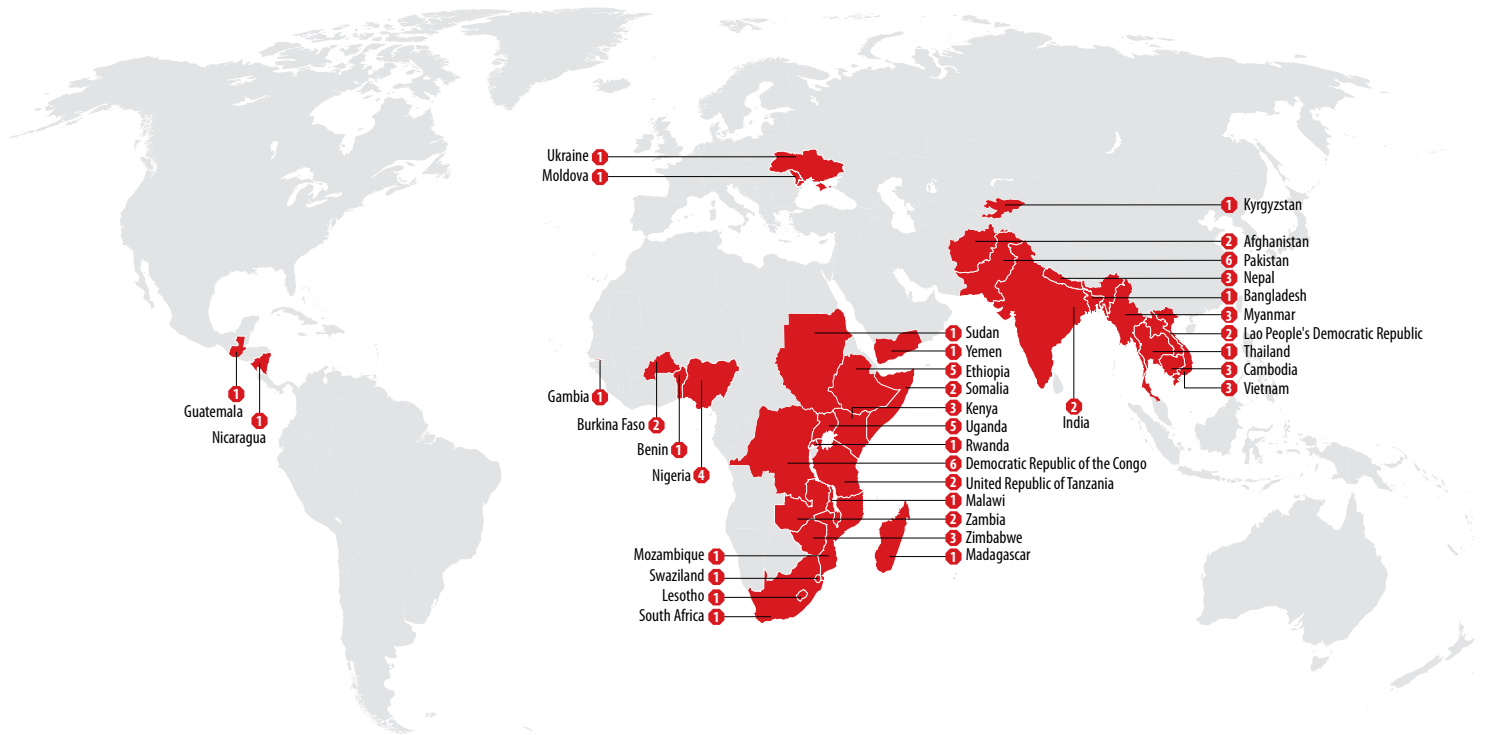
The NLTP, is enlisting former TB patients to help identify new suspects and also to spread awareness in their communities. This is helping alleviate strong stigmas associated with the disease and thereby encouraging formerly reluctant people to talk more openly about their symptoms,

to ask questions and to seek help. Additionally, TB suspects are being provided free consultation as well as treatment without charge for those with positive diagnosis. Patients who had previously gone undetected have been identified through the intervention of transporting locally obtained sputum samples to diagnostic centers, a particularly important service since access to many areas of the region is extremely limited. The former TB patients follow up with the new TB patients to ensure adherence to the 6 month treatment and prevent drug resistance from developing. The results are dramatic, with almost 3,000 cases notified through nine months of implementation compared to less than 2,000 in 2010. Although challenged by continuing civil strife, long distances and poor infrastructure, the work continues, strengthening and combining with other initiatives, such as national immunization days to reach the most vulnerable communities.



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

Stop TB Partnership Secretariat
World Health Organization
HTM/STB/TBP
20, avenue Appia CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Email: tbreach@who.int
Phone: + (41) 22 791 46 50
Fax: + (41) 22 791 48 86