

Finding and treating people with TB in

Lao

People's Democratic Republic

- Mass screening in remote, hard to rural reach areas leads to increased case detection
- Approximately 20% more cases detected during the first three months of the project when compared to corresponding period in the previous year
- Laboratory services strengthened to handle the increased demand for diagnosis generated by the project



Champasak Province - In Lao People's Democratic Republic over 70% of the population live in remote areas, far from health services. In the border provinces of Savannakhet and Champasak, rural people, as well as internal and cross-border migrants and ethnic groups, face enormous challenges in seeking health care; their geographic isolation being exacerbated by poverty and language barriers.

Since January 2011 a joint project of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the National TB Centre is working to increase case detection among these hard-to-reach groups. The key interventions are active case finding, informational campaigns and new training for laboratory technicians .

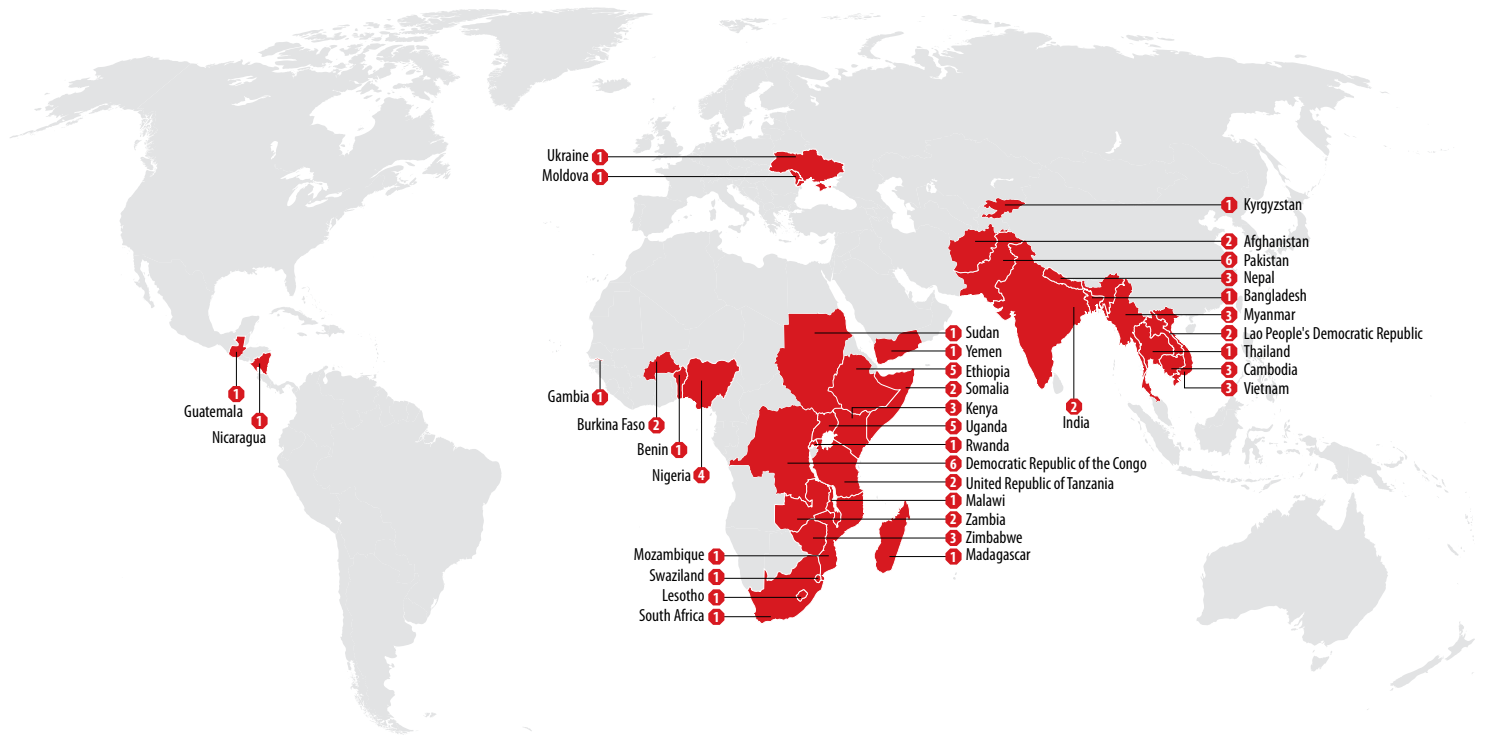
During the project a total of 1855 village health volunteers and 185 health centre staff members will be trained to carry out mass screenings in their communities, using a symptomatic questionnaire and sputum collection. To date, 3234

villagers have been screened, with 315 cases detected. Additionally, volunteers at border crossings will be conducting educational campaigns in appropriate languages aimed at reaching ethnic groups and migrant peoples. This is expected to be a critical component in reducing stigma and increasing community participation, as well as preventing spread across borders. The project began activities in early 2011 and in the first three months has shown an almost 30% increase in case detection over the previous quarter. With the early success of the project, IOM has plans to scale up the active screening campaign to a much larger population area. Because of the greatly increased screening for TB, the project has had to begin trainings in smear microscopy for new lab technicians. The extra work however, is welcomed, as the project brings services and treatment to some of the country's most vulnerable and hard to reach populations.



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