TB REACH FIND

Finding and treating people with TB in

Lesotho

- Horse riders and text messages help reach patients in remote highland villages

- Project provides access to health care in more than 120 communities

- Text message system allows patients to be put on treatment immediately after diagnosis

Maseru - Lesotho, often referred to as the "Kingdom in the sky", is a predominantly mountainous country, with more than 80% of the country resting above 1,800 metres. Three-quarters of the population live in rural areas and, off the main roads, walking or horse riding are the only transport options. The country has the second highest incidence of TB and the second highest HIV co-infection rate of adult TB cases in the world.

Since 2010, FIND has been working with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to improve TB case detection in hard to reach communities using a novel combination of mobile phone technology and traditional horse riders.

FIND has hired horse riders in three districts to collect sputum samples from more than 120 remote communities. The horse riders visit the villages two to three times a week and deliver the samples back to the health centre, from where they are picked up by a motorbike rider.

The horse riders work in tandem with a team of village health workers who screen patients for TB at health centres and in communities and use a novel text message system to track patients' results. Once patient's sputum samples have been analysed at the laboratory the results are sent to the health workers by text message, using an open source software system. Patients with positive results can be put on treatment immediately and the health workers provide ongoing support with treatment.

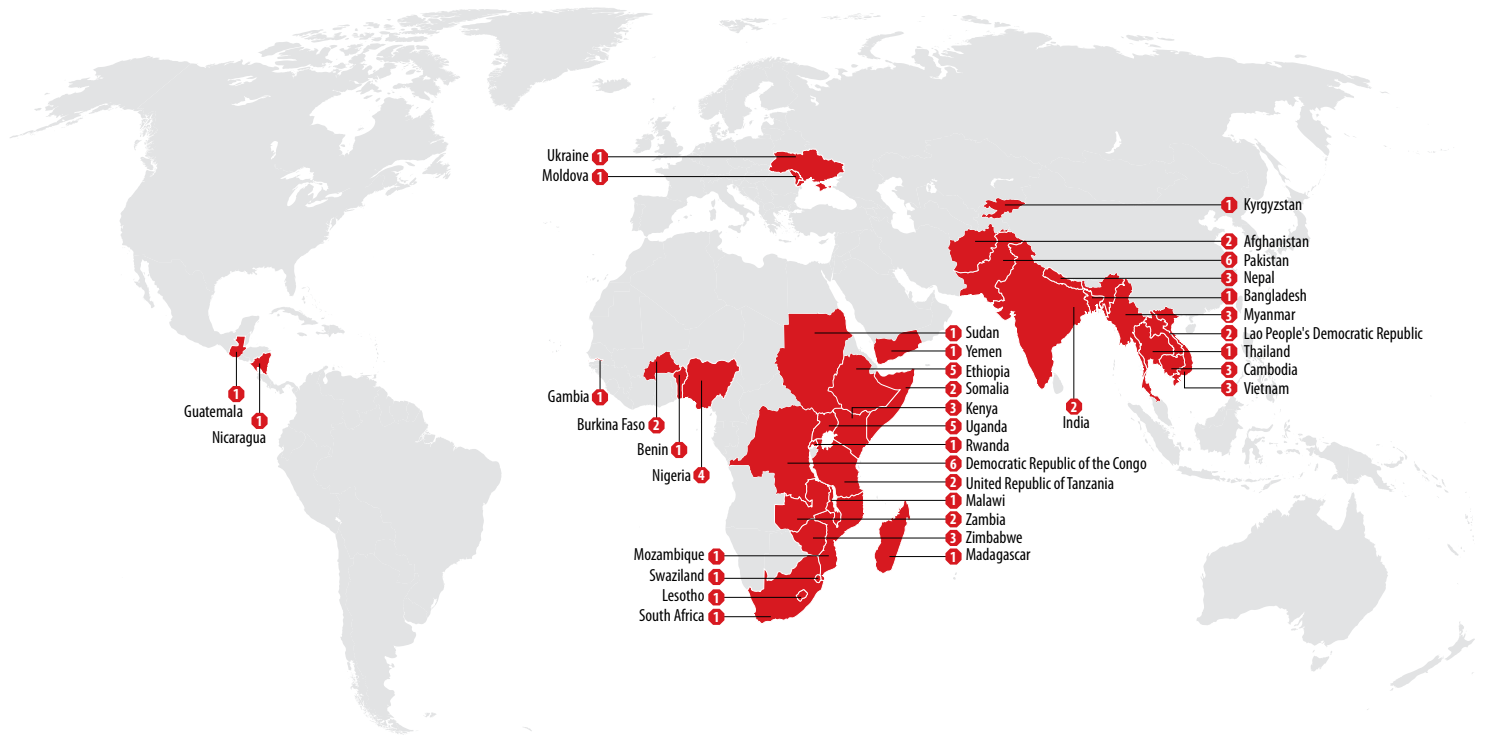So far, 4154 TB suspects have been registered using the text message system. Of these, 307 tested positive for TB. Monthly facility reports, available via a web interface are automatically generated to track TB suspects, smear results, MDR-TB suspects and follow up smear results.

In addition, the text message system has brought other benefits in terms of availability of real-time data to help with programme management and troubleshooting, enabling activities in the remote areas to be tracked remotely and any issues rapidly identified and corrective measures implemented more efficiently.

Stop TB Partnership

TB REACH

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

Ukraine ➊
Moldova ➊
Kyrgyzstan ➊
Afghanistan ➋
Pakistan ➏
Nepal ➌
Bangladesh ➊
Myanmar ➌
Lao People's Democratic Republic ➋
Thailand ➊
Cambodia ➌
Vietnam ➌
Sudan ➊
Yemen ➊
Ethiopia ➎
Somalia ➋
Kenya ➌
Uganda ➎
Rwanda ➊
Democratic Republic of the Congo ➏
United Republic of Tanzania ➋
Malawi ➊
Zambia ➋
Zimbabwe ➌
Madagascar ➊
Gambia ➊
Burkina Faso ➋
Benin ➊
Nigeria ➍
India ➋
Mozambique ➊
Swaziland ➊
Lesotho ➊
South Africa ➊
Guatemala ➊
Nicaragua ➊

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.