

# PATH's work in tuberculosis

There are an estimated 8.8 million new cases of tuberculosis (TB) each year and incidence is increasing, fuelled by HIV in many parts of the world. Despite the availability of a cost-effective treatment and case management strategy, known as DOTS, fewer than half of the estimated cases worldwide are detected.

Fortunately, over 80 percent of cases detected under DOTS programs are successfully treated. The priority for TB control, even in high HIV-prevalence settings, is to expand the availability and utilization of DOTS and ensure high treatment success rates.

**Reducing TB and TB/HIV-related morbidity and mortality:** PATH promotes the internationally recommended DOTS strategy for the control of TB and is an active member of the Stop TB Partnership and the Collaboration and Resource Exchange Group (known as CORE). At the global, regional, and country levels, PATH works closely with national TB programs and their technical partners to complement existing activities with innovations in capacity building, service delivery, social mobilization, and technologies.

Highlights of PATH's recent work in TB include:

- Comprehensive DOTS expansion efforts in the Ukraine, including building political commitment for TB control, strengthening laboratories, improving community and provider responsiveness to TB, and
- strengthening monitoring and surveillance.
- Introduction of an innovative model for public-private collaboration in DOTS delivery in Cambodia.
- Technical assistance to the Ministry of Health in Kenya for strengthening the laboratory network for TB diagnostics, assessing and improving human resource capacity, and developing and implementing a national strategy for communications and advocacy.
- Launch of comprehensive TB/HIV projects in Tanzania and Kenya in collaboration with Ministries of Health, World Health Organization, Royal Netherlands Tuberculosis Foundation, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
- Evaluation of the health system and socio-economic factors constraining DOTS expansion and support to the design of advocacy solutions in India, Indonesia, and Kenya.
- Cost-effectiveness analysis of new diagnostic and vaccine technologies targeting TB.
- Technical support for groups submitting proposals to the Global Fund for AIDS, TB, and Malaria (GFATM) and to those already receiving GFATM awards in Bangladesh, Russia, Kenya, and Ukraine.



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**PATH improves the health of people around the world by advancing technologies, strengthening systems, and encouraging healthy behaviors.**



Through its marriage of technological and operational innovations, PATH is uniquely positioned to help public health programmers reach global TB control targets of detecting at least 70 percent of infectious cases and successfully treating 85 percent of them.

**PATH's TB strategy:** PATH works in partnership with national TB and HIV and AIDS programs, the private sector, and local and international technical agencies to help implement and expand DOTS and innovations in DOTS delivery. PATH's TB activities range from baseline assessments and capacity building to project design and implementation. Our strong comparative advantage to support national TB programs in key areas is based on our core competencies:

- 1) Technology development and transfer, including implementing clinical trials and field demonstrations of new diagnostics, strengthening laboratory networks for drug resistance surveillance and quality control of smear microscopy, and stimulating demand for new diagnostics.
- 2) Communications for social change, including developing and launching comprehensive

communications and social mobilization strategies from community-level theater to mass media; and monitoring and evaluating the impact of social mobilization activities on TB case detection, treatment outcomes, and TB/HIV.

- 3) Health systems strengthening, including building capacity and introducing sustainable systems for public-private partnerships, TB/HIV collaborative activities, nongovernmental and community-based organizations, and DOTS expansion; developing tools to support pre- and in-service health providers; designing surveillance and monitoring systems; conducting analytical work to support evidence-based planning; and introducing innovations to enhance and monitor equity in access.

PATH receives generous support for its TB control activities from USAID through its TB Technical Assistance Support Contract (TB TASC2) and its Child Survival and Health Grants Program, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief through CDC and USAID, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation.



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about PATH's work,  
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