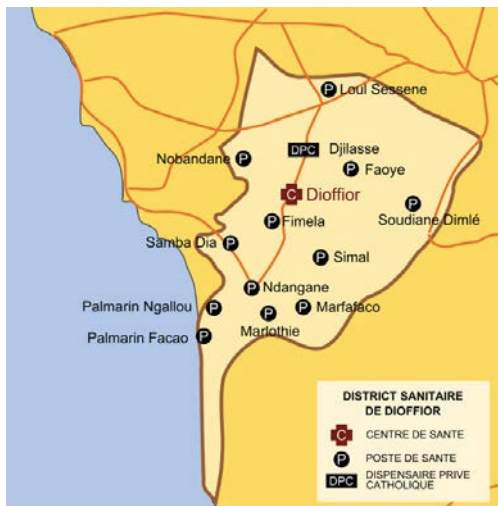




Project in support of the Tuberculosis Control Programme in the health district of Dioffior - Senegal

In September 2012 the three-year project to support the tuberculosis control programme, proposed by Stop TB Italy and fully funded by the Monzino Foundation, has been launched in the health district of Dioffior in Senegal.

In Senegal Tuberculosis (TB) is considered one of the major public health problems registering an estimated incidence of 136 cases per 100,000 inhabitants and having not yet achieved the WHO targets of 70% case detection and 85% cured rates, which would allow the reversal of the epidemiological trend and would contain the spread of the infection, which is still out of control.



Picture 1: Health District of Dioffior

In the health district of Dioffior, area of intervention of the project, the major **problems of the local TB control programme** are: the very difficult access to health facilities by the population, because of the long distances and the cost of transportation; the fear that the disease still causes in the population; the lack of information; the lower sensitivity of the traditional diagnosis and, finally, the poverty, cause and exacerbation of the disease. This project has the specific objective to overcome these difficulties addressing them from multiple angles: **the social aspects, together with the healthcare ones**, can not be neglected in a modern program, more effective, durable and sustainable.

The project is divided into four different groups of activities:

1. **Purchasing and installing the GeneXpert**, which can diagnose the patients with greater sensitivity, identifying as well possible resistances of the responsible strain.
2. **Training 50 women**, selected in advance, which will become the representatives of the Community TB program in their villages and that will be trained to perform the following tasks:

- Raising public awareness of the disease, the modes of transmission and the possibilities of recovery, and breaking down the barriers of TB stigma by increasing the public's knowledge;
- Informing the population about the access to diagnosis, treatment and economic support provided to patients;
- Identifying possible patients who need to take a TB test;
- Monitoring and supporting TB patients during treatment.



Picture 2: Training women of the villages

3. **Producing informational material**, such as posters and brochures, about the disease and the activities of the project.
4. **Giving economic support to patients** that will be able to access health facilities to undergo the medical examination required and follow an appropriate treatment (the aid is linked to good adherence to treatment and monitoring).

The project also includes a **training of Italian doctors** interested in international development cooperation, to be held at the *Bois sacré*, capable of giving hospitality and logistical support to the training.

Finally Stop TB Italia will produce a **documentary** that will collect stories and testimonies of the actors involved in the project and the inhabitants of the villages in order to raise public awareness in Italy on the problem of tuberculosis in the world and to convey the reality of these villages, rich in culture and social commitment.



Picture 3: GeneXpert opening ceremony

All activities are planned to integrate the national TB program in Senegal, are implemented in close cooperation with the competent ministerial authorities, the health managers in the district and the community directly affected, and are directly coordinated by the cooperative *GIE Bois Sacré*, local partner of Stop TB Italy.

Between January and February 2013, the laboratory of Dioffior has started using the GeneXpert, the selected women of the villages has been trained and they started to raise public awareness and looking for

potential patients at the Community level.

To support the project you can make a donation:

1. By bank transfer to Stop TB Italia Onlus
IBAN – IT79L 05216 01616 000000000538
2. On line (www.stoptb.it) via Pay Pal

For further information:

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www.stoptb.it