



Stop TB Partnership

2008: A year of challenges and milestones

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

- The Stop TB Partnership welcomed the approval of US\$153 million in spending for global TB control programmes for 2008--up US\$72 million from 2007 spending. An additional \$150 million was dedicated by the US [President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief](#) to address the TB-HIV co-epidemic in 2008.
- The Stop TB Partnership launched a two-year World TB Day Campaign, *I am stopping TB*, and the [World TB Day 2008 web site](#).
- A [report](#) issued by the WHO Stop TB Department found that multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) had been recorded at the highest rates ever.

MARCH-APRIL

- Street events, lectures and rallies were among the many events held all over the world on or around World TB Day 2008. And the slogan for the 2008-2009 campaign "I am stopping TB" was on display everywhere on banners and posters tailored to local tastes and concerns.
- Famed football star and newly appointed Stop TB Ambassador Luis Figo marked World TB Day by playing a penalty shoot-out with a group of high school students in London, with the support of the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to Stop TB, Jorge Sampaio. The day was marked by the launch of a World TB Day [poster campaign featuring Figo](#).
- Dr Sampaio, WHO Director-General Margaret Chan, UNAIDS Executive Director Peter Piot, Global Fund Executive Director Professor Michel Kazatchkine and WHO Stop TB Department Director Dr Mario Raviglione gathered in Geneva to launch the [Global Tuberculosis Control](#) report 2008. The report found the pace of the progress in controlling the TB epidemic slowed slightly in 2006, reflecting a slowdown in the progress on diagnosing people with TB compared to the previous five years
- As a follow-up to a thematic session focusing on TB/HIV, the [UNAIDS](#) Coordinating Board declared TB an urgent threat and called on member states to deliver integrated TB and HIV services that provide adequate TB infection control in HIV care settings.

MAY-JUNE

- The [Eastern Mediterranean Partnership to Stop TB](#) was launched in Cairo, an event which coincided with the [14th Stop TB Coordinating Board Meeting](#). The first lady of Egypt, Mrs Suzanne Mubarak, was a speaker at the opening ceremony.



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- For the first time ever, heads of government, public health and business leaders, heads of UN agencies and activists came together to seek a common way forward on confronting HIV/TB. The [HIV/TB Global Leaders' Forum](#), held at UN Headquarters, was convened by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Stop TB, Dr Jorge Sampaio, and endorsed by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who attended the opening session.
- The Stop TB Partnership, WHO, [UNITAID](#) and the [Foundation for Innovative Diagnostics](#) (FIND) announced a [joint initiative](#) that will allow thousands of people in low-resource countries who are ill with multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) to get a faster diagnosis -- in two days, not the standard two to three months -- and appropriate treatment.

JULY-AUGUST

- A comic book featuring Luis Figo as the main character was launched in Lisbon by Dr Jorge Sampaio, the UN Secretary-General Secretary's Special Envoy to Stop TB. [Luis Figo and the World Tuberculosis Cup](#) was created by Rod Espinosa, who won an international competition run by the Stop TB Partnership. The comic book seeks to teach children and teens about tuberculosis and how to prevent it, and is being made available worldwide in many languages.
- The Stop TB Partnership launched [Images to Stop TB](#), a competition aimed at obtaining outstanding photos depicting prevention and treatment of TB and community activity to raise awareness about it.
- The web site for the [3rd Partners' Forum](#) was launched, along with an [on-line discussion](#) though which Partners were invited collaborate on setting priorities for the Forum's agenda. The Forum will be held in Rio de Janeiro from 23-25 March 2009.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

- [TED](#) launched a [campaign](#) involving projection of photographs depicting XDR-TB by internationally renowned photographer James Nachtwey in giant screenings around the globe and across the web. TED marked the launch with a special screening at Lincoln Center in New York City and a symposium introduced by Paul Simon and featuring Stop TB's Dr Marcos Espinal, Google's Dr Larry Brilliant the Global Fund's Rajat Gupta and others.
- The Stop TB Partnership announced recipients of two major awards at ceremonies held during the [Union World Conference on Lung Health](#) in Paris. Dr Jaime Bayona of Socios En Salud Sucursal Peru and Prof Denis Mitchison shared this year's [Kochon Prize](#), which is awarded annually to persons, institutions or organizations that have made a highly significant contribution



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- to combating TB. The winners of the [2008 Award for Excellence in Reporting on Tuberculosis](#), which recognizes outstanding reporting and commentary in print and on the web that materially increases the public's knowledge and understanding of TB and MDR-TB, were: first place, Brian Ligomeka of Malawi; second place, Ilze Vainovska of Latvia; third place, Refat Berlanty of Egypt.
- His Excellency Dr Amani Abeid Karume, President of Zanzibar, spoke at the opening ceremony of the [15th Stop TB Coordinating Board Meeting](#) in Bagamoyo, Tanzania. The day before the opening of the meeting was marked by the launch of [Luis Figo and the World Cup](#) in a Swahili-language version at a press conference presided over by the Minister for Health and Social Welfare, Tanzania, the Honourable Prof David Mwakyusa (a Stop TB Coordinating Board member).

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

- The Board of the [Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria](#), as an outcome of its Eighteenth Board Meeting in New Delhi, India, agreed on a [decision point \(DP12\)](#) aimed at massive scale-up of the actions needed to fully implement the Stop TB Strategy and the Global Plan to Stop TB. The Board considered this decision point following a call from the Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board that it make a bold statement on scaling up TB control.
- For the first time, public health experts and Indigenous leaders from 60 countries met to seek a way forward on reducing the incidence of tuberculosis among Indigenous peoples by 2015. The conference was held in Toronto, Canada and co-hosted by the [Assembly of First Nations](#) and the [Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami](#). Across the globe Indigenous peoples are at exceptionally high risk of becoming ill with tuberculosis and dying from the disease
- An independent review committee selected 23 civil society organizations as grant recipients of the 2008 [Challenge Facility for Civil Society](#) (CFCS). The CFCS targets grass-roots civil society organizations that seek to help shape policy at local and national levels by giving a voice to people living with TB and those involved in its prevention, treatment and care.
- The photojournalist Jean Chung of the Republic of Korea was selected as the winner of the Stop TB Partnership's 2008 [Images to Stop Tuberculosis Award](#). Internationally renowned photographer Gary Knight presented the award during a ceremony at the [Angkor Photography Festival](#).