

# STOP TB NEWS

January 2008

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

### **2007: A year to remember for the Stop TB Partnership**

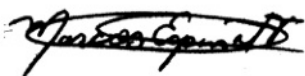
The global fight against tuberculosis gained momentum as never before in 2007, making it a year to remember for the Stop TB Partnership.

The incidence rate of TB stabilized for the first time since the World Health Organization declared TB a public health emergency in 1993, and the TB case detection rate was double what it was when the Partnership was established in 2000.

The Global Drug Facility announced that it had provided 10 million TB treatments in six years to people in need. Dr Jorge Sampaio, the UN Secretary-General's Envoy to Stop TB, traveled the world to raise awareness at the highest political levels about the need to accelerate the fight against TB. And a new study, produced by the World Bank on behalf of the Stop TB Partnership, offered tangible evidence that TB control is a good investment: countries can earn significantly more than they spend on TB diagnosis and treatment.

Media coverage of TB as a global public health emergency doubled compared to the previous year, with a strong focus on the growing challenge of drug resistance. And across the world a variety of voices—including activists in a peaceful march through Cape Town, South Africa and global leaders meeting in Washington, DC—called for greater commitment to confronting TB/HIV.

After their tireless efforts and dedication throughout 2007, we hope that our more than 600 partners and other friends are starting this New Year refreshed and ready to continue the long fight we face to achieve a world free of TB. 2008 promises to be a year of great challenges and great opportunities!



Dr Marcos Espinal

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## TOPLINE NEWS

### **Stop TB Ambassador appointed: Figo's new goal is fighting tuberculosis**

The New Year has brought a new player to the field with the January announcement of the appointment of Luís Figo as Stop TB Ambassador. Figo—a football star beloved around the world and currently playing for FC Internazionale Milan (Inter Milan)—will capitalize on his fame and popularity to raise awareness about TB.

"Tuberculosis is one of the unfairer fouls in the game of life," Figo said on the occasion of the announcement. "I am grateful to the Stop TB Partnership for giving me the opportunity to help protect the world's people against this terrible illness."

[Read the press release \(English\)](#)

[Read the press release \(French\)](#)

[Watch a video interview with Figo](#)

[Link to Figo's web site](#)

[Contact for more information](#)

### **Aggressive tuberculosis control is a smart investment, World Bank study finds**

A new World Bank research report, completed on behalf of the Stop TB Partnership and released in December, finds that 22 countries with the world's highest numbers of TB cases could gain significantly more than they spend on TB diagnosis and treatment if they signed onto the Stop TB Partnership's Global Plan to Stop TB. Highly affected African countries could gain up to 9 times their investments in TB control; and those outside Africa a 15-fold return. The study also warns of the need to step up TB control worldwide with the growing emergence of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) and extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) in Southern Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

[Press release](#)

### **World TB Day theme announced**

**I am stopping TB** is more than slogan. It is the start of a two-year campaign to challenge people everywhere to do their part to stop TB.

This year's World TB Day (24 March 2008) will be about celebrating the lives and stories of people affected by TB: women, men and children who have taken TB treatment; nurses; doctors; researchers; community workers—anyone who has contributed towards the global fight against TB.

The campaign was announced by Stop TB Ambassador Anna Cataldi at the opening ceremony of the [38th Union World Conference on Lung Health](#) of the [International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease](#) in Cape Town in November.

"The slogan, 'I am stopping TB', says that everyone can take an active role in helping all people in need gain access to accurate TB diagnosis and effective treatment," Ms Cataldi said.

[Press release](#)

[World TB Day Website](#)

### **2007 Stop TB Partnership–Kochon Prize recipients announced**

The Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee and the Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China share the 2007 Stop TB Partnership–Kochon Prize, which was established in 2006 and is awarded annually to persons, institutions, or organizations that have made a highly significant contribution to combating tuberculosis. The selections were announced in November in Cape Town at the opening ceremony of the [38th Union World Conference on Lung Health](#) of the [International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease](#). The winners received the Kochon Medal and a shared award of US\$65 000.

The Kochon Foundation is a non-profit foundation registered in the Republic of Korea.

[Note to the Media](#)

[Kochon Prize web site](#)

### **Stop TB/Lilly MDR-TB Partnership Award For Excellence In Reporting On Tuberculosis**

A new journalism prize—the Stop TB Partnership/Lilly MDR-TB Partnership Journalism Award—was announced in November on the eve of the [38th Union World Conference on Lung Health](#) of the [International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease](#) in Cape Town. This award, which will be granted for the first time in 2008, will recognize outstanding reporting and commentary in print and on the web that materially increases the public's knowledge and understanding of TB and multidrug-

resistant TB (MDR-TB), in countries affected by the disease.

[Press release](#)

### **Ministries from 49 countries sign the Berlin Declaration on Tuberculosis**

Representatives from ministries of 49 countries in the greater European region endorsed the Berlin Declaration on Tuberculosis at the [European Ministerial Forum](#), "All Against Tuberculosis" held in Berlin on 22 October.

The declaration "notes with concern that TB has re-emerged as an increasing health security threat in the WHO European Region" and "recognises that a Europe-wide approach will be key to the control and eventual elimination of TB". The declaration also calls for the adoption of the Stop TB Strategy in all its components, including addressing the funding gap between the total resources available and the resources needed to control TB and accelerate the development of new diagnostics, drugs and vaccines to achieve the 2015 Millennium Development Goal on TB.

"In our globalizing world, to successfully combat the threat of TB, a common strategy is critical," said the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to Stop TB and former President of Portugal Dr Jorge Sampaio in his keynote speech, adding that it is vital for "the European Union, as well as other major organizations, like for instance the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Council of Europe, the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and other fora join forces to address the TB epidemic and face the common threats of the emerging MDR-TB."

[Press release](#)

### **Stop TB Partnership and UNITAID join forces to address TB drug shortfalls**

In October the [Stop TB Partnership Global Drug Facility](#) and [UNITAID](#) announced a collaboration with 19 countries to address life-threatening shortages of anti-tuberculosis (TB) drugs. The initiative will provide these drugs to countries that are scaling up their TB control efforts and have confirmed future support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria or another donor but are not able to cover their full needs at present.

The project, which is restricted to anti-TB treatments suitable for people whose form of TB is not resistant to standard therapies, also provides for the establishment of a stockpile of anti-TB drugs that will be made available to countries facing shortages because of humanitarian emergencies or inadequate capacity for planning orders.

[Press release](#)

### **Canada's Opera Lyra adds its voice to the Stop TB Partnership**

[Opera Lyra](#), a non-profit organization in Ottawa, Canada, has joined the Stop TB Partnership in December. Opera Lyra will collaborate on one of the Partnership's newest initiatives, Music to Stop TB, an advocacy project that draws on longstanding links between TB and opera—in particular, the operas *La Traviata* (Verdi) and *La Bohème* (Puccini), which focus on the tragic death of a young woman from TB. The movement also seeks to raise awareness about TB through performance of music by Chopin, Boccherini, Pergolesi and other composers whose lives were taken by TB.

## **COUNTRY NEWS**

### **China to step up efforts to stop TB**

Chinese Health Minister Chen Zhu has highlighted the need to step up the fight against TB in China, following that country's sixth annual joint monitoring mission in December..

"Although our tuberculosis prevention campaign has had some initial success, which has been widely recognised by international society, we must clearly recognise that the epidemic has not substantially improved," said Zhu in a note to the press.

"At the same time, we face many new challenges and opportunities. We cannot be sluggish in our prevention work, and have to step up efforts. The pressure on prevention work is enormous," he added.

A team of national experts and international partners including the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the UK Department for International Development, the KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation and the Damien Foundation visited the provinces of Fujian, Jiangxi and Yunnan to assess the overall progress of the TB programme and to look into the implementation of a Global Fund Round 5 project launched in 2007 to address multidrug-resistant TB, TB in migrants, and TB-HIV co-infection.

### **Serbia bounces back against TB**

Serbia's National TB Committee has reported a significant decrease in TB incidence in 2006, accompanied by an improved case detection rate of 77 percent. Newly available data on treatment outcomes outside the capital show a satisfactory percentage of successfully treated new smear-positive pulmonary TB cases.

These results have been achieved in the short time since the committee was established in 2003 to plan, coordinate and evaluate TB control actions. The committee was created by the Ministry of Health to address the public health threat of TB: in the aftermath of the critical events of the 1990s, poverty slashed health-sector resources and declining public health was exacerbated by cross border movements, refugees and internally displaced people. TB data collection was incomplete and inaccurate, with suspected under-reporting, especially from marginalized population groups.

Having produced a first draft of a national TB programme, the committee applied for, received and is implementing a Round 3 [Global Fund](#) grant of more than USD4 million over 5 years for a project to strengthen the health care system for TB control, expand DOTS to 100 percent of the country, improve TB control among high-risk populations and prevent emerging drug-resistant cases, all in line with the World Health Organization's DOTS Strategy and the Stop TB Global Plan.

### **Pakistan advancing towards achievement of TB MDG**

Pakistan achieved a 70 percent case detection rate in the second quarter of 2007, putting Pakistan on track to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goal of having halted and begun to reverse the incidence of TB by 2015, according to Health Ministry officials.

"Tuberculosis poses a significant public health threat to developing countries like Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan and civil society are increasingly investing in control of this communicable yet preventable and curable disease," said an official speaking in Islamabad in August.

He added that the National TB Control Programme owed this significant achievement to the hard work of health care workers at district level, supervision by provincial TB control departments, consistent contributions from non governmental organizations, the essential role played by donors and the leadership provided by the Ministry of Health.

Since the revival of the national programme in 2000, more than 600 000 patients have been registered for free treatment, out of which 85 percent successfully completed the course. The programme obtained a Round 6 [Global Fund](#) grant of US\$ 56 million with a start date of 1 December 2007.

### **Cape Town march for TB awareness**

Some 2 000 people seeking to raise awareness about the urgent need for better TB control marched through Cape Town in November, on the eve of the opening of the [38th Union World Conference on Lung Health](#) of the [International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease](#). The march was organized by South Africa's [Treatment Action Campaign](#).

### **TB messages at World AIDS Day observance in Ghana**

The [Afro Global Alliance](#), the TB Voice Network and the [Ghana Red Cross Society](#) held a walk in Accra on World AIDS Day (December 1) to raise awareness of TB and HIV. More than 3 000 youths from various schools across the city participated and received advocacy materials.

### **Special Envoy to Stop TB visits premier TB clinic in New Jersey**

Dr Jorge Sampaio, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to Stop TB and the former President of Portugal, visited Newark, New Jersey in September to tour the [New Jersey Medical School Global](#)

[Tuberculosis Institute](#) and its clinical facility, the Lattimore Clinic. He also visited the homes of patients receiving TB treatment in the neighbouring city of Elizabeth. The Lattimore Clinic, which opened in 2002 and is widely viewed as an exemplar for TB programmes because of the excellent and comprehensive care it provides, is the only clinic built in the last century for the sole purpose of serving TB patients in the United States.

### **Film star Rupert Everett visits TB programmes in Russia**

Rupert Everett, renowned film and theatre actor and Special Representative of [UNAIDS](#), visited Russia in September to learn more about the TB and HIV epidemics and what is being done to reverse them and to visit projects addressing both diseases in St. Petersburg and Moscow. The three-day tour was the first official UNAIDS trip for Everett, who has starred in highly popular films including "My Best Friend's Wedding" and "Another Country" since he was appointed a Special Representative on World AIDS Day 2006.

[UNAIDS press release](#)

## **RESEARCH NEWS**

### **FIND and Zeiss team up to develop an affordable fluorescence microscope to boost diagnosis**

In November the [Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics](#) (FIND), a leading public-private partnership dedicated to the development of new diagnostic tools for poverty-related diseases, and [Carl Zeiss](#), a global leader in microscopy, announced that they will collaborate on the development of a high-performance, durable, fluorescence microscope based on light-emitting diode (LED) technology which will be affordable for high-burden countries.

Sputum microscopy using brightfield microscopy, currently the most widely used method to detect tuberculosis, is time-consuming and not as sensitive as fluorescence microscopy. Bacterial culture is more sensitive, but takes 4-6 weeks to complete, and is too complex for most settings where TB patients are seen. The new microscope, intended for both the public and private non-profit sectors for the detection of TB and other infectious diseases (such as malaria and sleeping sickness), will provide a more efficient tool for microscopy where it is needed most.

Fluorescence improves detection of TB cases by an average of 10% compared to brightfield microscopy, but standard fluorescent microscopes are expensive and high-maintenance, with sensitive, short-lived high-pressure lamps. Replacing these lamps with low-cost, ultra-bright LEDs—which have a long lifespan and are inexpensive to manufacture—will decrease the instrument's power consumption, allowing battery operation. The LEDs also have an expected minimum lifetime of 10,000 hours, versus 200 for a conventional mercury lamp. These advantages, plus the ability to use a standard brightfield microscopy platform for manufacture, will substantially reduce the costs of purchase and maintenance and facilitate wider use of this technology.

[Press release](#)

### **GlaxoSmithKline and TB Alliance Renew Tuberculosis Drug Discovery Program**

In January GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development (TB Alliance) renewed their joint research program with the goal to improve TB treatment. The research collaboration, initiated in 2004, currently includes a portfolio of early projects which may ultimately yield new medicines that attack the TB bacillus, including drug-resistance strains. Under the agreement, which has been extended for a further three years, GSK and the TB Alliance will jointly fund 15 to 25 scientists at GSK's Tres Cantos facility in Spain.

# Recent Events

## Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization Working Group Meets in Cape Town

The Stop TB Partnership's [Working Group on Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization](#) held its first full meeting since the Working Group's launch in 2005. The two-day meeting, which took place in Cape Town in November prior to the [38th Union World Conference on Lung Health](#) of the [International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease](#), was attended by close to 100 participants.

[More information](#)

## UN Special Envoy addresses a high-level Washington audience on global TB challenges

Dr Jorge Sampaio, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to Stop TB and the former President of Portugal, was the keynote speaker at a policy luncheon organized in Washington in October by the [Center for Strategic and International Studies](#) (CSIS) and the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#).

The luncheon, which was held at the Dirksen Senate Office building, took place at a time when the US Congress is deliberating the 2008 foreign aid funding bill and considering increasing total bilateral TB appropriations for 2008 to USD200 million. If approved, the 2008 funding level will be double what the US appropriated last year and would be the single largest commitment in the fight against TB.

"It is gratifying to see the U.S. Congress taking the lead by seeking to double its spending on fighting this deadly scourge," Dr Sampaio said. "In light of the growing problem of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, world leaders are acknowledging the urgent need to step up the global fight to stop TB."

Other speakers at the event, which was entitled "The TB Frontier: New Strategies, HIV Linkages, Threats, and Tools", included Senator Sherrod Brown (Democrat, Ohio); Ambassador Mark Dybul, US Global AIDS Coordinator; Dr Mario Raviglione, Director of the WHO Stop TB Department; Dr Irene Koek, chief of USAID's Infectious Disease Division and Chair of the Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board; and J. Stephen Morrison, Executive Director of the CSIS HIV/AIDS Task Force.

[Kaiser webcast](#)

[Speech of the UN Special Envoy to Stop TB](#)

## Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board meets in Berlin

The [Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board](#) met in Berlin in October following the European Ministerial Forum on Tuberculosis (see "[Ministries from 49 countries sign the Berlin Declaration on Tuberculosis](#)", above). The two-day meeting, hosted by the [German Development Bank](#) (KfW), covered a variety of topics including strengthening health systems through cooperation between Stop TB and global health initiatives, overcoming bottlenecks in second-line TB drug procurement, fundraising for TB, and the Stop TB Partnership Secretariat Work Plan 2008/2009.

Speakers included Stop TB Ambassador Anna Cataldi, Deputy General Director of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development Dr Manfred Konukiewicz, and Dr Jorge Sampaio, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to Stop TB and the former President of Portugal. Board Chair Irene Koek, chief of USAID's Infectious Disease Division for the Global Health Bureau, presided.

## MDR-TB Working Group meeting meets in Georgia

The Stop TB Partnership's [Working Group on MDR-TB](#) met in Tbilisi, Georgia in September. The event brought together people who have worked on projects approved by the [Green Light Committee](#) and representatives from countries around the world that are engaged in MDR-TB management. Its aim was to share best practices and challenges with a view to developing strategies for accelerating the scale-up of MDR-TB management in accordance with the [Global MDR-TB and XDR-TB Response Plan 2007-2008](#).



# Recent Publications

## January 2008

### **Advocacy, communication and social mobilization for TB control: a guide to developing knowledge, attitude and practice surveys**

This guide has been developed to help systematize countries' approaches to collecting and using data from KAP surveys for planning, refining and evaluating ACSM work.

[Link to PDF file](#)

## December 2007

### **Advocacy, communication and social mobilization: a handbook for country programmes**

This handbook is a guide to support the design and implementation of ACSM activities and is primarily intended for staff that plan, organize and supervise TB control activities at the national level.

[Link to PDF file](#)

## November 2007

### **TB tips: advice for people with tuberculosis**

This publication is a short booklet full of practical advice, suggestions, guidance and information in an easy-to-read format for TB patients.

[Link to PDF file](#)

### **Overcoming Tuberculosis: A Handbook for Patients**

This handbook aims to help people with TB or multidrug-resistant TB understand what TB is and how they can get the disease, how it is diagnosed, and how it is treated and cured.

[Link to PDF file](#)

## October 2007

### **The Global MDR-TB & XDR-TB Response Plan 2007-2008**

This plan sets out immediate measures to prevent, treat and control extensively drug-resistant and multidrug-resistant TB, as well as longer-term actions to reach diagnosis and treatment goals (see Stop TB News, September 2007).

[Link to PDF file](#)

# Forthcoming Publications

### **TB Tips in Spanish, French and Hindi**

This short booklet by Paul Thorn is full of practical advice, suggestions, guidance and information in an easy-to-read format for people with tuberculosis. For even wider use by people with TB all over the world, the booklet is now being translated and will soon be available in Spanish, French and Hindi.

A limited number of hard copies will be available for distribution; please contact [chuy@who.int](mailto:chuy@who.int).

[Link to PDF files \(available shortly\)](#)

### **Drug Resistance Surveillance Report (February 2008)**

### **TB Global Tuberculosis Control Report (March 2008)**

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## February 2008

1/2/2008		Geneva	Green Light Committee Meeting
27/2/2008		Washington, DC	Launch of the WHO Drug Resistance Surveillance Report
28/2/2008	29/02/2008	San Diego, California	North American Regional Conference, International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease

## MARCH 2008

2/3/2008	7/3/2008	Kampala, Uganda	First Global Forum on Human Resources for Health
17/3/2008		Geneva, London	Launch of the WHO Global Tuberculosis Control Report 2008
24/3/2008		Worldwide	World TB Day

## APRIL 2008

14/4/2008	19/4/2008	Sondalo, Italy	WHO Training Workshop for Public-Private Mix (CONTACT: <a href="mailto:rosella.centis@fsm.it">rosella.centis@fsm.it</a> )
23/4/2008	25/4/2008	Thailand	UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board
23/04/2008	25/04/2008	Tokyo	STB Partnership Japan meeting

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