

# Club des Amis Damien

Democratic Republic of Congo

## Grantee Profile

### Organization

Club des Amis Damien (CAD)

### Where we work

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)



### About CAD

Club des Amis Damien (CAD) was created in 1999 following the closure of a healthcare center for TB by the health authority in the province of Kinshasa due to poor performance in TB care. In order to continue supporting TB patients and to improve the center's performance, the nurse in charge of TB raised awareness about TB and advocated for patient involvement in TB care. TB patients were then asked to mobilized to support other patients; firstly in raising awareness about treatment, and secondly, to increase adherence and treatment compliance. In 1998, the initiative "Tuberculosis Patient Involvement in the fight against Tuberculosis" was launched in the Democratic Republic of



### Objectives of Round 7

- 1 Strengthen existing or new national level TB constituencies that engage, represent and are accountable to communities.
- 2 Reinforce the capacities & responses of local communities who are part of the TB response.
- 3 Tighten linkages, collaboration and coordination between communities and government.

Congo. Since then, it has expanded to reach 13 provinces out of the 26 in the country.

### TB in DRC

The Democratic Republic of Congo is a high burden TB country. An estimated 115,000 people develop TB each year, among whom 0.4 % have MDR-TB equating to 324 MDR-TB patients in 2014. The number of people enrolled on treatment in 2014 was 117, 254. The number of people living with HIV in DR Congo was 481,122 in 2013. In 2014, the proportion of TB patients with HIV was 14%.

## Challenges facing communities in DRC in the TB response

The social challenges of stigma and discrimination of people with TB hinder access to services and community participation in the response. These barriers do not motivate community members to participate in the fight against TB. Some fear the spread of infection and others are reluctant to participate due to the fact that TB is strongly linked to HIV/AIDS. Furthermore there is a lack of communication between healthcare staff, TB patients, opinion leaders, policy makers and community members at provincial and local levels, which hampers the comprehensive support communities require from different stakeholders to ensure full recovery. There is also a significant lack of funding and resources for communities to mobilize locally and to support our engagement.

## The Challenge Facility for Civil Society in DRC

CAD, with the support of the Stop TB Partnership's Challenge Facility for Civil Society will establish provincial consultation frameworks in 5 provinces under the Provincial Coordination Leprosy and Tuberculosis (CPLT) programme. The frameworks will provide the blueprint to enhance community engagement in the TB response. Subsequent consultation forums will then convene diverse stakeholders



involved in the TB response to discuss the issues being faced in the 5 provinces. Stakeholders will include both community and government officials at the provincial level which will promote a favourable environment for community initiatives in the fight against TB.

The implementation of these provincial consultations will allow CAD to collect and apply the opinions and considerations of community members from the provinces in the TB national response.

The Challenge Facility for Civil Society Grant in DRC will be implemented in two phases:

- **Phase I:** CAD will undertake a resource mapping exercise to identify existing resources, coverage gaps, and perspectives of stakeholders about the quality of existing services.
- **Phase II:** CAD will collaborate with existing resources to identify key TB-related issues to bring to the national level, develop plans to fill the coverage gaps, and reassess the perspectives of the stakeholders about the quality of the newly developed network.



**Get involved!**

If you are a community or civil society organization or patient group (those working on TB or interested in working on TB) in DRC and want to engage in the Challenge Facility for Civil Society work in DRC please contact **MAXIME LUNGA NSUMBU**: [maxilunga@yahoo.fr](mailto:maxilunga@yahoo.fr)