

Cambodia

Sihanouk Hospital Center of Hope



Community health volunteers are going house to house and checking for tuberculosis (TB) suspects across slum areas in the capital city.



Chan Mao is 73 years old and lives in a poor slum area in Phnom Penh, Cambodia with difficult access and crowded living conditions. When she fell ill with cough, fever and weight loss she was unable to get out of bed to receive care. Normally it would be a 2 kilometer trip to the nearest health facility where she would have to pay a fee to see a doctor.

However, through an innovative programme developed by Sihanouk Hospital Center of Hope, a local NGO, and supported by TB REACH, community health volunteers are going house to house and checking for tuberculosis (TB) suspects across slum areas in the capital city. Chan Mao was identified by a community health volunteer who collected and sent her sputum specimen to the laboratory and her diagnostic test came back positive for TB. She was started on treatment which is also provided in her home as she recovers. Both the diagnostic tests and the drugs for her treatment are provided free of charge.

Sihanouk Hospital Center of Hope plans to screen almost 350,000 people for TB symptoms in poor areas throughout Phnom Penh by conducting systematic home visits using community volunteers. Not only will they be able to find cases of TB that would have otherwise gone undetected, but they will find TB earlier and this will have important benefits on treatment outcomes and help stop transmission.

To facilitate increased testing by local laboratories, Sihanouk Hospital has procured new LED fluorescence microscopes which can handle higher volumes of tests, and have trained existing laboratory staff. In addition, a new molecular test, Xpert MTB/RIF, is being used to help diagnose more difficult cases at the hospital's main laboratory. The project is working very closely with the National TB Programme, and the local health centers to ensure results are delivered quickly and treatment is available. Through a combination of community outreach and new technology, Sihanouk Hospital Center of Hope is reaching those among the urban poor who may have otherwise been lost.



FINDING AND TREATING PEOPLE WITH TB IN THE WORLD'S POOREST COMMUNITIES

TB REACH

**The first wave of projects
increased case detection
by an average of 26%
compared to
the previous year**

More than nine million people around the world become ill with tuberculosis (TB) each year. About one-third of them fail to get an accurate diagnosis or effective treatment and are more likely to die from this curable disease.

By supporting the many partners working in the field, TB REACH offers a lifeline to people among this missing 3 million by finding and treating people in the poorest, most vulnerable communities in the world. In areas with limited or non-existent TB care, TB REACH supports innovative and effective techniques to find people with TB quickly, avert deaths, stop TB from spreading, and halt the development of drug resistant strains.

- TB REACH was launched in 2010 and will run until 2016, thanks to a CAD\$ 120 million grant from the Canadian International Development Agency.
- TB REACH is committed to getting funds to our partners with a very short turnaround time.
- TB REACH has committed nearly \$50 million to partners working on 75 projects in 36 countries covering a wide range of interventions.
- Preliminary analysis from Wave 1 shows that efforts of partners led to an increase of 26% in TB case detection over an area of 100 million people, while some areas saw increases of more than 100%. The average cost per person covered is US \$0.15.

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Stop TB Partnership
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