

# Ethiopia



## International Organization for Migration (IOM)



### Enhancing TB/HIV detection and treatment among refugees and local communities in Ethiopia

**A new TB REACH project in Ethiopia** run by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) aims to contribute to the reduction of TB and HIV related morbidity, disability and mortality by increasing the case detection rate and treatment success among refugees and local communities in seven administrative zones. The objectives will be achieved through: increasing awareness of TB and HIV; active TB screening in the Shimelba, May-Ayni and Kebribeyah refugee camps and among the host population; active screening of family members and contacts of TB patients; improved access to and quality of TB diagnosis through installing GeneXpert systems in Shire and Jijiga referral hospitals in the Tigray and Somali regions; and building the capacity of these referral hospitals as well as health facilities in the three refugee camps through providing equipment, infrastructure and training.

Since project activities only started in August 2012, results are still being assessed. However some of the specific initiatives include community mobilization and awareness raising campaigns in the refugee camps and host population conducted by the IOM in collaboration with other partners and Extension Health Workers (EHWs), 105 of whom were trained by the project on Community DOTS. In one month, more than 40,000 people were reached by the campaigns

Active TB case finding was conducted in the refugee camps in September, 2012, during which 34,459 refugees were screened. A total of 414 TB suspects were identified by the EHW in the refugee community. They were referred to the camp health facilities for further screening by clinical nurses and 325 were further tested using GeneXpert. New TB patients thus identified were put on treatment and their contacts were traced and screened as well.

Community mobilization with the identification of TB suspects has started in local communities as well, in collaboration with the district health offices and EHWs. It is generally observed that community response to mobilization is extremely enthusiastic. So far more than 400 individuals have been screened for TB during the community campaigns. Ninety individuals identified as TB suspects but testing negative with smear microscopy will be retested using GeneXpert technology.

Two GeneXpert systems were installed at Shire and Jijiga Hospitals, along with supporting materials for recording and reporting data. Nine laboratory technicians were trained in the use of the GeneXpert rapid diagnostic system. In the one month in which it has been operational, 367 samples from refugee camps and the Regional Hospitals were tested using GeneXpert, with a total of 15 cases found to have active TB of which five were confirmed to be rifampicin-resistant.

Additionally, medical supplies, and laboratory equipment have been procured and supplied to the refugee camp health facilities and, referral hospitals.

Despite many challenges to project implementation, including security concerns, lack of sufficient available diagnostic tools in many areas and problems with data collection and referral procedures which have all contributed to case finding remaining low, community response is positive and new strategies will be developed and implemented.

**Stop TB Partnership**  
**TB REACH**





## 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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