

Since 2004, Population Services International (PSI) in Myanmar has provided TB products and services to low income communities through its extensive network of Sun Quality Health private providers (GPs). Currently there are 884 active Sun Quality Health DOTS GP providers operating across the country in urban areas, and 1626 Sun primary health providers providing community-based active case finding and DOTS support in rural areas. To date, PSI's Myanmar program has successfully screened over 224,435 suspected cases and treated 104,026 TB positive cases. However, results from the 2010 National TB Prevalence Survey revealed that TB prevalence in Myanmar is three times higher than previous expected, with higher prevalence recorded in urban populations.

Now, with the generous support of the STOP TB Reach initiative, PSI Myanmar is demonstrating an innovative and cost effective approach to accelerating active case detection in high density, high prevalence, urban slum areas within Yangon and Mandalay. Operating across 38 townships in Myanmar, PSI's project utilizes two different case finding models: community based communications using interpersonal communicators (IPC); incentive schemes to promote referrals from local drug providers and others to nearby PSI franchised Sun clinics. Throughout the one year project period, this initiative expects to screen at least 32,200 symptomatic individuals and to identify 4,000 additional TB cases.

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Myanmar

Population Services International (PSI)



Under the auspices of PSI's TB REACH project, a team of nine interpersonal communicators is working with local authorities and community leaders in Mandalay (upper Myanmar) on accelerated TB case finding activities in urban slum neighborhoods. IPCs work intensively in the communities they serve, offering health talk sessions on the signs and symptoms of TB and the benefits of being screened. They detect suspect cases, collect and monitor sputum samples and facilitate chest x-rays and lab testing. TB positive cases are referred to PSI's Sun Quality Health providers for verification and DOTS treatment. As an outreach support worker, each IPC provides supervision and monitoring of TB suspects to ensure suspects are well informed regarding TB, including the necessity of adherence to the program and follow up of sputum testing and DOTS treatment. At the 11 month mark of this project, the nine IPCs based in Mandalay had reached over 76,860 TB people through health education talks and referred 3,074 suspect cases for examination with 580 cases confirmed as TB positive. All of these confirmed patients are now receiving assistance through SUN providers and community based IPCs with DOTS treatment.

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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