

# Cote d'Ivoire

ACONDA-VS-CI

Major efforts are needed to reduce the impact of tuberculosis in Côte d'Ivoire. As is the case with other western Africa countries, sputum smear positive tuberculosis (SS+ TB) is the most common and main source of TB infection. The proportion of SS+ TB ranges between 60 and 67%.



To support the fight against TB, an active case-finding project is currently being implemented in Cote d'Ivoire in health centers and in the community. This TB REACH project aims to increase and accelerate TB case detection in the general population but specifically among people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) at 17 intervention sites and their surrounding communities. Through systematic screening of walk-in patients and PLWHA in health centers, and by strengthening community monitoring, the project aims to detect active, SS+ TB cases that contribute to ongoing transmission within the community.

To implement this project, 36 community counselors (CC) and 34 health workers have been trained to screen for TB. At the 17 intervention sites, CCs have organized communication training sessions to encourage behavioral changes among existing patients, screened walk-in patients and PLWHA. Health workers increased their screening of HIV patients for TB. CCs also delivered the screening form to persons accompanying walk-ins and PLWHA. After screening, CCs and health workers work together to refer suspected patients for TB testing. Once a TB case is confirmed, CCs visit homes to administer the screening form to at least ten persons living in the household of each SS+ TB individual. Suspected TB cases are referred to health centers for TB testing and CCs stay in touch with the suspected TB cases in the community. Funds are available to allow indigent patients to visit health centers for TB testing. Coaching, monitoring and evaluation missions are organized jointly by an Ivorian NGO (ACONDA-VS-CI) and the national tuberculosis program (NTP) at intervention sites to coordinate activities.

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



To minimize costs and to increase the case detection rate of patients, smear samples for testing were collected using restored motorcycles repaired with project funds, and an incentive approach reimbursed patient transportation and healthcare expenses. Relying on these two strategies, the project has been able to improve the case detection rate of patients from 28% after Q2 2013 to 44% after Q3 2013. By continuing this approach, further increases in detection rates can be expected. Indeed, after Q1 2014, the case detection rate of patients reached 54%. An economic evaluation allowed picking the smear samples collecting strategy as the most cost-effective. Therefore this strategy will be implemented at all intervention sites.

After 53% of case-finding time elapsed, 40% of the projected 650 additional cases have been detected, which translates to a 10% increase from baseline in case detection. In western Cote d'Ivoire, an area that has suffered the most from conflict, there has been an even more significant increase of 24%. These gains make a strong case for the success of continued active TB case-finding in other parts of the country.