

KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation

Tajikistan

Innovative approach for early detection of TB cases in migrants and their families in Tajikistan

◆ The Republic of Tajikistan

is among the 18 countries in the European Region where tuberculosis (TB) is one of the public health priorities, with TB incidence of 100 per 100,000 people. It was estimated that 12.5% of new cases and 53.6% of retreatment cases were multi-drug resistance (MDR) in 2013¹. TB incidence in Khatlon Oblast is higher than that of the national average. Furthermore, Khatlon Oblast has the highest rates of malnutrition, and the largest number of people living below the poverty line (53% of population²).

Russian Federation attracts 990,275 migrant workers from Tajikistan³, with more than 40% of them from Khatlon. Accessing medical care is challenging for these migrants in Russia and Tajikistan. This is because of the mountainous landscape, the high cost of transportation, and the absence of health insurance. Because around 18% of TB patients diagnosed in Tajikistan in 2013 were migrants⁴, the TB REACH project is centered on detecting TB patients among the migrant population.

KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation, International Organization for Migration, Interactive Research & Development, and National TB Program (NTP) implemented the TB REACH project. By implementing Xpert® MTB/RIF (Xpert) as a rapid diagnostic test for TB/ MDR-TB, the project aims to detect 841 additional bacteriologically positive cases among migrants and their families in Khatlon district.

The key interventions in the project include house-to-house visits to increase awareness and identify presumptive cases, as well as screening the migrants and their families for TB at the primary health care (PHC) facilities and Migrant Support Centers. Eleven sites were selected, making up the evaluation population (1,184,400) of the project. Migrants and their family members comprise 57% of the population. PHC physicians and managers working in the evaluation sites verbally screened the patients with symptoms suggestive of TB. Thanks to support from the authority of Khatlon Province, the local authorities of Norak city have already started to support TB patients from poor families with free product supply. Additionally, a sputum transportation system has been implemented.

In support of these interventions, the project worked to improve the integration among TB services, PHC, Migrant Support Centers, and NGOs. Efforts have been made to achieve political adherence from local authorities and sanitary epidemiology services of oblast and district levels. Among relevant local authorities, this approach has also contributed to raising awareness about TB. The project also launched regular public awareness campaigns to reduce the stigma associated with TB.



In the three quarters following the launch of the project in October 2014, 4,295 people were presumed to have TB, with 479 smear and/or bacteriologically positive cases identified, accounting for 41% of the target. Sixty five (13%) of the 479 cases had MDR-TB. Through these activities, the project has achieved an increase of 44% of smear and/or bacteriologically positive cases compared with the corresponding quarters prior to the launch of the project.



1. WHO Global tuberculosis report 2014.

2. World Bank, 2009

3 <http://news.tj/ru/news/trudovaya-migratsiya-iz-tadzhikistana-v-tsifrakh>

4 NTP statistical data



TB REACH

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



Government of Canada **Gouvernement du Canada**

More than nine and a half 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 these people 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 identify people who have TB, avert deaths, stop TB from spreading, and halt the development of drug resistant strains.

TB REACH has supported a total of 142 projects in 46 countries. To date, 33 million people have been screened for TB in project areas, of which, 1.7 million have received TB treatment, accounting for 856,000 lives saved. Some projects have seen increases in TB notifications of more than 100%.

Our partners are providing evidence for new case finding approaches and are working with community and policy leaders as well as donors such as The Global Fund to integrate those approaches into national strategies that improve TB case detection.

TB REACH was launched in 2010 thanks to a CAD\$ 120 million grant from Global Affairs Canada.

TB REACH acts as a pathfinder, providing fast track funding for innovative projects, monitoring effectiveness and leveraging funding for scale up.

Stop TB Partnership

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