



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# TB CARE II

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

**T**uberculosis (TB) remains a critical public health threat in too many countries around the world, contributing to unnecessary deaths and hampering the development of economic and social institutions. The USAID TB CARE II Project, a five-year project implemented by a wide consortium of health and development organizations including and led by University Research Co., LLC (URC), began in 2010 with the aim of complementing and building upon existing and planned projects in the Bureau for Global Health to provide global leadership and support to National TB Programs and other in-country partners. Since then, the project team has grown as a key global resource for the development of innovative tools and approaches to combat TB, multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB, and TB/HIV.



### TB CARE II: At a Glance

The URC-led TB CARE II consortium consists of a group of organizations bound by a common desire to reduce the impact of TB, especially in high burden TB and HIV settings. Our team members bring extensive expertise in strengthening TB services, including combating the spread of MDR TB, in countries around the world. The TB CARE II Consortium partners include field implementation partners such as Partners In Health, Jhpiego and Project HOPE. In addition, the consortium includes technical partners who contribute their specialized expertise, including BEA Enterprises, Inc. (BEA); the Canadian Lung Association (CLA); Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI); Dartmouth Medical School: The Section of Infectious Disease and International Health (IDIH/DMS); Euro Health Group (EHG); MASS Design Group; and the New Jersey Medical School Global Tuberculosis Institute (GTBI).

Since the project started in 2010, it has contributed to identification of 97,000 TB suspects, HIV counseling and screening of about 7,000 TB patients, and treatment initiation for 670 MDR TB patients.

### What We Do

TB CARE II works as a partner to Ministries of Health and National TB Control Programs to build lasting health system capacity to fight TB. In collaboration with the World Health Organization, USAID, the US Centers for Disease Control, and other partners, TB CARE II seeks to advance global knowledge of innovative TB control strategies. Through a mix of technical assistance through long-term field support programs in countries such as Malawi and Bangladesh, operations research, and support for regional or global initiatives around critical TB control topics, TB CARE II engages partners to strengthen disease prevention measures and to advance universal access to quality TB diagnosis, treatment and care.

TB CARE II's work focuses on:

- Expanding and strengthening the *quality of Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) services* especially for vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations
- Strengthening systems for *programmatic management of drug-resistant TB*
- Expanding *TB/HIV integrated care and treatment services*

### JULY 2013

TB CARE II is funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under Cooperative Agreement Number AID-OAA-A-10-00021. The project team includes prime recipient, University Research Co., LLC (URC), and sub-recipient organizations Jhpiego, Partners In Health, Project HOPE along with the Canadian Lung Association; Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; Dartmouth Medical School: The Section of Infectious Disease and International Health; Euro Health Group; MASS Design Group; and The New Jersey Medical School Global Tuberculosis Institute.

- Developing *supportive health systems*
- Increasing the availability of *pediatric TB* services
- Building *laboratory systems* for TB diagnosis and follow-up

TB CARE II at its core is focused on ensuring the development of sustainable health systems and emphasizes strengthening the clinical and programmatic capacity of in-country partners. The project is committed to the application of innovative, evidence-based, and contextualized solutions to meet country specific critical TB challenges. The project team aims to promote rapid scale-up of best practices through district- and community-based approaches that build skills at the ground level. Through partnerships based around provision of financial, management, and technical support, TB CARE II is developing a cadre of local NGOs that will be able to continue to fight TB in their communities. As a lead partner in multiple global or regional TB control initiatives, the project promotes the dissemination of lessons learned and best practices and provides forums for continuous information sharing between TB control advocates, implementers, and decision makers.

## Project Achievement Spotlights

### Increase Access to High-Quality DOT Services

TB CARE II works with partners to advance access to quality DOT through several strategies such as the introduction of community sputum collection points and treatment initiation and registration sites; involvement of private providers in TB diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up; and establishment of referral systems for diagnosis of extra-pulmonary TB.

### Building Lab systems

TB CARE II has assisted in the renovation of microscopy centers, establishment of sputum transportation systems, provision of LED microscopes, roll out of Xpert MTB/Rif machines with technical assistance in development of country specific algorithms: 3,609 MTB and 796 Rif Resistant cases have been detected in Malawi and Bangladesh.

### Programmatic Management of Drug-Resistant TB

TB CARE II works with countries to expand clinical and programmatic capacity to diagnose and treat MDR TB, including increasing the availability of hospital-based treatment services. In addition, TB CARE II is a key partner in the introduction of community-based



MDR TB treatment systems. In Bangladesh, the project has assisted to introduce community-based MDR TB care, with 170 patients enrolled in the past year. These patients are being managed and the quality of services monitored through the use of innovative smart-phone based mHealth. The lessons from these experiences are translating upward into global best practices, which are further being shared with countries through project-developed resources such as a Community-Based Care for Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis: A Guide for Implementers, and a Pocket guide for the Medical Management of MDR-TB.

### Pediatric TB diagnosis and treatment

Diagnosis and care for children with TB has long been overlooked by TB control programs, but availability of targeted services for pediatric cases is a vital part of a successful TB control strategy. TB CARE II is a leader in development of programmatic strategies and clinical capacities to accurately identify childhood cases and successfully manage them through care. In Bangladesh the project has worked with the Ministry of Health to introduce the country's first-ever National Guidelines for Management of Childhood Tuberculosis, and has initiated wide-scale wide capacity development programs for health care professionals on pediatric TB, as well as developed a global Field Guide for the management of Pediatric DRTB.

For more information, please visit  
[www.tbcare2.org](http://www.tbcare2.org)