



## TUBERCULOSIS PROFILE



Haiti has the highest per capita tuberculosis burden in the Latin America and Caribbean region. After HIV/AIDS, TB is the country's greatest infectious cause of mortality of both youth and adults (6,000 deaths annually). Haiti is among the eight priority countries identified by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) for TB control in the region. According to the *WHO Global TB Report 2006*, Haiti had more than 25,000 new TB cases in 2004. Of these, 11,140 were new pulmonary sputum smear-positive (SS+) cases. Although Haiti falls short of the WHO targets of 70 percent case detection and 85 percent treatment success, the Directly Observed Therapy Short-Course (DOTS) case detection rate is 49 percent, up from 12 percent in 1998, while the treatment success rate has remained fairly stable around 78 percent. DOTS coverage is estimated at 55 percent, but in some highly dense metropolitan settings, such as areas of Port-au-Prince, coverage can be as low as 13 percent. The most populated *departement* in Haiti, *Ouest* (West), has 34 percent of the country's population but only 25 percent coverage.

The national TB program, Programme National de Lutte contre la Tuberculose (PNLT), which officially began in 1988, lacks political and financial support from the government. The official adoption of DOTS in 1997, coupled with approval in 2002 of national guidelines and norms for TB control, strengthened and formalized the approach to TB control. A major problem in combating TB is that co-infection with HIV among TB cases can run as high as 30 percent in some urban areas. Conversely, 20 percent of HIV-positive adults in Haiti are infected with TB. Strong stigma and cultural barriers attached to TB also interfere with case detection and adherence to treatment.

Country population	8,406,941
Estimated number of new TB cases	25,707
Estimated TB incidence (all cases per 100,000 pop.)	306
DOTS population coverage (%)	55
Rate of new sputum smear-positive (SS+) cases (per 100,000 pop.)	84
DOTS case detection rate (new SS+) (%)	49
DOTS treatment success rate in 2003 (new SS+) (%)	78
Estimated adult TB cases HIV+ (%)	29.0
New multidrug-resistant TB cases (%)	1.4

Note: All data are for 2004 except where noted otherwise.  
Source: Global Tuberculosis Control: WHO Report 2006.

### **USAID Approach and Key Activities**

Between 2003 and 2005, USAID funds for TB programming in Haiti averaged \$1.8 million per year. USAID's approach in Haiti complements the priorities of the PNLT. A major focus of USAID activities is to continue to increase case detection, improve treatment completion rates, and strengthen coordination between HIV/AIDS and TB programs.

USAID assistance includes the following interventions:

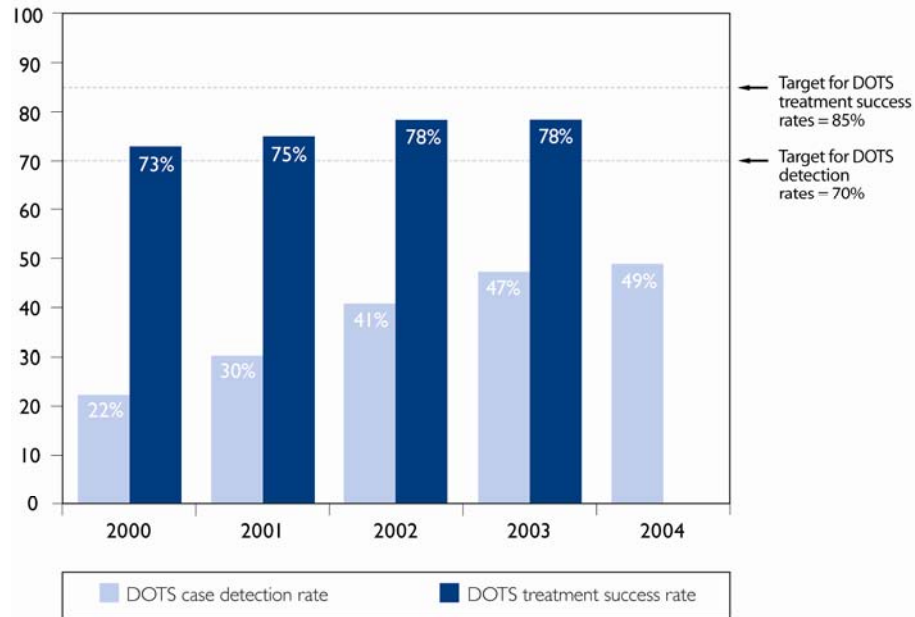
- Strengthening DOTS implementation and expanding existing DOTS services
- Assessing and guiding protocol design, coordination activities, program monitoring, specialized problem solving, and research monitoring
- Supporting social mobilization, behavior change, and information, education, and communication for increased and improved DOTS coverage through strategy and materials development, testing, training, and distribution
- Improving coordination and reinforcement of capacity-building activities for health staff conducting case detection, treatment, and support activities
- Stimulating operational research studies and epidemiological analyses to improve the public health response to TB-HIV/AIDS
- Building TB-HIV/AIDS testing, referral, and care systems
- Ensuring that staff trained by the Ministry of Public Health and Population know how to assess drug management problems and improve the drug management systems
- Fostering alliances with private doctors treating TB patients to better provide periodic updates on monitoring norms and procedures and facilitate free access to anti-TB drugs

### **USAID Program Achievements**

In the face of political turmoil and socioeconomic instability, TB control in Haiti has progressed in recent years. USAID support has led to improvements in TB control through the following achievements:

- Added 19 new TB-DOTS service providers throughout the country in 2004
- Increased TB case treatment success rate from 73 percent in 2000 to 78 percent in 2004, approaching the WHO target of 85 percent.

## Case Detection and Treatment Success Rates Under DOTS



Note: DOTS treatment success rate for 2004 will be reported in the 2007 Global Report.  
Source: Global Tuberculosis Control: WHO Report 2006.

- Facilitated the operation of 41 of 71 voluntary counseling and treatment sites, where over 2,500 TB patients have been tested for HIV
- Conducted a knowledge, attitude, and practices survey where results formed the basis for developing evidence-based communication methods, tools, and materials needed for outreach
- Provided essential assistance to TB drug supply management and laboratory services, including customs clearance for essential TB drugs, alternative warehousing and logistical support, and operation of a small laboratory for quality control, training, and preparation of laboratory reagents for the entire country
- Provided technical support for proposals to the Global TB Drug Facility and to the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Developed tools to improve supervision, recording and reporting, and home visits, as well as clinical algorithms for TB-HIV co-infection and pediatric TB
- Provided technical and administrative support for the launch of a cross-border TB program with the Dominican Republic
- Established a working group to address TB-HIV co-infection and conducted a workshop with the national AIDS program on integrating aspects of HIV/AIDS surveillance, care, and treatment with TB patients

### Partnerships

The international community provides significant support to TB control in Haiti. The Tuberculosis Coalition for Technical Assistance (TBCTA Project) supports the PNLT with technical assistance. USAID also works with other partners, including Management Sciences for Health, International Child Care/Croisade Anti-Tuberculeuse, Centres pour le Developpement et la Sante, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2003, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria awarded Haiti \$14.6 million for TB control and prevention.