



2009 ANNUAL REPORT  
TROPICAL DISEASE FOUNDATION  
PRINCIPAL RECIPIENT OF GLOBAL FUND PROJECTS IN THE PHILIPPINES



**2009 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**TROPICAL DISEASE FOUNDATION**  
PRINCIPAL RECIPIENT OF GLOBAL FUND PROJECTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

# 09

## CONTENTS



The views described herein are the views of the institution, and do not represent the views or opinions of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFTAM), nor is there any approval or authorization of this material, expressed or implied, by GFATM.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

© 2009

05/ Foreword  
07/ History of TDF

10/ The Global Fund Projects, 2003-09  
10/ Malaria  
30/ HIV/AIDS  
46/ Tuberculosis  
62/ PMDT

68/ TDF Through the Years  
87/ Organizational Structure  
89/ List of Donors



Photos by Andy Maluche, World Vision and TDF



# Foreword

Six years of project implementation with support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM) have reached their conclusion, leaving behind a legacy of commitment to research and service. The 2008-2009 TDF Annual Report takes a look back at the numerous achievements by the Tropical Disease Foundation (TDF) as Principal Recipient (PR) of GFATM grants in the Philippines.

As one of the first DOTS-Plus projects approved by the World Health Organization's Green Light Committee, the TDF became a leader in the management of tuberculosis (TB) and particularly drug-resistant TB. As PR of two GFATM grants for TB, TDF implemented various initiatives to ensure universal access to high quality TB care.

A total of 221 Public-Private Mixed DOTS (PPMD) facilities were monitored by the project, of which 170 were installed under the Global Fund. This public and private collaboration mobilized and trained 2,912 private physicians from 2004 to 2008, encouraging them to support and comply with the approved policies, guidelines, and standards of the NTP. Efforts to attract support from the private sector have resulted to at least 36,870 cases of all types of TB that were initiated to treatment from 2004 to 2008, out of which 15, 892 were new smear positive cases.

Thirty-three DOTS facilities are providing HIV counseling and testing for TB patients in ten cities in Metro Manila with high TB burden and high STI

prevalence. A total of 101 health workers were trained to provide HIV counseling through four batches of training on Provider Initiated Counseling and Testing (PICT), conducted in partnership with the Remedios AIDS Foundation and Positive Action Foundation Philippines, Inc. (PAFPI). The TB-HIV initiative was able to counsel 1,996 patients and test 1,757 for HIV.

TDF also served as a sub-recipient (SR) of the GFATM TB grants through the Programmatic Management of Drug-resistant TB (PMDT). More satellite MDR-TB Treatment Centers were established starting with the Bahay ng Kabalik sa Kalusugan (Partners in Health) at the Phil TB Society, Inc. (PTSI) in 2004 and the Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP), the first government facility formally engaged in MDR-TB, in 2005. Along with this, more partners were engaged including faith-based organizations, local health centers largely public but also including privately initiated DOTS units and trained to become Treatment Sites. In 2008, two more Treatment Centers were

established in MM namely the Tala Treatment Center and the PTSTI-Tayuman Treatment Center. TDF provided training to two culture laboratories such as the LCP lab (2007) and the PTSTI lab (2008) which were enhanced to contribute to the work that the TDF laboratory was doing. In 2007, the National TB Reference Laboratory started doing cultures and in 2008 became quality assured for DST through its supranational laboratory, the Research Institute of TB (RIT), Japan. It has eventually become the lead in the laboratory network in the Philippines with TDF as one of its culture and DST laboratories. This "Expansion Unit" for MDR-TB consisting of a) a Treatment Center, b) trained Treatment Sites, and c) a culture and DST laboratory today (Figure below) serves as the template for the country scale up in collaboration with the DOH that aims to reach the whole country nationwide.

Alongside its accomplishments in managing TB in the Philippines, TDF also contributed significantly to the reduction of malaria cases in the Philippines. In particular, with GF support, the 26 Category A provinces (more than 1,000 cases/year) showed a 32% reduction of cases (2006). This has resulted in the re-categorization of the 26 project provinces that were originally Category A provinces -- only 7 project areas remain as Category A, 16 are now in Category B (between 100 and 1,000 cases per year), and 2 in Category C (less than 100 cases per year). Likewise, with the average cases covering the period 2001-2007, there was recategorization of all the endemic provinces nationwide. As previously

stated, from 26 provinces, now only 7 provinces remain as Category A. Category B provinces increased to 26 (from a previous of 22) and Category C from 18 to 26. Category D, or malaria-free provinces, also increased from 13 to 22. With these figures, the Philippines is currently in the pre-elimination stage, where the API is now less than 1 malaria case per 1,000 population at risk. With sustained and coordinated implementation of the complementary strategies for malaria control and prevention, the vision of a malaria-free Philippines will soon be within reach.

The TDF has also ensured that the prevalence of HIV and AIDS in the Philippines remains at 1%. Since the inception of the GFATM projects, TDF's program has provided access to antiretroviral treatment to over 600 persons living with HIV and AIDS and distributed four and a half million condoms to its project sites. The program also capacitated 1,374 service providers on STI and HIV Case Management, behavior change communication (BCC), and Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT). Alongside these interventions, the program also actively empowered affected communities through education and strengthened HIV/AIDS-related ordinances.

The TDF has proven that its actions and expertise have made a significant impact on the effect of these major infectious diseases in the Philippines. The Foundation remains committed to a vision of equitable universal access to health for national prosperity and looks forward to future endeavors in serving the Filipino people.



## History of the Tropical Disease Foundation

The Tropical Disease Foundation (TDF) is a private, non-stock, non-profit, non-government organization founded in 1984 by a group of physicians in the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine. The founding chairman was Dr. Jesus Azurin, then the Secretary of Health. It was then that the Tropical Disease Foundation began a legacy of quality research, service, and training in major infectious diseases.

The vision of the TDF is equitable universal access to health for economic prosperity.

The mission of the TDF is national and local community development through research, training, service, and healthcare delivery in the prevention and control of infectious diseases of public health importance.

The TDF's thrusts are 1) to conduct research, training and service in infectious diseases of public health importance; 2) to enter into partnership with public and private agencies in the implementation of programs in the control of infectious diseases; 3) to enter into partnership with national and international institutions involved in research to ensure technology transfer; 4) to enter into a multi-sectoral partnership with other disciplines to ensure that cured patients are socio-economically productive; 5) to serve as a national and international training center for infectious diseases.

### **LINKAGE WITH THE MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER**

Through a Memorandum of Agreement with the Makati Medical Center (MMC) in 1987, the TDF transferred to the MMC and Dr. Constantino P. Manahan was elected as the Chairman of the TDF Board of Trustees.

Through the generosity of donors and friends, the Foundation inaugurated its research laboratory on mycobacteriology, including fluorescent sputum smear microscopy, TB culture, and drug sensitivity testing, on 2 February 1988. The launch was graced by the presence of Professor Calvin M. Kunin and Dr. Constantino P. Manahan. With these laboratory facilities, the TDF was able to pursue its activities in training and research in tropical infectious diseases.

The TDF established an Institutional Review Board, serving the other clinical staff of the MMC who were involved in clinical trials. The TDF has undertaken research projects in accordance with the provisions of the Helsinki Declaration.



### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN RESEARCH**

The TDF fulfilled several major accomplishments in its research of various diseases.

In 1988, the TDF published the first edition of the Guidelines on Anti-Microbial Therapy. One year later, Dr. Roberta Romero headed research on leprosy. Throughout the 1990s, research was conducted on hepatitis B, herpes simplex, rubeola, and multi-drug resistant typhoid fever. Additionally, TDF employees gave trainings and built capacity in these diseases.

### **SUPPORTING THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS**

The 1997 National Tuberculosis Prevalence Survey was undertaken by the TDF on behalf of the Department of Health (DOH). It also initiated the close collaboration between the TDF and the National TB Control Program (NTP) of the Department of Health in TB Control through the initiation of the DOTS Clinic at the Makati Medical Center. This private-public collaboration, between the TDF, the Makati Medical Center (MMC), the NTP, and the local government unit, Barangay San Lorenzo, has provided free service in the management of TB patients since 1999.

It later became the very first DOTS-Plus pilot project approved in 2000 to provide MDR-TB management by the Green Light Committee (GLC), a technical subgroup of the Working Group on Drug-Resistant TB of the Stop TB Partnership. It has established a satellite DOTS-Plus and housing facility, Kabalikat sa Kalusugan (KASAKA), in partnership with the Philippine Tuberculosis Society, Inc. at the Quezon Institute in Quezon City. In recognition of its outstanding pioneering work, this pilot project has been recommended as a center of excellence in MDR-TB management.

### **TDF AS PRINCIPAL RECIPIENT OF THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA**

In its search for support of patients with MDR-TB, the TDF was directed to apply for resources from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which was established in 2000. The TDF was nominated by the Department of Health and elected by the Country Coordinating Mechanism as the Principal Recipient (PR) for the Global Fund projects in the Philippines in 2003. As such, it has since been the PR of six of the eight grants: two each for TB, malaria, and HIV/AIDS. Resources for the management of MDR-TB was thus provided, first for a cohort of 500 patients, then expansion to 2,500 patients, and more recently, to a nationwide scale-up of the intervention to treat a total of more than 10,000 patients.

Resources for the management and control of Malaria was likewise made available first for 25 provinces, then an additional four provinces, and more recently for a total of 40 provinces nationwide. HIV projects have initially focused on 11 sites, then augmented to 18 more sites with the establishment of six more treatment hubs.

A Program Management Unit headquarters was thus established to administer the Global Fund projects, through the generosity of the United Laboratories. Presently, this unit now supervises six grants in total of the GFATM projects in the Philippines.

In the implementation of projects, strategic linkages have been established both in the international and national front.

**STRATEGIC LINKAGES WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS:**

- World Health Organization
- STOP TB Partnership, MDR-TB Working Group, Green Light Committee
- Korea Institute of Tuberculosis
- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, US Public Health System
- Case Western Research University Tuberculosis Research Unit (TBRU)
- Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Otsuka Pharmaceuticals

**STRATEGIC LINKAGES WITH NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS:**

- Department of Health,
  - National TB Program
  - Malaria Control Service
  - National AIDS/STD Prevention and Control
  - Centers for Health Development
  - National TB Research Laboratory
  - Lung Center of the Philippines
- Department of Local Government
- Local Government Units
- Philippine Coalition against Tuberculosis
- Philippine Tuberculosis Society, Inc
- World Vision Development Foundation
- Holistic Community Development Inc.
- Kilusan Ligas Malaria
- Pilipinas Shell Foundation
- Philippine NGO Council on Population Health and Welfare

