



# Stop Tuberculosis Halte à la Tuberculose CANADA

Secretariat: 3 Raymond Street, Suite 300, Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 1A3

Welcome to the Stop Tuberculosis (STB) Canada Newsletter. The Newsletter is intended as a communication forum between STB Canada members and as a source of information for the wider international health community on STB activities in Canada and on overseas TB projects implemented or supported by Canadian organisations.

## About Stop Tuberculosis Canada

STB Canada was formed in February 2001 in order to support Canada in fulfilling its commitment to the targets set out in the G-8 Okinawa 2000 Communiqué to reduce poverty and the diseases of poverty and specifically to reduce the global burden of TB by 50 percent by 2010.

[www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm](http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm)

In order to fulfill its mission statement, STB Canada has identified the following objectives:

1. To promote and support TB **education** for health care providers, decision makers and the public.
2. To **advocate** for appropriate policies, guidelines and priorities that enhance global TB control activities.
3. To facilitate and encourage **communication** with our members and partners in an open and transparent manner to advance global TB control activities.
4. To ensure the **co-ordination** of Canada's participation in the global fight against TB in the spirit of collaboration between government departments, non-governmental organisations (NGO's), professional organisations, the private sector and other stakeholders.



Stop TB Canada is also a member of the Global Stop TB Partnership, a global alliance working to increase the coverage of Directly Observed Treatment, Short-Course (DOTS) – the core treatment strategy to cure TB – to provide a global drug procurement facility, to develop new drugs, vaccines and diagnostic tests, and to accelerate social and political action to end preventable deaths from TB and stop its global spread.

[www.stoptb.org](http://www.stoptb.org)

## 2003 World TB Day STB Canada Conference

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual STB Canada Conference, held this year in Ottawa around the theme of **Reducing the global impact of TB: Canada's fair share**, was a particular success. More than 50 persons attended, representing over 40 agencies and affiliates of Stop TB Canada. Upwards of 20 presentations brought participants up to date on Canadian TB projects overseas, the impact of the global TB epidemic on TB control in Canada and the evolving agenda of global health research. There were also presentations by teleconference link with Geneva on the Stop TB Global Drug Facility (GDF) and on the impact at country level of the world-wide effort to scale up effective TB services.



## New Global Fund Website

The concept for an international funding mechanism to fight HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria was articulated at the 2000 Okinawa G8 Summit and unanimously endorsed in June 2001 at the first UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS. The Global Fund has recently launched a new website with increased content and a search engine that allows access to application and funding data by country, by application round and by disease.

[www.theglobalfund.org/en](http://www.theglobalfund.org/en)

## In this Issue

This issue of the Newsletter highlights presentations from the 2003 STB Canada conference on TB control projects in high burden countries managed by Canadian organisations, as well as two presentations on advocacy and advocacy strategies. The next issue of the Newsletter will summarise conference presentations on immigration trends in Canada, the changing epidemiology of TB among the foreign born and the impact of these trends on TB control in Canada. Presentations on global health research and the directions for TB research will also be summarised. Presentations will soon be accessible on the STB Canada website.

[www.stoptb.ca](http://www.stoptb.ca)

**2003 STB Conference Presentations**

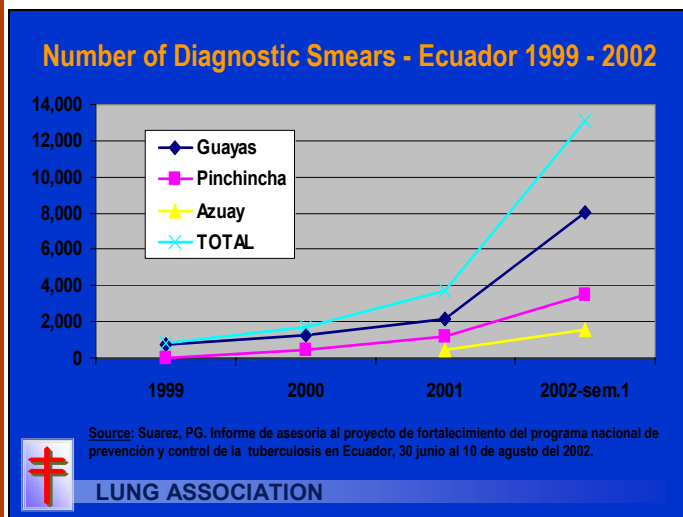
**World Vision Canada: Bridging the Gap for TB**  
**Amelia Merrick, Health Project Officer**

In each of World Vision Canada's three CIDA-funded projects in the Philippines (Kusog Baga), Indonesia (Fight TB) and India (Shifa TB), WV targets its efforts to selected PHC units within districts or provinces. WV's basic programme approach is to narrow the gap between health providers and communities through a mix of strategies outlined in the slide. Through participation in joint TB programme reviews with the national programme staff and technical partners, WV maintains a good working relationship with the government. At the local level, team building activities for TB health workers have been especially effective and appreciated.

**WVC's Key Strategies** World Vision

COMMUNITY ↔ WV ↔ HEALTH SYSTEM

1. Partner and collaborate
2. Strengthen capacity of health providers
3. Lobby for increased Political Support
4. Build Community-based health programs
5. Provide Buffer Stocks, Medical Supplies and Resources

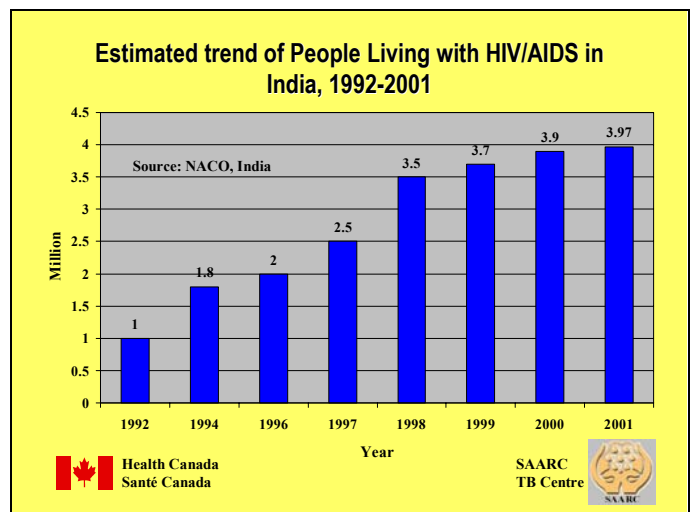


**Canadian Lung Association: Strengthening the National TB Control Program in Ecuador**  
**Brian Graham, President & CEO, Lung Association of Saskatchewan**

This CIDA-funded project began in May 2001 in three areas of three provinces that together account for about 50% of Ecuador's TB burden. By January 2003, the project had expanded to 36 of the 65 areas in the three provinces. A weak health infrastructure and political instability meant that implementation was slow. Significant investments were needed for training at all levels, to establish sputum smear microscopy facilities (see slide) and to organise TB teams in health units. The cohort results for the first annual cohort (2001-2002) showed a cure/completion rate over 80% with a default rate of 9% and failure rate of 5%.

**Health Canada: TB/HIV Co-Epidemic in South Asia**  
**Jacinthe Desmarias, Project Manager, SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project**

The SAARC-Canada Project aims to strengthen the capacity of the SAARC Tuberculosis Centre (STC) to support regional and national responses to the TB/HIV co-epidemics by enhancing the sharing of regional data on TB/HIV, strengthening quality assurance (QA) in national laboratory networks of the seven SAARC countries and supporting the STC in TB/HIV advocacy and policy development. After summarising the TB/HIV situation in South Asia (the slide shows data for India), project achievements were outlined. The focus of the presentation was on proposed activities to support the STC Regional TB Reference Lab in enhancing networking between SAARC national TB reference laboratories and in co-ordinating regional QA activities.



**CARE Canada: Enhancing TB Programme Performance and Outcomes – Challenges and Opportunities in Involving the Community**  
**Michelle Munro, Policy and Programs Advisor**

Care Canada has TB projects in India (West Bengal) and Zambia (Malawi border area). Implemented since early 2002, these projects seek to enhance the role of the community and community-based organisations to strengthen the NTP and support individual patients. In both countries, the role of the community is underdeveloped and IEC activities (information, education, communication) are weak. In Zambia, 8 of 10 TB patients are HIV infected, so linkage with home-based care is an essential element of better TB control. In India, addressing the role of the private sector is a major challenge.

**CARE Canada, CARE India & CARE Zambia**

**India**

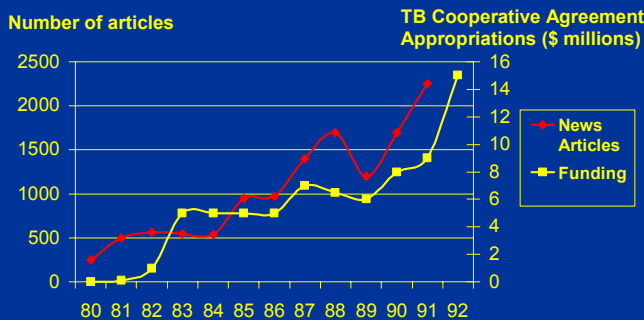
- West Bengal
- Build on strong WHO supported RNTCP
- Support local NGOs / CBOs to provide DOTS closer to the home, provide IEC and mobilise the community around TB
- Involve the private sector

**Zambia**

- Malawi border area
- Assist Zambia to rebuild its TB programme
- Establish system of community support for case finding and treatment adherence through Neighbourhood Health Committees
- Food supplements (WFP)
- IEC
- HIV prevention



**Media Coverage and Funding for TB in the United States**



Source: CDC and Lexis-Omni

Kraig Klautd, Massive Effort Campaign

**RESULTS Canada: The Power to End Hunger**  
**Alec Soucy, National Coordinator**

RESULTS Canada is a national advocacy organisation committed to creating the political will to end hunger and the worst aspects of poverty in Canada and around the world. RESULTS has been effective in helping Stop TB Canada organize press conferences and meetings with the Honourable Susan Whelan, the minister responsible for CIDA. Mr. Soucy discussed the direct relationship between media visibility and funding and gave examples of media coverage for the Canadian International Immunisation Initiative. In 2002 in Canada, 94 media pieces on TB were tabulated. Participants were reminded that “you are not powerful until you learn to speak about important issues”.

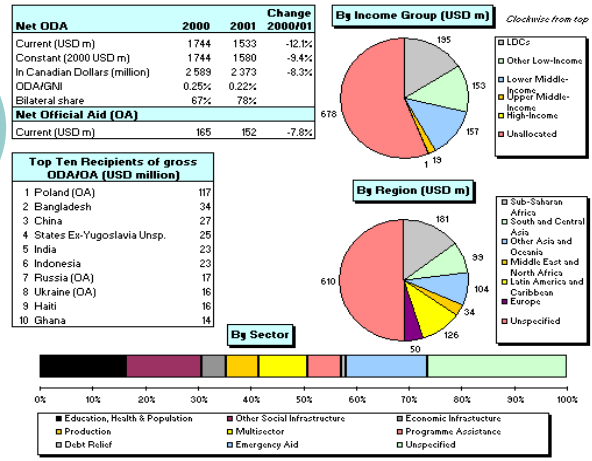
[www.results-resultats.ca](http://www.results-resultats.ca)

**Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD): The Importance of Coalition Building**  
**Michel O'Connor, Executive Director**

ICAD is a coalition of AIDS service organisations (ASOs), international development organisations, academic and research institutions. ICAD facilitates the international involvement of ASOs through twinning, information and coaching on how to access funding. ICAD holds training workshops for development organisations on how to integrate HIV/AIDS in their programming, and runs a youth internship programme. ICAD lobbies the Canadian government to increase its ODA funding (specifically to the Global Fund) from the current commitment of 0.28% of GDP to the 0.7% target. Mr. O'Connor reviewed models for coalitions and suggested that Stop TB Canada should strengthen ties with domestic TB organisations.

[www.icad-cisd.com](http://www.icad-cisd.com)

**Canadian ODA at a Glance**



## Bulletin Board

This section is reserved for announcements from our members. If you wish to post a message regarding a new TB initiative undertaken by your organisation, a recent publication, a new technical or management tool, in short any announcement of interest to partners, please contact Melissa Phipers at the Division of Tuberculosis Prevention and Control, Health Canada. The submission deadline for inclusion in the next Newsletter is 9 January 2004.

[Melissa\\_Phipers@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:Melissa_Phipers@hc-sc.gc.ca).



Preliminary information on the next STB Canada Conference will be included with the next Newsletter. You can also check the STB Canada website.

[www.stoptb.ca](http://www.stoptb.ca)

## Stay Up To Date

For a calendar of international events related to global TB initiatives, the reader is referred to the Global STB Partnership website. On the STB site you can link to the latest news and information regarding STB Partnership activities and initiatives.

[www.stoptb.org/events.activities](http://www.stoptb.org/events.activities)



Canada STB members are encouraged to join the STOP-TB e-forum. “The goal of the discussion group,” as the registration site describes, “is to provide a forum for dialogue among clinical and public health physicians, nurses, researchers, policy makers, program managers, and other interested persons both in the developing and industrialized world who are engaged in the fight against TB. It allows members to receive and share information about TB, discuss critical issues relating to TB control and to network with other forum members with similar interests in TB control.”

[www.stoptb.org/STOP\\_TB\\_eForum.htm](http://www.stoptb.org/STOP_TB_eForum.htm)



The home page of the WHO TB Strategy and Operations, Monitoring and Evaluation provides links to recent WHO-sponsored TB meetings and WHO TB resources.

[www.who.int/gtb](http://www.who.int/gtb)

## WHO News

As of 21 July 2003, Dr JW Lee (formerly Director, Stop TB Department) was appointed Director-General of WHO. The Stop TB Department within WHO is now housed within the new cluster on HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria (HTM), headed by Ambassador Jack Chow from the United States, as Assistant Director-General. Dr Mario Raviglione is confirmed as Director of the Stop TB Department. Dr Marcos Espinal, formerly Project Manager for the DOTS-Plus Initiative, is the new Executive Secretary for the Stop TB Partnership Secretariat.

## North American TB Activities

For a detailed listing of events in North America, readers are referred to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website:

[www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/calendar.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/calendar.htm)

Readers can also subscribe to the weekly TB-Update of the CDC Division of TB Elimination.

[lists.constellagroup.com/mailman/listinfo/tb-update](http://lists.constellagroup.com/mailman/listinfo/tb-update)



*Over a third of all deaths among HIV-positive persons in high-burden countries are due to TB. This photo shows a women's ward in Thailand. When TB is not treated properly, it can spread quickly among other HIV-positive patients, health workers and hospital visitors. Photograph by Thierry Falise, 1995, WHO/TBP.*



The **Stop TB Canada Newsletter** is edited and distributed by Klaus Jochem and Melissa Phipers.

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