



TUBERCULOSIS PROFILE



Country Population	9,525,000
Est. number of new TB cases	14,725
Est. TB incidence (all cases per 100,000 pop)	155
DOTS population coverage (%)	100
Rate of new SS+ cases (per 100,000 pop)	85
DOTS case detection rate (new SS+) (%)	71
DOTS treatment success rate, 2006 (new SS+) (%)	83
Est. new adult TB cases (HIV) + (%)	3.0
MDR-TB among all new cases (%)	1.2
All data are for 2007, except where noted otherwise. WHO Global TB Report 2009	

Bolivia ranks third in the Western hemisphere in tuberculosis (TB) cases, with approximately 8,055 new sputum smear-positive (SS+) cases, or 85 per 100,000 population, according to the World Health Organization's (WHO's) Global TB report 2009. DOTS (the internationally recommended strategy for TB control) was first implemented in Bolivia in 1999, and progress has been uneven to date; while DOTS coverage reached 100 in 1999, 2001, and 2003, it fell to 47 percent in 2006, but rose to 100 percent again in 2007. Where implemented, DOTS has been effective. The current DOTS case detection rate, at 71 percent, is above the WHO target of 70 percent, although this represents a decline from a high of 80 percent in 2002. One of Bolivia's major goals is, with U.S. Government (USG) support, to meet the WHO target of 85 percent treatment success rate. After reaching 84 percent in 2002, the TB treatment success rate declined slightly over the next four years, but rose to 83 percent in 2007. A lack of registration and follow-up of patients following treatment due to limited national financial resources and trained staff have contributed to the decline in DOTS case detection and treatment. Multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB is a small but growing threat; among new TB cases, 1.2 percent are MDR-TB.

The Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Unit of the Ministry of Health (MOH) operates Bolivia's National TB Control Program (NTCP). The NTCP's objectives are to increase case detection and treatment success rates. To meet these objectives, the NTCP needs to maintain its TB training program for nursing and medical university students; continue TB diagnosis and treatment training for health care workers; increase the number of locally-trained personnel; increase public TB awareness through mass media campaigns; and engage the private sector and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in delivering DOTS services.

USAID Approach and Key Activities

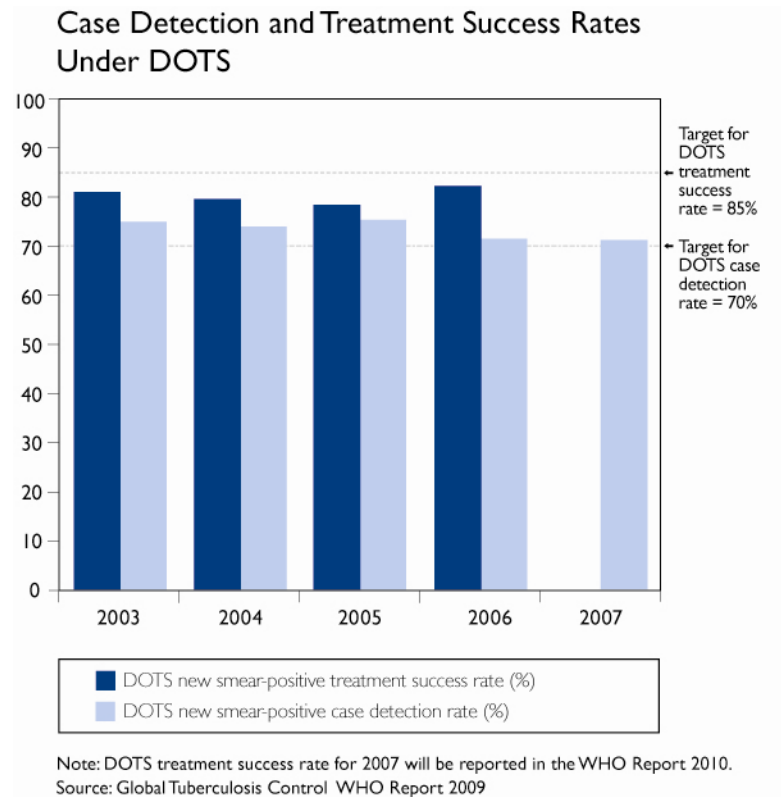
For the past few years, USAID has assisted the NTCP through the *Gestion y Calidad en Salud* project (implemented by John Snow, Inc.), the *Programa de Coordinacion en Salud Integral* project (implemented by PROCOSI), and the *Asociacion Proteccion a la Salud* (implemented by PROSALUD). In fiscal year 2008, USAID provided \$1.3 million to Bolivia for TB control activities. Continued USAID/Bolivia assistance has included the following activities and interventions:

- Establishing a community-based DOTS (C-DOTS) program to reach TB patients in rural and isolated regions
- Improving the TB laboratory network
- Providing technical assistance and equipment to strengthen laboratory services, quality control, and the drug logistics system
- Supporting the MOH in changing policy for treatment from an eight-month treatment scheme to a six-month treatment scheme
- Assisting 35 priority municipalities in four of Bolivia's nine departments in 2008 to expand DOTS and strengthen the NTCP
- Training health providers and community health workers (CHWs), improving the TB drug logistics system, and (with MOH collaboration) strengthening TB laboratories
- Training health providers in case detection to extend service coverage
- Assuring complete treatment regimens for each patient by upgrading the logistics system
- Monitoring and evaluation of TB program activities in targeted municipalities

USAID Program Achievements

USAID's assistance and support have led to improvements in TB prevention and control activities, including the following achievements in 2008:

- Supported 24 TB reference laboratories in four major cities to assess and improve their diagnostic capabilities
- Trained 1,681 rural CHWs and NGO health technicians with C-DOTS training kits developed in collaboration with the MOH, resulting in 332 pulmonary patients being referred to health centers for evaluation and treatment
- Supported the MOH in training 330 municipal and departmental public sector health workers from 133 health facilities on new treatment norms, guidelines, and protocols, as well as quality of care
- Supported participation of 16 targeted municipalities in a collaborative TB intervention to increase coverage and improve quality of care, TB surveillance, and data management
- Trained 67 health professionals in 27 USG-supported private health clinics in urban areas around the country on the new MOH norms, guidelines, and TB protocols to allow them to continue providing free and comprehensive TB patient care



Partnerships

Partnerships are one of the most important elements in combating TB in Bolivia. Partners of USAID/Bolivia include the Pan American Health Organization and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, who provide technical support to Bolivia's TB control effort. In 2006, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria awarded \$4.2 million in Round 3 funding for TB activities in Bolivia, the second phase of which will end in early 2010.