



## TUBERCULOSIS PROFILE



<b>Country Population</b>	<b>9,760,000</b>
<b>Est. number of new TB cases</b>	<b>6,764</b>
<b>Est. TB incidence (all cases per 100,000 pop)</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>DOTS population coverage (%)</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Rate of new SS+ cases (per 100,000 pop)</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>DOTS case detection rate (new SS+) (%)</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>DOTS treatment success rate, 2006 (new SS+) (%)</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Est. new adult TB cases (HIV) + (%)</b>	<b>15.2</b>
<b>MDR-TB among all new TB cases (%)</b>	<b>6.6</b>
All data are for 2007, except where noted otherwise. WHO Global TB Report 2009	

According to the World Health Organization's (WHO's) Global TB Report 2009, the Dominican Republic had an estimated 6,764 tuberculosis (TB) cases in 2007, with an estimated incidence rate of 69 cases per 100,000 population. Between 2003 and 2005, the case detection rate for sputum smear-positive (SS+) cases increased from 63 to 73 percent per 100,000 population, above the WHO global target of 70 percent, but it fell to 66 percent in 2007. The National TB Control Program (NTCP) began implementing DOTS (the internationally recommended strategy for TB control) in 1998, and has recently made progress in expanding it throughout the country. By the end of 2007, DOTS coverage reached 85 percent of the population compared with 40 percent in 2002, and DOTS coverage is available at more than 900 service points. The Dominican Republic has one of the highest rates of TB drug resistance in the Western Hemisphere and multidrug-resistant (MDR)-TB has remained a persistent challenge to TB control over time. The prevalence of MDR-TB may have fallen according to preliminary results of a recent drug resistance survey. A survey conducted in 1995 reported a prevalence of 8.2 percent while a survey in 2008 reported 6.3 percent.<sup>1</sup> However, further analysis will be performed in the near future to determine whether these are new or previously treated cases. WHO estimates 6.6 percent of all new TB cases were MDR-TB in 2007.

The Dominican Republic also has a serious HIV/AIDS problem, with an adult HIV seroprevalence rate of 1.1 percent. In 2007, an estimated 15.2 percent of new TB patients had HIV/AIDS. As access to counseling and testing services for HIV/AIDS increases and better data become available, the detection rate of TB-HIV/AIDS co-infection will likely increase.

### USAID Approach and Key Activities

USAID assistance to the Dominican Republic's NTCP began in 2001. In fiscal year 2008, USAID provided \$1.3 million for TB programs. In coordination with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the NTCP, USAID is supporting DOTS programs in seven provinces and expanding services to five more provinces. USAID's program focuses on strengthening DOTS through decentralization and better integration into primary health care services and by improving the diagnosis and treatment for MDR-TB, increasing coordination of TB-HIV/AIDS activities, and expanding private sector involvement in TB control. USAID assistance includes support for the following activities:

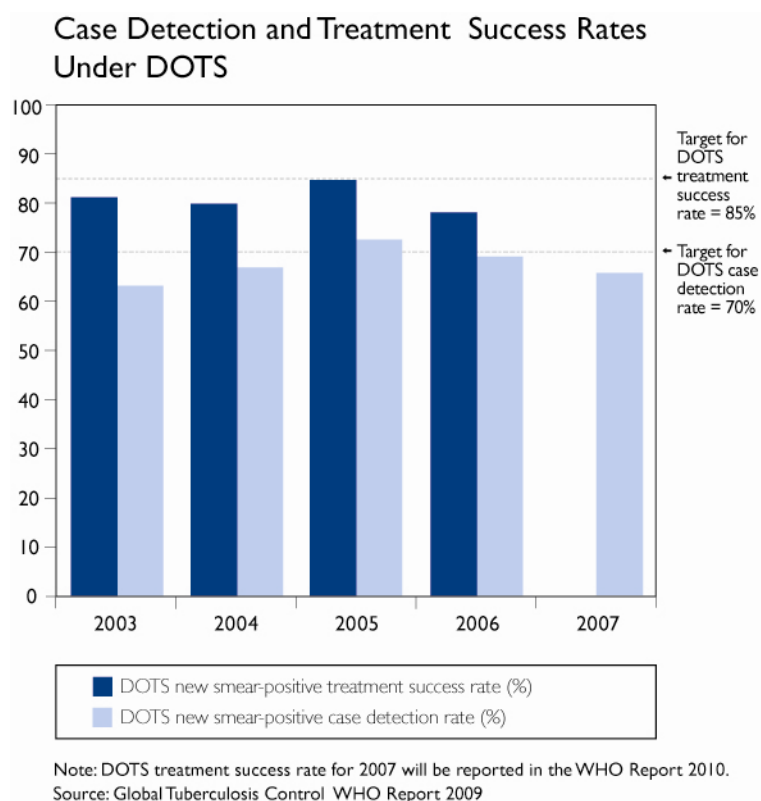
- Increasing political commitment for DOTS implementation using evidence-based approaches
- Increasing public and private sector participation in DOTS implementation
- Increasing and strengthening TB and HIV/AIDS coordinated and collaborative activities
- Performing external evaluations of the NTCP
- Training health personnel, including doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians, and health promoters, in the DOTS approach
- Developing community education and social mobilization strategies
- Expanding MDR-TB services to reduce the number of patients not yet on treatment
- Further integrating DOTS into primary care

<sup>1</sup> Survey results reported by USAID/Dominican Republic

## USAID Program Achievements

USAID's assistance has contributed to improvement in human resources and infrastructure through the following activities:

- Reached the WHO target of 85 percent for treatment success rate for the 2005 cohort
- Implemented a pharmaceutical procurement and logistics system that resulted in saving the NTCP an estimated \$800,000 per year
- Supported the annual external and internal evaluations of all the TB program components of the NTCP and provided the Ministry of Health with recommendations for program improvement
- Supported treatment for MDR-TB in two public hospitals in coordination with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Strengthened quality control and laboratory services in order to process cultures for a TB network of eight regional labs and approximately 164 provincial and local laboratories
- Developed a national manual for recording and reporting systems that has innovative components on identification of suspected TB cases, TB-HIV/AIDS collaboration, and contact tracing
- Established drug resistance surveillance systems
- Conducted courses on quality control for 72 laboratory specialists, enabling the introduction of quality control into the laboratory network
- Supported nine nongovernmental organizations to provide social mobilization support for the NTCP in 145 communities and 80 towns and trained more than 220 health providers, 233 community organizations, and 1,443 community volunteers on TB control
- Participated in a strong collaborative effort among partners, resulting in a coordinated program implementation



## Partnerships

USAID partners in TB control in the Dominican Republic include the NTCP, the PAHO, the Tuberculosis Coalition for Technical Assistance, the Royal Netherlands Tuberculosis Association, PROFAMILIA, and Management Sciences for Health's Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus Program. The Global Fund approved \$4.6 million in Round 3 funding and \$10.3 million in Round 7 funding for TB control in the Dominican Republic.