

SUCCESS STORY

Tuberculosis Monitoring and Evaluation Trainings in Democratic Republic of Congo

Overview

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has made measurable progress in recent years following improved leadership, coordination, and investments in priority health issues by the government of DRC and international partners.

In 2021, the USAID-funded [Tuberculosis Data, Impact Assessment and Communications Hub \(TB DIAH\)](#) project began contributing to DRC's ongoing efforts to strengthen its national TB program (NTP). The project worked with the USAID/DRC Mission and DRC's NTP, the Programme National de Lutte contre la Tuberculose (PNLT), to conduct a gap analysis of the TB system. This analysis found that data quality, timeliness, and inconsistency or inaccuracy were among the major challenges facing the PNLT. These issues negatively impacted efficient resource use and program planning, resulting in insufficient or inappropriate service offerings and a lack of clarity on the impact of programming. Additionally, the team found significant room for technical growth in TB monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

To better understand the issues in the TB system and their drivers, and as part of the project's continuous engagement strategy with country stakeholders, TB DIAH completed an in-depth situational analysis, including a second round of interviews with an expanded pool of respondents from across all levels of DRC's TB system.




Participants in a training of trainers in TB monitoring and evaluation.
Photo credit: PNLT, POSAF, Ezra Tessera, TB DIAH Project

All stakeholders identified the key issue: the need for human resource TB M&E skill strengthening for PNLT staff at the national and provincial levels.

To address this, TB DIAH worked closely with the PNLT, USAID, and local partners to develop a national TB M&E training curriculum, and in August 2022, TB DIAH organized and conducted a national training of trainers (ToT).

Next, TB DIAH customized the national training curriculum for use at the provincial level, and starting in October 2022, TB DIAH and the PNLT, in collaboration with provincial PNLT TB teams, began leading a series of downstream trainings in TB M&E for provincial, zone, and health facility staff. These provincial trainings were held for nine out of 26 USAID-supported priority provinces.

By the end of 2023, all nine USAID-supported provinces completed the training, with an average of 20 people per province trained. Ongoing support includes supportive supervision and sharing of



training materials, and dissemination of DRC's national guidelines.

Key Learnings

The success of this activity stems largely from the initial investment of time and resources in the gap and situational analyses conducted at the start of the activity. The resultant workplan addresses the major gaps and shared priorities of stakeholders across all levels of the TB system, helping ensure its broad acceptance and future sustainability.

The activity also demonstrated the importance of an integrated development approach and process that involved all key stakeholders (donors, IPs, technical partners) for ensuring that the final products add value, complement the existing resources, and yield desired outcomes, engaging staff members at all levels.

Finally, bringing training participants together from different provinces, and different levels of the PNLT and elements of the health system, generated opportunities for attendee learning and knowledge sharing. Following a stepwise implementation process proved to be an effective strategy for building sustainable systems. Thanks to new ToTs, who are able to organize and lead follow-on trainings, the training program can continue without ongoing project support.

“This training really appealed to me. We were well supported with primary skills, with data management skills in the fight against tuberculosis; with everything that TB DIAH had left to enable us.

We even went to provinces to train. So this training, apart from the slides that we adapted, was an opportunity for us to also recreate what we were taught.

But we also quickly realized that the needs were there. Most of the people trained in the past have left. Those who joined the program had never benefited from this training. As a result we felt challenged that we really need to support these young people. The training needs were there and TB DIAH support came on the right time.”

—Dr. Gertrude Lay
TB M&E Unit Head, PNLT

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