

## Key Objective

The key objective of this programme is to address public health concerns on the spread of infectious tuberculosis in the United Kingdom (UK) by preventing the entry of people suffering from the disease until they have been successfully treated, and to facilitate the access to diagnostics and treatment of tuberculosis in the countries of migrants' origin.

People from countries with a high burden of tuberculosis as defined by the World Health Organization — including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Sudan, Tanzania and Thailand who are applying for a United Kingdom visa for a stay longer than 6 months for the purposes of education, employment, etc. are required to undergo tuberculosis screening in order to be issued a certificate demonstrating that they are free from the disease.

The United Kingdom Pre-Departure Tuberculosis Detection Programme, started in October 2005, is expected to involve around **14 countries** of origin and some **200,000 persons** tested annually.

## Beneficiaries

- UK visa applicants
- Receiving communities in the UK
- Countries of origin

## Concrete Benefits

- UK visa applicants suffering from infectious tuberculosis will be diagnosed early and will be referred for treatment to a local clinic

# United Kingdom Pre-Departure Tuberculosis Detection Programme



Dr. D.M.N. Amin, microbiologist, at work in a newly equipped laboratory, IOM Dhaka. © IOM 2005

- For communities in the UK, the risk of contracting infectious tuberculosis from newly arrived migrants is minimized.
- The programme will generate data on infection among travellers to the UK, enabling the UK government to better understand the problem and thereafter respond with effective health policies to mitigate them.
- Countries of origin will benefit from the sharing of best practices on tuberculosis testing in local clinics. The UK also aims to share data on infection rates with countries of origin so as to keep these countries' public health programmes informed.

Donors and Partners	Funding	Project Details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ UK Home Office</li> <li>■ UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office</li> <li>■ UK Department of Health</li> </ul>	<p><b>Required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ UK government covers the costs related to the set-up of the programme; running costs are covered by the service fee</li> </ul> <p><b>Received</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ For start-up costs up to 31 March 2006</li> </ul>	<p><b>Start date</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ October 2005</li> </ul> <p><b>Project countries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bangladesh</li> <li>■ Cambodia</li> <li>■ Sudan</li> <li>■ Tanzania</li> <li>■ Thailand</li> </ul>

## Project description

All migrants intending to apply for a United Kingdom visa that will allow them to stay for longer than 6 months will need to undergo pre-departure testing for tuberculosis in order to be issued a certificate to show that they do not have infectious tuberculosis. The certificate will allow them to apply for a visa.

The initial phase has started in October 2005 - January 2006 in Thailand, Tanzania, Bangladesh, Sudan and Cambodia. Global roll out, involving 9 more countries, is expected in 2006 - 2007.

The Programme includes countries of origin considered as 'high risk', that is, countries that are listed by the World Health Organization as having a high burden of tuberculosis (Global Tuberculosis Control, WHO Report 2005, 2006).



Dr. D.M.N. Amin, microbiologist, at work in a newly equipped laboratory, IOM Dhaka. © IOM 2005

**“In addition to the screening of the visa applicants, IOM is contributing to the capacity-building by equipping microbiological laboratories, introducing best practices and training of the local personnel.”**

- Olga Gorbacheva, MD, UKTBDP project manager

*IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.*

## Principal IOM Activities

- Test applicants (who are 11 years and older) for infectious pulmonary tuberculosis, in accordance with the Protocol established by the UK Department of Health. In some cases, testing may be done by third parties as arranged by IOM.
- Issue certificates to those applicants whose assessment results are negative.
- Refer applicants with infectious tuberculosis for treatment to national institutes applying World Health Organization tuberculosis treatment standards. Alternatively, IOM may provide tuberculosis treatment according to the said standards. Tuberculosis treatment shall be at the applicant's own cost.
- Adhere to quality assurance and quality control principles throughout the tuberculosis detection process, issuance of the certificates and tuberculosis treatment when provided by IOM.
- Set up and maintain a central database that will keep records of all applicants undergoing testing. The UK officials will be given access to the database to verify certificate issuance, and evaluate the Programme.
- Provide the UK Department of Health with data and reports enabling Programme evaluation.



Laboratory work at IOM Bangkok. © IOM 2005



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To learn more about this project and other IOM activities, please visit [www.iom.int/activities](http://www.iom.int/activities).