The IOM TB REACH project, in partnership with the Centre for Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control (CENAT), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the WHO Western Pacific Region (WPRO), aims to set up systematic TB screening using innovative strategies targeting daily flows of Cambodian irregular migrants being deported from Thailand and Malaysia to the border district of Poipet in Banteay Meanchey Province.

The systematic TB screenings will use innovative diagnostic procedures using chest X-ray and symptom screening along side Xpert MTB/RIF to screen 75,000 returnees at the Poipet Referral Hospital in collaboration with existing local Government TB health services. The project aims to detect 1,100 additional cases through systematic TB screening.

Background

While the CENAT, the National TB program (NTP) in Cambodia has reached 100% coverage across provinces are major push factors for the irregular migration of poor irregular migrant households to cross-border areas and across international borders in search work or begging activities.

In the targeted border province of Banteay Meanchey TB services reported 2,935 TB cases within a population of 665,547 in 2008. This translates to case notification rate of 329 per 100,000. More specifically, in the target district of O Chrov new smear positive TB cases rose 17% from 231 to 280 from 2008 to 2009.

For further information, please contact:

Brett Dickson, Project Coordinator
IOM Cambodia
Ph: +855.23.216532
Mobile: +855.(0)12 222 132
Email: bdickson@iom.int
Target Group

This project will target 75,000 irregular Cambodian migrants deported from Thailand sent back to the Poi Pet Immigration Centre, Cambodia, using detention history and different screening procedures for migrant groups.

Proper TB treatment and care under the local Government TB services within or outside the Banteay Meanchey Province;

3) Conduct Operational Research to document and publish overall project outcomes, based on the robust project monitoring and evaluation system, to demonstrate the effectiveness of the innovative-targeted active-case finding approach carried out by the project.

4) Document and publish overall project outcomes, to demonstrate the effectiveness of the innovative-targeted active case finding approach.

Outputs (Feb 2012-Jan 2013)

- 8 Radiology technician and X-ray readers, 4 Laboratory Technicians and 8 TB Peer Educators from Poi Pet Referral Hospital trained.
- 11,604 irregular migrants received at Immigration Centre and screened by symptoms and detention history.
- 6,680 (55%) irregular migrants referred and screened by symptoms and chest X-ray.
- 1,388 (20%) TB suspects found based on symptoms and/or abnormal Chest X-ray findings.
- 1,323 (95%) examined by GeneXpert MTB/Rif assay.
- 127 (9.5%) additional new TB patients detected and referred for treatment.
- Prevalence rates of 8,500 per 100,000 population for migrants.

Other IOM TB Projects in Asia and the Pacific

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For further information, on Migration and TB projects in the region, please contact:

Jaime Calderon, Regional Migration Health Adviser, IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Phone: +66 2 343 9348 Fax: +66 2 343 9399 Email: jcalderon@iom.int

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