



LILLY BRINGS GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP AGAINST MULTIDRUG-RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS TO BRAZIL

The initiative seeks to fight the disease by promoting local training, education actions and community support

Brazil is now one of more than 60 countries integrating Lilly MDR-TB Partnership, a public-private initiative mobilizing 18 partners from several different sectors to bear against multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). In Brazil, the project intends to carry out training courses for healthcare professionals, community agents and advocacy groups over the next four years, as well as other education and community support actions in which R\$ 500,000 are to be invested over the next years.

The first training session, hold in November 2008, was attended by patient advocates from all over the country who will act as multipliers of knowledge. The second training session was hold on March 26-27, right after the international forum organized by Stop TB Partnership, in Rio de Janeiro. On that occasion, more than 70 healthcare professionals from several Brazilian hospitals received training in prevention, treatment and MDR-TB transmission control. Training sessions were carried on in a partnership with the International Hospital Federation, the International Council of Nurses, the World Medical Association, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Member of Stop TB Partnership and of Brazilian Partnership Against Tuberculosis, Lilly was present in the third international forum in Rio de Janeiro, organizing a round table with national and international authorities, specialists, researchers and patient advocates. The debate entitled "Brazilian Response to Tuberculosis: Challenges, Strategies and Advances" was marked by the presence of Jorge Sampaio, UN Special Envoy to Stop Tuberculosis. The idea was to give voice to members from several different entities involved in the fight against TB, providing a full discussion that helped to identify common recommendations for infection control in Brazil.

On World Tuberculosis Day, March 24, Lilly made a tribute to outstanding community agents and nurses working for the Program of Community Health Agents at the Rocinha slum, in Rio de Janeiro. Furthermore, Lilly announced a grant of US\$ 50,000 to expand their work in the fight against tuberculosis. Two and a half years after the implementation of the Program at the Rocinha slum, there was a significant improvement in the TB cure rate, from 73% to 88%, surpassing the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.

Fighting against tuberculosis is considered to be an emergency in Brazil due to the increase in the number of cases in recent years. According to the Ministry of Health, about 80.000 new cases of tuberculosis are diagnosed every year, and 5000 people die from the disease. Estimates indicate that more than 60 million Brazilians are infected by the tuberculosis bacillus. Brazil ranks 15th in the number of tuberculosis cases, according to the World Health Organization.

The Lilly MDR-TB Partnership was established in 2003 with the aim to control and eradicate the disease. Considering the approach, the program mobilizes partners from several different sectors in order to raise awareness of the disease and to provide resources for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of people living with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. The World Health Organization, the World Medical Association, Harvard University and the International Hospital Federation



are some of our partners. To date, more than 60 countries benefited from the initiative, which has five key elements: support to community and patient advocacy groups; treatment, training, and monitoring; technology transfer; research; and education and prevention of the disease.

Since the program was launched, Lilly contributed with US\$ 135 million in cash, drugs and technology to develop sustainable solutions that improve access to effective treatment and provide global resources for fighting multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. Lilly shares drug-manufacturing technology with pharmaceutical companies in the hardest-hit countries, such as China, India, and South Africa, so they can produce both capreomycin and cycloserine for the treatment of MDR-TB. The company also provides manufacturing know-how and financial aid for the purchase of equipment, as well as training on good manufacturing practices to ensure quality of medicines produced.

In addition, Lilly supplies antibiotics for the World Health Organization DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment) program at reduced prices. Through the program, patients are monitored by a supervisor to ensure they follow the necessary drug regimen for the necessary period of time. Poor adherence to treatment is one of the major problems in tuberculosis control, since medicines should be taken for at least 6 months in the primary tuberculosis and for up to 24 months in the multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

Other Lilly partners include Aspen Pharmacare, Harvard University and Partners in Health (PIH), Hisun Pharmaceutical, International Council of Nurses (ICN), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Hospital Federation (IHF), The Lilly Not-For-Profit Partnership for TB Early Phase Drug Discovery, Purdue University, Shasun Chemicals and Drugs, SIA International, TB Alert/TB Survival Project, The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Economic Forum (WEF), World Health Organization (WHO)/Stop TB, and the World Medical Association (WMA).