



## TUBERCULOSIS IN VIETNAM

Tuberculosis (TB) remains one of the most common communicable diseases in Vietnam. Annually, it is estimated that Vietnam has 17,000 TB deaths, two times higher than the number of annual deaths caused by traffic accidents. An estimated 180,000 people have active TB each year; 5,000 of those cases are classified as multi-drug resistant (MDR)-TB. Sadly, only 52% of persons with TB in Vietnam are provided with treatment. While TB diagnosis and treatment is provided for free, the ultimate patient cost can be equal to as much as to one year of income in Vietnam; this is due to costs associated with hospital stays and additional nutritional needs during treatment.

Vietnam has successfully reached the 2015 Millennium Development Goal of reducing the rate of new TB infections. However, due to decreased domestic and international funding, detection and treatment of TB represents a serious challenge to attaining prevalence and mortality targets set by the Vietnam National Tuberculosis Program (NTP). TB detection and management among HIV+ patients is also difficult. This requires building clinical capacity, close collaboration between established HIV and TB systems, and laboratory strengthening from the central level to the primary health care level. Local funding is limited to basic operational needs; namely drugs and TB testing commodities.

Building on 20 years of USAID support for TB in Vietnam, current programs are focused on helping the NTP and the Vietnam Authority of HIV/AIDS Control detect TB earlier, improve TB treatment, enhance the laboratory network, and prevent TB transmission. With substantial USAID support through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the NTP has expanded the number of centers with capacity to detect and treat drug-resistant TB and provided treatment to over 3,500 patients between 2010 and 2014. Rapid testing to confirm TB and drug-resistant TB has also been rolled out with more than 22,000 people tested, 11,000 TB patients detected, and over 2,500 drug-resistant TB patients diagnosed. A new management strategy for TB in children has been implemented in 10 provinces with 800 child TB patients detected in 2014 - this accounts for 53% of childhood TB cases managed in all 63 provinces of Vietnam. In line with the U.S. Government Global Tuberculosis Strategy 2015 – 2019, USAID will continue providing technical support to the Vietnam NTP on all four technical interventions: (1) improving access to high-quality services, (2) preventing TB transmission, (3) strengthening the TB service network, and (4) accelerating best practices to achieve the World Health Organization's strategy (End TB) of ending the global TB epidemic.