The Philippines has a population of 99 million and has a high-burden of both tuberculosis (TB) with an estimated 290,000 new TB cases each year and multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB). As a major partner, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) programs approximately $12 million annually to support the National TB Program’s strategic plan.

Number of notified TB patients in 2014: 243,379
Estimated MDR-TB cases: 12,000

* Estimates of MDR-TB cases are provisional, pending a review of methods by a WHO Task Force scheduled for April 2016 and subsequent review of estimates by national TB programs in July 2016.

While almost 85 percent of TB patients are detected by the National TB Program, detection for MDR-TB cases is lagging. Currently, the number patients enrolled on treatment is only 25 percent of the estimated 12,000 MDR-TB cases. USAID programs are working with the government and partners to increase scale-up of MDR-TB diagnosis and treatment services.

Rapid scale-up of 84 GeneXpert machines has significantly improved laboratory capacity and facilitated expansion of MDR-TB screening. Between 2012 and 2014, screening increased more than 10-fold, from 2,107 to 27,287.

While detection of MDR-TB and enrollment in treatment programs significantly increased between 2007 and 2012, the MDR-TB treatment success rate declined from 63 percent to 43 percent due to increased lost to follow-up rate and major programmatic disruptions. Several projects have been launched to improve the quality of MDR-TB care and treatment outcomes.

* 2012 data are the latest available for treatment success due to length of treatment.

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