

## Public Health in the News

### Africa: Poor Health Systems Hamper Fight against Tropical Diseases

Many developing countries still lack the infrastructure to dispense drugs against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), with up to US\$300 million a year needed to address this, according to a report.

The progress report on the London Declaration, a 2012 commitment by a coalition of governments, health organisations and businesses to combat NTDs, found that drug delivery remains a crucial problem. It says that companies supply around US\$3.8 billion worth of drugs to treat NTDs every year, but more money is needed to get them to affected areas and administer them correctly. "We have an abundance of cure," said Desmond Swayne, the United Kingdom's international development minister, during the report's launch last week (25 June) in London. "The problem isn't our ability to provide a cure. It's our will to provide the infrastructure that can deliver it to the sufferers."

The report says US\$200-300 million a year is needed up to 2020 to make drug delivery more effective. It says that Bangladesh and the Philippines have been the most successful countries at using domestic resources to administer NTD drugs, with their public health systems fulfilling 85 per cent and 94 per cent respectively of this work. Neglected tropical diseases comprise various conditions that are prevalent in poor countries around the equator, but receive little international attention due to their limited spread. They include leprosy, river blindness, Chagas' disease and sleeping sickness.


Source: [AllAfrica.com](http://AllAfrica.com), 03 July 2015

With global challenges related to population growth, urbanisation and climate change (specifically floods and droughts) on the rise, understanding the nexus between community healthcare (including disease and pharmaceutical surveillance), water treatment and climate adaptation will become increasingly important in coming years.

**WAMTechnology** has been supporting the health and water sectors with custom software development projects for 20 years. WAMTech specialises in providing technology solutions to achieve good governance in private as well as public enterprises. Our focus is predominantly on the Water and Health sectors, although we embrace many more areas. The

link between clean and sustainable supply of potable water and the maintenance of public health is clear and for sustainable development to be maintained on the African continent, the development and implementation of efficient health and water & sanitation support systems and technologies are critical.

WAMTech has ample experience in the custom development (with local conditions in mind) of information systems that support good community health and well-being in Africa. As the needs and desires of the African continent grows, so will we continue to grow and respond by adapting and advancing our product and service offerings in line with our society's requirements. We constantly rethink our tools, our systems, and our services as we realise that the solutions of today is not the solutions of tomorrow. Our many successful projects include the development and support of the **Electronic Tuberculosis Register (ETR.Net)** and **Electronic Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis Register (EDRWeb)** – which are the **official software tools** used by the South African National Department of Health's Tuberculosis Control Program, to maintain and analyse registered patients.



**South African National Department of Health**  
Electronic Drug-Resistant Register  
DR Case Registration Report  
South Africa

Show/Hide Criteria | Close Report

Reporting Period (yyyy/MM/dd)  
2007/01/01 To 2009/02/13

Province  
[All]

DR-TB Unit  
[All]

Type of Drug-Resistant TB  
MDR

Generate

Patients						Total MDR
Registered in Category IV diagnostic group						0
Started on Category IV treatment during the quarter						957
	New	Previously treated with 1st line drugs	Previously treated with 2nd line drugs	Transferred In	Other	Total
Pulmonary	85	300	1	7	26	518
Extra Pulmonary	0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>519</b>

MDR Detection Rate: 17.35%

Our motto is "service delivery through innovation" and we will continue to innovate our ideas and technology systems in ways that would best support healthy and sustainable communities.

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WAMTech are specialists in implementing technology systems for improved governance, focussing on Water and Public Health Information Systems

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