

**EC Partners**

- International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union)

**Facts and Figures**

- EC contribution: **€4.32 million** (90% of total) granted **2004-2007**
- **7,000** HIV-infected TB patients in Benin and the DRC to be treated in the next 3 years
- **39** diagnostic and treatment centres (DTCs) for TB care equipped with **3-year supply** of rapid HIV tests and antiretrovirals drugs

**Did you know?**

Up to 70% of TB patients in sub-Saharan Africa are co-infected with HIV\*



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

\*WHO Report 2005

# Fight against HIV/AIDS

## Providing universal access to treatment

An integrated approach to HIV and Tuberculosis care in Benin and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

*"Integrated HIV Care will be beneficial because we have many TB/HIV patients. It will help us to double our capacity to provide treatment. Previously, HIV-infected people with TB were left to themselves, except for those with the means to pay."*

Dr Séraphine Maliyawati Masika, Matanda Hospital, DTC for TB care in the DRC



**Context: Tackling tuberculosis and HIV**

HIV-positive people are up to fifty times more likely to develop tuberculosis (TB) in a given year than those who are HIV-negative. Access to standardised HIV care is limited in many low-income countries. Benin and the DRC are two countries participating in The Union's Integrated HIV Care (IHC) programme, supported by the European Commission. Through this, communities will benefit from an integrated approach to the large-scale problems of HIV/AIDS and TB which affect these countries.

The Union's IHC programme provides TB patients who are registered for TB treatment under national programmes, as well as their relatives, with rapid HIV testing, treatment and counselling.

**Objectives: An integrated HIV care approach**

- To reduce the burden of TB and HIV in resource-limited settings
- To strengthen the integration of holistic care of people with HIV/AIDS, including those with TB, into the general health services

**Impact: What has been achieved?**

The national HIV and TB health care systems in Benin and the DRC reinforced through extensive capacity building measures. Since the programme's initiation in 2005:

- 200 health care workers trained in HIV counselling, diagnosis and integrated HIV care for TB patients
- Diagnostic counselling and testing for HIV made more widely available
- Drugs and laboratory supplies procured
- 72 HIV+ TB patients diagnosed and enrolled in IHC out of 444 tested individuals in Benin from October 2005-March 2006.