

OSI's Commitment to TB: 1997-Present

The Open Society Institute's Public Health Program aims to promote health policies based on social inclusion, human rights, justice, and scientific evidence. The program works with local, national and international civil society organizations to combat the social marginalization and stigma that lead to poor health, to facilitate access to health information, and to foster greater civil society engagement in public health policy and practice.

Within this prism, OSI has committed approximately \$25 million to support a variety of activities related to tuberculosis (TB) since 1997. Some of OSI's most critical contributions in this area include:

- Calling attention to the threat of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB)—particularly in Russian prisons—and successfully advocating for the World Health Organization to integrate treatment of MDR-TB within its formal guidelines and protocols.
- Supporting the development and launch of the Stop TB Partnership, a coalition of international organizations, countries, donors from the public and private sectors, and governmental and nongovernmental organizations working to eliminate TB.
- Supporting the development of the Stop TB Partnership's first *Global Plan to Stop Tuberculosis*, which provided a roadmap and detailed resource targets for global TB control.
- Ongoing advocacy to promote the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other fundraising efforts to increase support for TB control from wealthy countries.

Since 2004, OSI's Public Health Watch initiative has promoted informed public participation—especially by people and communities most affected by TB and HIV/AIDS—in the development, implementation and evaluation of health policies. In particular, Public Health Watch seeks to generate greater political commitment and public awareness around TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV co-infection, at both the national and international levels.

###

The Open Society Institute, a private operating and grantmaking foundation, works to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable to their citizens. To achieve its mission, OSI seeks to shape public policies that assure greater fairness in political, legal, and economic systems and safeguard fundamental rights. OSI works in over 60 countries including the United States, Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.