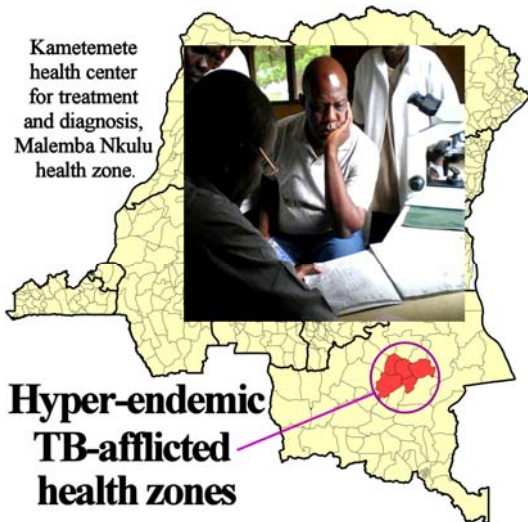




## SUCCESS STORY

### Overcoming Obstacles so 1500 can Overcome TB



Above: AXxes Logistics Officer Alan Kamba checking inventory in Lubumbashi

Below: Loading a MAF plane in Lubumbashi



Tuberculosis is a resurgent and growing epidemic in parts of DR Congo. Last year an alarming number of cases were detected in a cluster of AXxes-assisted health zones in remote central Katanga province (see map). With support provided by Project AXxes several thousand were screened and over 1500 were found to be positive for TB. Unfortunately none had access to treatment.

In coordinating respective roles with other partners, the mandate of Project AXxes is to reinforce the diagnostic and treatment capability of rural treatment centers (not write protocols or provide medicines). However in this case, and with USAID encouragement, we traversed traditional stakeholder spheres of influence and combined forces with the national program to tackle the hyper-endemic spread of this life threatening and highly communicable disease.

Project AXxes organized after-hour workshops to help the National TB program (PNT) finalize a revised DOTS protocol (PATI-4) and then printed and distributed over one thousand protocol manuals. With TB-Union and personnel from PNT, Project AXxes organized field training for health care providers in updated protocols. We purchased diagnostic equipment, motorcycles, and bicycles to permit health workers to travel within their health zones. AXxes logistics specialists literally sat in government offices waiting for long promised medicine and then air-freighted five tons of pharmaceuticals to staging areas in Lubumbashi. We then chartered single engine planes of Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF) to ferry hundreds of cartons of medicine and equipment into rarely-used grass and dirt-packed airstrips in the remotely located health zones.

The results have been well worth the effort. A recent e-mail from the AXxes regional coordination office announced that "*La mise en traitement des malades tuberculeux grâce à la présence des médicaments présents dans les Zones de Santé; 100% des malades en attente sont sous traitement à ce jour*", i.e., All 1,582 persons who screened positive for TB are today on treatment... thanks in large part to Project AXxes and USAID!

**TB patients treated by HZ**  
(Feb-Mar 2009)

Health Zone	TPM+	Other TB	Total
MalembaNkulu	334	58	392
Mulongo	352	39	391
Lwamba	264	118	382
Mukanga	257	29	286
Kinkondja	108	23	131
<b>Total</b>	<b>1315</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>1582</b>