



World Health  
Organization

Stop TB Partnership

# 2009 update TUBERCULOSIS FACTS

- TB is contagious and **spreads through the air**. If not treated, each person with active TB infects on average 10 to 15 people every year
- More than **2 billion people**, equal to one-third of the world's population, are infected with TB bacilli, the microbes that cause TB. 1 in 10 people infected with TB bacilli will become sick with active TB in their lifetime
- TB is a **disease of poverty** affecting mostly young adults in their most productive years. The vast majority of TB deaths are in the developing world, and more than half of all deaths occur in Asia
- There were **9.4 million new TB cases** in 2008 (3.6 million of whom are women) including 1.4 million cases among people living with HIV
- **1.8 million** people died from TB in 2008, including 500 000 people with HIV - equal to 4500 deaths a day
- The estimated global incidence rate fell to **139 cases per 100 000 population** in 2008 after peaking in 2004 at 143 cases per 100 000. Rates are **falling very slowly** in 5 WHO regions (the rate is stabilizing in Europe). The total number of deaths and cases is still rising due to population growth
- There were **5.7 million TB case notifications** in 2008. **36 million people were cured** in DOTS programmes (between 1995-2008), with as many as **8 million deaths averted** through DOTS
- The **87% global treatment success rate** exceeded the 85% target for the first time since the target was set in 1991. 53 countries exceeded this 85% patient treatment target
- **TB is a leading killer of people with HIV**. People who are HIV-positive and infected with TB are 20 to 40 times more likely to develop active TB than people not infected with HIV living in the same country
- Critical to saving lives is the urgent implementation of the **Three Is** (**I**ntensified case-finding, **I**soniazid prevention therapy, and **I**nfection control) - measures which reduce the burden of TB in people living with HIV
- **Multidrug-resistant TB** (MDR-TB) is a form of TB that is difficult and expensive to treat and fails to respond to standard first-line drugs. **Extensively drug-resistant TB** (XDR-TB) occurs when resistance to second-line drugs develops on top of MDR-TB
- **5% of all TB cases have MDR-TB**, based on data from more than 100 countries collected during the last decade
- There were an estimated **500 000 new MDR-TB cases** in 2007. Just over 1% of cases were receiving treatment in 2008 known to be based on WHO's recommended standards
- In 2008, WHO reported that the **highest rates of MDR-TB ever recorded**, with peaks of up to 22% of new TB cases, were in some settings of the former Soviet Union. In the same region, 1 in 10 cases of MDR-TB is XDR-TB
- **27 countries account for 85% of all MDR-TB cases**. The top five countries with the largest number of cases are India, China, the Russian Federation, South Africa and Bangladesh. XDR-TB has been found in **57 countries** to date
- In 2009, a **World Health Assembly MDR-TB and XDR-TB resolution** was endorsed by 192 WHO Member States and included recommended priority actions to combat drug-resistant TB

## THE TB TARGETS FOR 2015

### UN Millennium Development Goals:

to have halted and begun to reverse incidence

#### Current assessment

On target in all WHO regions

though incidence is falling slowly

### The Stop TB Partnership targets:

halving prevalence and deaths by 2015

in comparison with 1990

#### Current assessment

WHO Africa region not on target

**If the Global Plan to Stop TB 2006-2015  
is fully funded and implemented**

**14 million lives will be saved and 50 million people treated**

The **WHO Stop TB Department** together with WHO regional and country offices: develops policies, strategies and standards; supports the efforts of WHO Member States; measures progress towards TB targets and assesses national programme performance, financing and impact; promotes research; and facilitates partnerships, advocacy and communication

The **Stop TB Partnership** (with its secretariat housed by WHO) is a network of more than 1 000 stakeholders; it has a Coordinating Board and 7 working groups: DOTS Expansion; Global Laboratory Initiative; MDR-TB; TB/HIV; New Drugs; New Diagnostics; New Vaccines