More than 2 billion people, equal to one-third of the world's population, are infected with TB bacilli, the microbes that cause TB.

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, with more than half of all deaths occurring in Asia.

1.77 million people died from TB in 2007 including 456,000 people with HIV - equal to 4500 deaths a day.

5% of all TB cases have MDR-TB, based on data from more than 100 countries collected during the last decade.

5.5 million TB cases were notified by DOTS in 2007 (component 1 of the Stop TB Strategy), with the global case detection rate of TB increasing to 63% from 62%.

1 in 10 people infected with TB bacilli will become sick with active TB in their lifetime; people with HIV are at much greater risk.

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.

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.