GLOBAL TUBERCULOSIS REPORT



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Global tuberculosis report 2021

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Contents

Foreword		v
Acknowledgements		vi
Abbreviations		xi
1.	Introduction	1
2.	Global TB commitments, strategy and targets	3
3.	Main findings and messages	4
4.	WHO guidance related to the COVID-19 pandemic and TB	27
5.	Conclusions	28
References		29
Annex 1. Basic facts about TB		31
Annex 2. The WHO global TB database		32
Annex 3. WHO global lists of high TB burden countries		34
Annex 4. Country, regional and global profiles		37
Annex 5. Updates to estimates of TB disease burden		38
Annex 6. The WHO TB-SDG monitoring framework		41



Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus Director-General World Health Organization



L L Ending this debilitating disease remains a priority for WHO, and in recent years, we have made encouraging progress globally. But the COVID-19 pandemic has put these gains at risk. Not only does the virus pose an increased risk to people with TB, it has also caused severe disruption to services.

I want to remind you that the struggle to end TB is not just a struggle against a single disease. It's also the struggle to end poverty, inequity, unsafe housing, discrimination and stigma, and to extend social protection and universal health coverage. If the pandemic has taught us anything, it's that health is a human right, not a luxury for those who can afford it.

With solidarity, determination and the equitable use of tools, we will defeat COVID-19. And with the same solidarity, determination and equitable use of tools, we can end TB.

Foreword



Dr Tereza Kasaeva Director, WHO Global TB Programme

The 2021 global tuberculosis report highlights that we stand at a crossroads. We have just 1 year left to reach the historic 2022 tuberculosis (TB) targets committed to by heads of state and government at the first United Nations (UN) high-level meeting on TB in 2018, yet the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has reversed gains and set back the fight against TB by several years. We need to move forward with hope, redoubling efforts and investments to urgently close widening gaps in access to much-needed prevention and care for the millions affected by this ancient disease. For the first time in over a decade, TB deaths have increased because of reduced access to TB diagnosis and treatment in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Close to half of the people ill with TB missed out on access to care in 2020 and were not reported; also, the number of people provided with treatment for drug-resistant TB and TB preventive treatment dropped significantly. An overview of universal health coverage (UHC), social determinants, and multisectoral action and accountability presented in this report emphasizes the need to address the terminants of the disease

core drivers and social determinants of the disease.

This year's report is in an innovative digital format, with the main findings and messages presented in a single document, which is accompanied by expanded, more comprehensive content on the World Health Organization (WHO) website. This online content is organized under seven major topics: the COVID-19 pandemic and TB; TB disease burden; TB diagnosis and treatment; TB prevention; financing for TB diagnostic, treatment and prevention services; UHC and TB determinants; and TB research and innovation. The data come from 197 countries and territories, with notification data having been reported close to real-time on a monthly basis since the start of 2021. This transformation of the report aims to make it easier to access the core report data and information, and complements content available in the Global TB Report app.

The report provides important information at a crucial time, as preparations begin for the second UN high-level meeting on TB, which was mandated for 2023 as part of the political declaration of the 2018 UN high-level meeting and the 2020 progress report of the UN Secretary-General. This will be an important landmark to bolster political leadership to help us fast-track our efforts in an integrated and sustainable way. WHO has been tasked with supporting the Office of the UN Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive review by heads of state and government at the 2023 high-level meeting on TB, informed by the upcoming global TB reports and the global, regional and national high-level reviews. We must stay focused until the job is done.

We have before us the opportunity to save the lives of millions, to preserve resources and to demonstrate the success of efforts to end TB, despite crises that come our way. We must keep the momentum going to stop the spread of this preventable and curable disease and reach those affected with the care they need. We are running out of time – the clock is ticking.

It's time for urgent action to End TB.

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The accompanying web content is organized into seven major topics and associated sections: 1) the COVID-19 pandemic and TB, which was prepared by Katherine Floyd, Philippe Glaziou and Irwin Law, with contributions from Nimalan Arinaminpathy (Imperial College, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Peter Dodd (Sheffield University, United Kingdom) and Carel Pretorius (Avenir Health, United States of America); 2) TB disease burden, which was prepared by Katherine Floyd, Philippe Glaziou, Irwin Law and Olga Tosas Auguet, with contributions from Nimalan Arinaminpathy (Imperial College, London, United Kingdom) and Peter Dodd (Sheffield University, United Kingdom); 3) TB diagnosis and treatment, which was prepared by Katherine Floyd and Hazim Timimi, with contributions from Annabel Baddeley, Nazir Ismail, Irwin Law and Fuad Mirzayev; 4) TB prevention, which was prepared by Annabel Baddeley, Saskia den Boon, Dennis Falzon and Hazim Timimi, with contributions to the writing of text from Katherine Floyd; 5) Financing for TB prevention, diagnostic and treatment services, which was prepared by Inés Garcia Baena and Peter Nguhiu (Kenya Medical Research Institute), with contributions from Katherine Floyd and Irwin Law; 6) Universal health coverage (UHC) and TB determinants, which was prepared by Nobuyuki Nishikiori and Inés Garcia Baena, with contributions to the writing of text from Katherine Floyd; and 7) TB research and innovation, which was prepared by Nebiat Gebreselassie, Dennis Falzon, Nazir Ismail, Alexei Korobitsyn and Irwin Law, with contributions to the writing of text from Katherine Floyd. All web-based content was reviewed by other members of the core report team.

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