

GLOBAL TUBERCULOSIS REPORT

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IN PARTICULAR, ENTIRE TIME-SERIES
OF TB DISEASE BURDEN ESTIMATES
ARE UPDATED EVERY YEAR. FOR THE
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THE GLOBAL TB REPORT.**

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World Health
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GLOBAL TUBERCULOSIS REPORT 2019



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Organization

Global tuberculosis report 2019

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Foreword



It has been a year since the historic United Nations (UN) high-level meeting on tuberculosis (TB) that brought together world leaders to accelerate the TB response. The commitments made at the meeting are currently being translated into action in countries, supported by the “Find. Treat. All. #EndTB” initiative of the World Health Organization (WHO), the Stop TB Partnership and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

This year’s global TB report reveals that countries are making progress. About 7 million people were reported to have been reached with quality TB care in 2018, up from 6.4 million in 2017. In addition, TB-related deaths dropped from 1.6 million in 2017 to 1.5 million in 2018. However, TB remains the top infectious killer worldwide, with 10 million people falling ill with TB in 2018.

Although some countries are significantly accelerating their TB response, most WHO regions and many high-burden countries are still not on track to reach the 2020 milestones of the End TB Strategy. About 3 million people with TB did not access quality care in 2018. The situation is even more acute for people with drug-resistant TB, with only one in three accessing treatment. Prevention efforts are expanding but need to be intensified. Funding gaps of close to US\$ 5 billion annually impede progress in the overall TB response, including TB research.

To ensure that we match our talk with real, lasting change, WHO released a multisectoral accountability framework at this year’s World Health Assembly, to help countries drive action with accountability across all sectors. Sustained progress will require a commitment to universal health coverage, based on strong primary health care, as underscored at the high-level meeting on universal health coverage at the UN General Assembly this year.

Ultimately, the best investment that countries can make to ensure faster progress towards ending TB is to ensure that TB services are designed and delivered as part of an overall commitment to universal health coverage, built on the foundation of strong primary health care. WHO is committed to working with countries to ensure TB services are integrated into national benefit packages to ensure that no one misses out on the services they need, or is impoverished by using them.

The WHO global TB report delivers a clear message: sustained acceleration of efforts and increased collaboration are urgently required to turn the tide of the TB epidemic. To maintain momentum, I personally wrote to Heads of State this year urging them to keep the promises made at last year’s high-level meeting on TB. This was followed by a joint statement with the WHO civil society taskforce. Civil society, partners and affected communities are important drivers of progress against this top killer.

Our vision is that no one with TB will miss out on the care they need. WHO will stand by every country, partner, society or person that decides TB has no place in its future. It is time to deliver. There has never been a better opportunity to make TB history.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Tedros Adhanom". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Director-General

World Health Organization

Message

from the WHO Global TB Programme



This is a pivotal moment for the global fight to end tuberculosis (TB).

For the first time, we have political commitment at the highest level – from heads of state, ministers and other leaders. Member States, partners and civil society are all united in working towards accelerating the response to end TB – the world’s top infectious disease killer.

This year’s global TB report showcases global, regional and country progress, while highlighting that much remains to be done to reach the TB targets set in the World Health Organization (WHO) End TB Strategy, the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the political declaration at last year’s UN high-level meeting on TB. It is now imperative to maintain the positive momentum we have achieved.

In this report, WHO is announcing that the first milestone towards one of the targets set in the political declaration at the UN high-level meeting on TB has been achieved: 7 million people were reached with TB care in 2018. Nonetheless, there were still around 3 million people with TB who either had no access to quality care or were not reported, and only one in three people with drug-resistant TB accessed care. There has been an expansion of access to TB preventive treatment, but the numbers currently being reached fall far short of what is needed to reach the target of providing preventive treatment to at least 30 million people in the period 2018–2022. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) has recently been replenished with more resources than ever before for HIV, TB and malaria, but despite this good news, progress continues to be impeded by shortfalls in domestic and international funding for TB prevention and care, and for TB research.

WHO has been intensifying its efforts to support countries in accelerating the TB response, with the engagement of all stakeholders. Actions taken in the past year include high-level missions to countries to optimize the national response; the development and roll-out of new guidelines, roadmaps and tools; the implementation of the WHO Director-General’s Flagship initiative, “Find. Treat. All. #EndTB”, undertaken jointly with the Global Fund and the Stop TB Partnership; strengthened collaboration with civil society; and implementation of a multisectoral accountability framework for TB to drive sustained action across all sectors.

As we look forward, 2020 is a critical year when Member States will report to the WHO Director-General and UN Secretary-General on progress towards the targets of the SDGs, the End TB Strategy and the UN high-level meeting. As a precursor to the next critical year, this year’s global TB report highlights that although we have achieved much in the fight to end TB, we can and must do better. It is time to critically analyse, review and optimize programmes; strengthen surveillance systems; and move decisively from rhetoric to action.

We believe that the WHO global TB report is essential for this effort, and for high-level advocacy, increasing awareness and fundraising. Knowledge and data are powerful weapons in the fight against TB. That is why the WHO global TB report is for you. Read it, know more about TB and act!

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Kasaeva'.

Dr Tereza Kasaeva

Director, Global Tuberculosis Programme
World Health Organization

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