

Key TB and TB/HIV facts and figures

(World TB Day 2005)

TB highlights

- TB caused 1.7 million deaths in 2003 with 8.8 million estimated new infections.
- 3.7 million TB cases were notified in 2003; 1.8 million new smear positive cases - 45% of estimated new smear positive cases - were treated with DOTS.
- Globally, TB prevalence and mortality rates were falling; TB prevalence has declined by more than 20% since 1990.
- However, TB cases keep rising in Africa when notifications and estimated incidence were decreasing or stable in the other five regions of WHO.
- HIV/AIDS is fuelling spread of TB; since 1990, TB incidence has tripled in countries heavily affected by HIV/AIDS.
- This HIV/AIDS-driven TB increase has resulted in a consequent increase of 1% in the global TB estimates, in 2003.

Key bottlenecks of TB control

- Lack of political will and policy changes in some regions result in further deterioration. In eastern European region, use of DOTS is not sufficient, the region contains a worrying TB epidemic with highest rates of Multi-Drug Resistant (MDR) TB.
- Number of reported smear positives is rising in overall when the number of people treated under DOTS is decreasing.
- Increase in treatment is limited to a few countries.
- Africa has a special case and needs to address both TB and HIV, simultaneously.
- Insufficient attention to smear negative and extra pulmonary TB.
- Insufficient attention has been given to private-sector TB service-providers.

TB/HIV highlights

- One-third of the 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide are co-infected with TB.
- Up to 80% of TB patients are HIV positive in high TB/HIV prevalence countries.
- People with HIV are up to 50 times more likely to develop TB in a lifetime to compare with HIV-negative people.
- 7.6% of total TB cases are HIV positive people (674 000).
- TB case fatality rates are 4 to 5 times higher among HIV positives than among HIV negatives;
- TB is a also significant cause of mortality among HIV/AIDS patients, dying with undetected cases of TB. For example; in India a postmortem study suggested that more than 50% of HIV/AIDS patients died of TB;
- Few TB patients are HIV tested (global average of 3% of notified cases in 2003);
- Very few HIV infected TB patients start Antiretroviral treatment (1349 reported globally in 2003).