



XDR-TB: extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis

June 2007

Stop TB Department www.who.int/tb

US\$ 2.15 billion needed to combat drug-resistant TB globally

Hundreds of thousands of cases of drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) can be prevented and as many as 134,000 lives saved through the implementation of a two-year plan, launched by WHO and the Stop TB Partnership. [The Global MDR-TB and XDR-TB Response Plan 2007-2008](#) sets out measures needed to prevent, treat and control XDR-TB and multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB). The \$US2.15b plan lays out a strategy for sufficiently increasing the number of fully-equipped TB laboratories in countries with high levels of TB to achieve a ten-fold increase in detection of MDR-TB case. If fully implemented, the plan will also increase by ten-fold the number of MDR-TB and XDR-TB patients being treated and cured under WHO guidelines.

The 52-page plan details activities to be carried out in all six WHO regions as well as key milestones and costs.

The Global
MDR-TB & XDR-TB
Response Plan
2007-2008

MILESTONES	2007	2008	Total
Indicator			
Cultures performed	1,800,000	2,200,000	4,000,000
Drug susceptibility tests performed	750,000	900,000	1,650,000
New laboratories established	21	22	43
MDR-TB cases enrolled on treatment (exc. XDR-TB)	60,000	100,000	160,000
XDR-TB cases enrolled on treatment	6,000	10,000	16,000
% of estimated MDR-TB cases enrolled in treatment per year (exc. XDR-TB)	16%	28%	
% of estimated XDR-TB cases enrolled in treatment per year	25%	43%	
Lives Saved	49,000	85,000	134,000

COSTS	2007	2008	Total
Resources needed by countries	673	1,046	1,719
Drugs for treatment	291	465	756
Hospitalization costs	81	121	202
Capacity-building and other operational costs	193	288	481
Infection control costs	40	72	112
Laboratory costs	68	100	168
Technical assistance from partners at global, regional and national levels	42	60	102
Research and Development (inc. operational research)	167	167	334
Total	\$882m	\$1,273m	\$2,155m

'Stop XDR-TB Before It Starts!'

New posters, fact sheets and updated guidelines on addressing XDR-TB are to be unveiled next month by the Stop TB Partnership as part of information campaign to prevent XDR-TB. Under the slogan, "Stop XDR-TB Before It Starts", the campaign will feature clear messages on the importance of tackling XDR-TB. Health care workers will be urged to ensure high-quality TB control is firmly in place, with patients also reminded about the importance of correctly completing their full course of TB medication.

TB and Air Travel

WHO guidelines on [TB and Air Travel](#) are to be revised following the high-profile case of an airline passenger from the USA who traveled to Europe while infected with XDR-TB. The revision will include specific recommendations on XDR-TB, and lessons learnt from the recent case. The incident drew international attention on the risks of TB infection, associated with long-haul air travel, and also on the urgent need for increasing investment in global TB control to prevent XDR-TB cases occurring. The guidelines were written before the emergence of XDR-TB as a global threat.