

Global Tuberculosis Programme

Message from Director of the WHO Global TB Programme: Dr Tereza Kasaeva

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Partners,

2020 has been a challenging year for us all, but also one resonating with resilience and hope to overcome hardships. As the year comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your solidarity, commitment and dedicated work towards saving the lives of millions with tuberculosis (TB) and ensuring they are not left behind.

Over 63 million lives have been saved since the year 2000, and there has been overarching progress in driving down TB-related deaths and incidence. Yet as emphasized in the UN Secretary General's Progress on TB developed with WHO support, and WHO's Global TB Report: high-level commitments have galvanized global, regional and national progress towards ending TB, but urgent and more ambitious investments and actions are required to put the world on track to reach targets, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHO and its leadership have been working intensively over the past months along with countries, health workers, communities, civil society and other partners to ensure continuity of essential TB services during the COVID-19 pandemic, while keeping the momentum in place towards achieving End TB commitments and reaching targets. WHO has continued leading the development of new policies and guidelines to ensure better outcomes for those affected, tackle drug-resistant TB, scale up access to TB preventive treatment and new diagnostic tools, backed by technical support to enable rapid implementation of new guidance in countries.

WHO is working closely with countries to support the uptake of the Multisectoral Accountability Framework, examples of high-level leadership on multisectoral accountability include Presidential or Head of State End TB initiatives and formalized mechanisms for the engagement and accountability of stakeholders in India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines and Viet Nam as well as national campaigns to drive progress such as the "Race to End TB". Worldwide in 2020, 86 countries are progressing with implementation of national multisectoral accountability mechanisms under high-level leadership, of which 62 included representatives of civil society and TB-affected communities.

Civil society engagement has been stronger than ever before through WHO's Civil Society Task Force on TB, with their close collaboration in all areas of WHO's work including policy development.

The Global Strategy for TB Research and Innovation was adopted by the World Health Assembly in August 2020. The strategy was developed under the leadership of WHO, through a consultative process with Member States including managers of national tuberculosis programmes and other officials from within and beyond ministries of health such as

ministries of science and technology; the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Tuberculosis (STAG-TB); the WHO Global TB Research Task Force; representatives of civil society and affected communities; research funding institutions; and other stakeholders in TB research and innovation. Four major areas for action are highlighted in the strategy: creating an enabling environment for TB research and innovation; increasing financial investments in TB research and innovation; promoting and improving approaches to data sharing; and promoting equitable access to the benefits of research and innovation. This global strategy will guide Member States and other relevant stakeholders in translating political commitments on TB research and innovation into concrete action backed by investment.

Since January 2020, when the novel coronavirus outbreak (2019-nCoV) was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, the WHO Global TB Programme with Regional and Country Offices, in close collaboration with partners and civil society has been undertaking real-time monitoring of the COVID-19 pandemic including on TB notifications and service delivery, providing guidance and technical support to countries as well as supporting the procurement of drugs and diagnostics. WHO modelling and analysis on the impact of COVID-19 on TB mortality indicate that a 50% drop in the detection of TB cases over 3 months will lead to almost 400,000 more people dying due to TB in 2020 alone. WHO is working with countries, partners and civil society to ensure continuity of essential TB services and to learn lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen preparedness and build-back stronger. In line with WHO guidance, countries have taken measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on essential TB services, including by strengthening infection control, expanding use of digital technologies to provide remote advice and support, and providing home-based TB prevention and care.

All of the above efforts and actions are commendable, especially in the face of the COVID-19 crisis, and are contributing towards reaching the End TB targets including those of the WHO Director-General's Flagship Initiative "Find.Treat.All. #EndTB" with Stop TB Partnership and the Global Fund, as well as the triple billion targets of WHO's General Programme of Work. It shows how resilient we are as a community.

However, we just have two years to reach the targets and keep the promises made at the UN High Level Meeting on TB. To put the world on track to reach agreed targets by 2022 and beyond; and reduce the enormous human and societal toll caused by TB, we need to support Member States collectively to implement the 10 priority recommendations outlined in the 2020 UN Secretary General's Progress Report on TB, and reach the targets outlined in WHO's End TB Strategy. This will help step up the response.

We, at the WHO Global TB Programme, would like to thank all of you for your strong collaboration and partnership this year that has been critical for our work. We would like to salute all the health workers at the forefront of the fight to end TB and other diseases, those affected by TB including communities and survivors, countries and their national TB programmes, civil society, partners and donors for your tireless dedication and support to the fight to end TB.

We would like to thank core donors, contributors and partners to the work of WHO's Global TB Programme during 2020: United States Government through the US Agency for International Development (USAID) & the US Center for Disease Control (US CDC), Netherlands, Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, Luxembourg, Republic of Korea, Japan, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Unitaids, KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation, Stop TB Partnership/UNOPS, European Respiratory Society, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Bristol Myers and Squibb Foundation Inc. and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

We express our gratitude to our senior leadership including to WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Deputy Director-General Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Assistant Director-General Dr Ren Minghui, Regional Directors and colleagues in WHO regional and country offices, for prioritizing efforts to end TB as part of efforts towards achieving Universal Health Coverage and ensuring the Right to Health for all, in the spirit of ONE WHO.

Dear friends, as we look to 2021 with new hope and optimism, we at WHO collectively recommit to keep the promises made to the millions affected by TB each year – despite any hardships, challenges or crises that come our way. We cannot stop till we reach every person, family and community impacted, and till we wipe out this top infectious killer once and for all.

Best wishes to you, your colleagues and loved ones, for a happy, healthy and fruitful 2021!



Dr Tereza Kasaeva
Director, Global TB Programme
World Health Organization

Presented below are some key highlights of our joint actions to guide and support the TB response at global, regional and country levels.

Overall Progress

WHO Global TB Programme support for country impact: 2020 in numbers

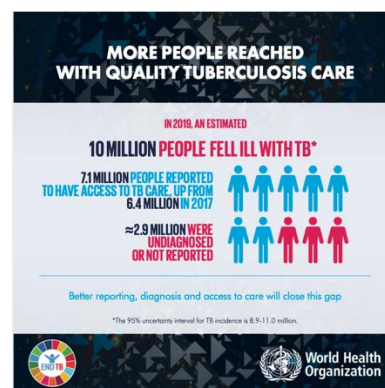
With engagement of WHO regional and country offices, civil society and partners

- **7** new and updated policies and tools
- **3** high-level missions to countries followed by virtual high level interactions due to COVID-19 pandemic
- **Global Strategy on TB Research and Innovation** developed and adopted by Member States
- **60+** countries provided with highly specialized technical assistance
- **10** national TB epidemiological reviews
- **7** national TB prevalence surveys
- **11** national survey of anti-TB drug resistance
- **14** national surveys of costs faced by TB patients and their households
- **100+** meetings, events and webinars organized/ co-organized on a range of key topics to enable knowledge-sharing and action.

Steady progress in driving down TB deaths and suffering, but COVID-19 pandemic poses critical threat to achieving global targets

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries were making steady progress in tackling tuberculosis (TB), with a 9% reduction in incidence seen between 2015 and 2019 and a 14% drop in deaths in the same period.

[Read on](#)



UN Secretary-General outlines priority recommendations to accelerate the TB response and reach targets

A new report has been released today by the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, titled Progress towards the achievement of global tuberculosis targets and implementation of the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the fight against tuberculosis. The report was developed with the support of the World Health Organization.

[Read on](#)



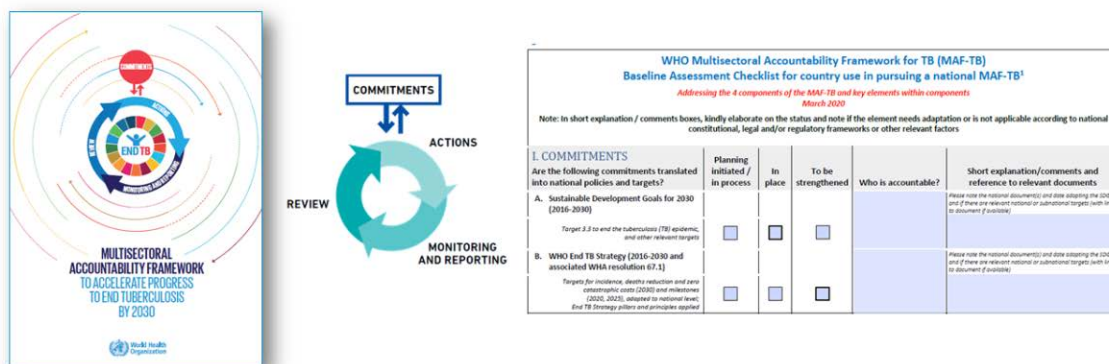
10 PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S 2020 PROGRESS REPORT ON TB FOR ACTIONS NEEDED TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS TOWARDS GLOBAL TB TARGETS

1. Fully activate high-level leadership to urgently reduce TB deaths and drive multisectoral action to end TB
2. Urgently increase funding for essential TB services including for the health workforce
3. Advance universal health coverage to ensure all people with TB have access to affordable quality care and resolve under-reporting challenges
4. Address the drug-resistant TB crisis to close persistent gaps in care
5. Dramatically scale up provision of TB preventive treatment
6. Promote human rights and combat stigma and discrimination
7. Ensure meaningful engagement of civil society, communities and people affected by TB
8. Substantially increase investments in TB research to drive technological breakthroughs and rapid uptake of innovations
9. Ensure that TB prevention and care are safeguarded in the context of COVID-19 and other emerging threats
10. Request WHO to continue to provide global leadership for the TB response, working in close collaboration with Member States and other stakeholders, including to prepare for a High-Level Meeting on TB in 2023

MULTISECTORAL ACTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Since the launch of the WHO Multisectoral Accountability Framework on TB in 2019, WHO has been supporting countries to adapt and use the framework to translate commitments into actions and to monitor, report, and review progress, with the engagement of high-level leadership, all relevant sectors, civil society and other stakeholders.

[Read on](#)



High-level missions and technical assistance for country progress: Find.Treat.All. #EndTB



WHO HIGH-LEVEL MISSIONS

3 WHO high-level missions were undertaken to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Nigeria in February 2020 before travel restrictions were imposed by the COVID-19 crisis. The high level mission to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan was led by WHO Regional Director for the European Region Dr Hans Kluge, with the participation of the Director of the WHO Global TB Programme. The mission to Nigeria was a Joint UN High-level Mission co-led by the Director of the WHO Global TB Programme to support Nigeria in galvanizing a multi-sectoral response to the challenges of TB and non-communicable diseases. The focus of the missions was to urge high-level action and investment to translate the commitments made by Heads of State and Government into action on the ground at national and subnational levels, and to promote the Find.Treat.All Joint Initiative. The missions were very well received by national high-level representatives and included the engagement of WHO regional and country offices, as well as key partners. This has been instrumental in keeping the spotlight on the fight to end TB in the countries.



SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Through the USAID technical assistance grant, WHO's Global TB Programme supported specialized technical assistance for national TB programme reviews in seven countries (Burkina Faso, Lesotho, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Central African Republic and Chad). Additionally, 73 technical assistance missions were implemented in Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Somalia.

Through the Russian grant, support was provided to 21 countries (specialised technical assistance to 13 countries, and procurement support to 8 countries). Additionally, support was also provided for national programme reviews in Zambia and Tanzania. (epidemiological reviews and patient cost surveys). Virtual specialised technical support was also provided for TB programme reviews in Mali, Palestine, Syria, as well as the Somalia rGLC mission. Additional technical support was also provided to Ghana and Pakistan.

TB Monitoring and Evaluation

TB SURVEILLANCE AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEYS

Considerable progress in strengthening routine TB surveillance systems, towards the goal of directly tracking incidence and mortality using national surveillance data, was made in 2020. This included **national TB epidemiological reviews** that include standardized assessments of the performance of TB surveillance in **10 countries**, and associated recommendations for follow-up actions to close identified gaps. National surveys to measure TB disease burden were supported in a large number of countries, including **7 national TB prevalence surveys** and **11 national surveys of anti-TB drug resistance**. The routine analysis and use of health facility TB data also continued to be strongly



promoted through the implementation of the **WHO DHIS2 TB platform for aggregate data.**



TOWARDS ZERO CATASTROPHIC COSTS: NATIONAL TB PATIENT AND HOUSEHOLD COSTS SURVEYS

The End TB Strategy includes a target that no TB patients and their households should face catastrophic costs due to TB. The year 2020 marks the first milestone for which countries are expected to report on progress towards the target. By July 2020, 19 countries had completed a survey: Benin, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fiji, Ghana, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Timor-Leste, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe. In 2019, 49% of people with TB and their households were reported to have faced catastrophic costs, for people with drug-resistant TB, the figure was higher still, at 80%. Survey results are being used to inform approaches to health financing, service delivery and social protection that will reduce these costs. National surveys were underway in nine countries: Brazil, Burkina Faso, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Malawi, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sudan and Thailand. In a further 31 countries, surveys are scheduled to start in 2020 or 2021.

Addressing TB and COVID-19



The current COVID-19 crisis has been a test for countries, health systems, key stakeholders, and those delivering health services at the front line. In the presence of new health threats like COVID-19, it has become even more critical to protect those most vulnerable and ensure continuity of care for those grappling with ongoing epidemics like TB. WHO in close coordination with partners and civil society is continuing to monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on TB services and is providing regular guidance and technical support to countries to ensure the continuity of TB care.

Visit the website:

[TB & COVID-19](#)

[COVID-TB research compendium](#)

Scaling up diagnosis of TB and drug-resistant TB



Globally, diagnosis of TB and drug-resistant TB remains a challenge with a third of people with TB and two-thirds of people with drug-resistant TB not being detected. Accelerated efforts to diagnose TB and drug-resistance are essential to end the global TB epidemic. WHO is urging countries to expand access to

rapid molecular tests for the detection of TB and drug-resistant TB in [updated consolidated guidelines](#). The use of rapid molecular assays as the initial test to diagnose TB is recommended instead of sputum smear microscopy as they have high diagnostic accuracy and will lead to major improvements in the early detection of TB and drug-resistant TB. The guidelines are accompanied by an operational handbook to facilitate rapid implementation and roll out of rapid molecular tests by national TB programmes, ministries of health and technical partners. [Read on](#)

Tackling drug resistance



Drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) is a major contributor to antimicrobial resistance worldwide and continues to be a public health threat. Annually, about half a million people fall ill with drug-resistant TB globally. The World Health Organization has [updated guidance](#) on diagnosis and treatment of drug-resistant TB. Countries are being urged to facilitate access to fully-oral treatment regimens for patients with MDR-TB. This will lead to major improvements in treatment outcomes and quality of life for those affected. The guidelines are accompanied by an [operational handbook](#) to facilitate rapid implementation and roll out by national TB programmes, Ministries of Health, technical partners and others involved in the treatment of patients with drug resistant TB. [Read on](#)

TB preventive treatment

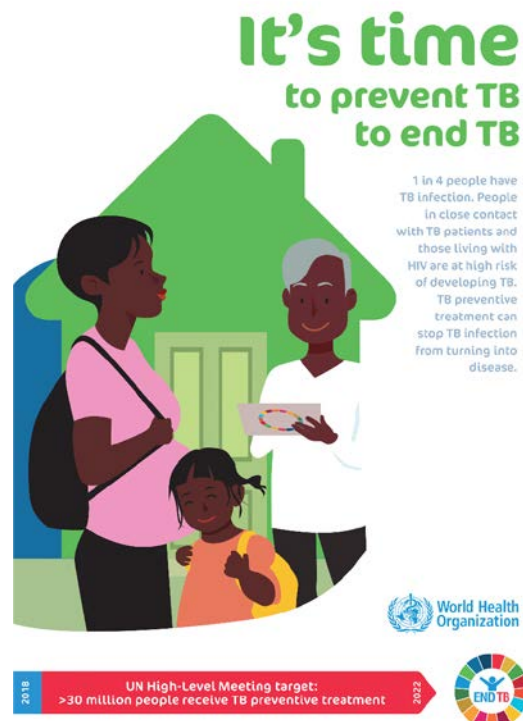
Tuberculosis infection is extremely common and people infected risk developing TB disease. TB preventive treatment (TPT) stops TB infection from progressing to disease in those who are infected and can protect both the individual and the community from TB. New [guidelines](#) and [operational](#) aids were

released by WHO in March 2020 to improve the uptake of evidence-based TPT interventions that can help lower the global TB burden to the levels targeted by the End TB Strategy.

Monitoring the worldwide scale-up of TPT will be critical to assess the uptake of WHO guidance. The new TPT guidance promotes the use of three indicators – contact investigation, TPT initiation and TPT completion – to monitor critical instances on the preventive pathway. Tools like the [Prevent TB](#) application provide countries with the opportunity to capture the data needed to generate these indicators via smartphones and other mobile devices.

A [call to action](#) was coordinated by the WHO Global TB Programme to rally key partners around the urgent need to keep expanding TPT among contacts and other persons at risk from early on in course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The preferred profiles of future [tests for TB infection](#) and [new TPT regimens](#) have been described in key documents released by WHO this year. [Read on](#)



Ending TB in children and adolescents

In 2020, the WHO Global TB Programme facilitated the participation of paediatricians to ensure adequate attention to child and adolescent TB in programme reviews in the following countries: Indonesia, Tanzania, Zambia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.



Civil Society engagement



The WHO Civil Society Task Force on TB (CSTF) helped mainstream the voices of TB civil society and survivors in the work of WHO, national TB programmes and multisectoral partners in 2020. Significantly, key products developed by WHO related to COVID-19 and mitigating its impact on ending TB, as well as the [Progress Report](#) on the UN Political Declaration on Tuberculosis include CSTF inputs.

CSTF members have been significantly involved in advocacy for maintaining focus on TB in the COVID-19 era. Highlights include a multi-country community survey on [the impact of COVID on the TB epidemic](#), and Brazilian civil society national assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on TB and HIV services, with financial support by WHO (the report will soon be available [here](#)).

To catalyze multisectoral action to end TB, WHO and CSTF jointly developed [a tool](#) to ensure thorough assessment of civil society engagement during country-level MAF-related processes. The tool is being widely promoted by WHO, the CSTF networks, national TB programmes and partners. CSTF members are actively supporting MAF-related action in more than 20 countries in Africa, Western Pacific and Europe.

CSTF members were part of guideline development groups of all TB guidelines produced in 2020.

Community engagement

ENGAGE-TB

In 2020, WHO rolled out an innovative ENGAGE-TB training programme to tailor community action to the COVID-19 context. The WHO ENGAGE-TB approach seeks to facilitate better identification and treatment of people with TB through integrated TB services at community level, improved reach and sustainability of TB interventions, and shifting the global



perspective of TB from a primarily medical model to a broader socioeconomic and community-oriented approach. Three virtual facilitated trainings were conducted in 2020.

Eight case studies were published, describing experiences and best practices in integrating community-based TB service delivery in high TB burden countries: [DR Congo](#), [Indonesia](#), [Mozambique](#), [Myanmar](#), [Nigeria](#), [Pakistan](#) and [Tanzania](#) (case study on M&E and on [Community Network](#)). The pieces illustrate challenges, best practices, lessons learned and localised solutions. The purpose of the publications is to enable other implementers to use these experiences to inform similar efforts to address their own challenges.

Youth Mobilization to End TB



Recognizing young people as a powerful but underused ally in the fight to end TB, especially to scale up multisectoral action and accountability, WHO launched the 1+1 Youth Initiative in 2019. This was followed by the adoption of a Youth Declaration to End TB at the first-ever Global Youth Townhall on Ending TB. The 1+1 Initiative has expanded to include over ten thousand young people across the world in countries including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, the Philippines and Viet Nam. Social media platforms set up as part of the 1+1 Youth Initiative and social media posts are followed by over 20 000 people, with the number growing each day. More than 100 youth-led activities and events on ending TB have been conducted worldwide. This includes peer education in schools and universities, sensitizing young people, encouraging them to become TB advocates, and supporting TB patients in the community with resources and advice. [Read more](#)

Public-Private Mix for TB prevention and care

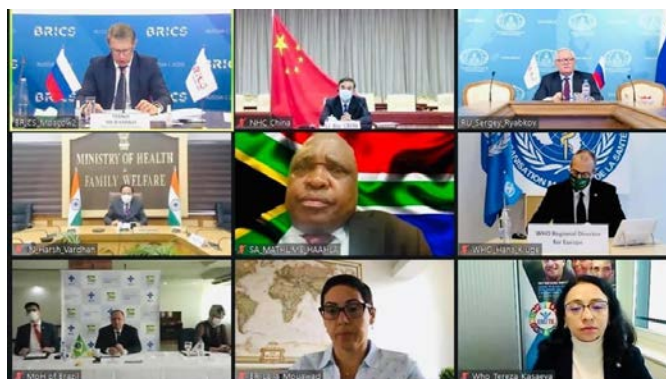


Over 300 representatives from countries, partners and civil society came together virtually at the Global Meeting of the Working Group Meeting on Public-Private Mix (PPM) on TB prevention and care on 23 and 25 November. The Meeting was convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Stop TB Partnership with support from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Global Fund. The meeting placed a spotlight on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the TB response, which has been especially severe on private sector care delivery. [Read on](#)

Intensifying TB Research and Innovation

WHO GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR TB RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Member States adopted a [global strategy for TB research and innovation](#) during the 73rd session of the World Health Assembly. The global strategy was developed to support efforts by governments and other partners to accelerate TB research and innovation, and to improve equitable access to the benefits of research in line with the commitments made in the WHO End TB Strategy. The Assembly also passed a [resolution](#) requesting WHO to provide a report on the implementation of the strategy to WHA, biennially until 2030.



WHO COLLABORATION WITH BRICS TB RESEARCH NETWORK

WHO is pleased to support the Secretariat for the BRICS TB Research Network. WHO's Global TB Programme co-hosted and supported three BRICS TB Research Network meetings in 2020.

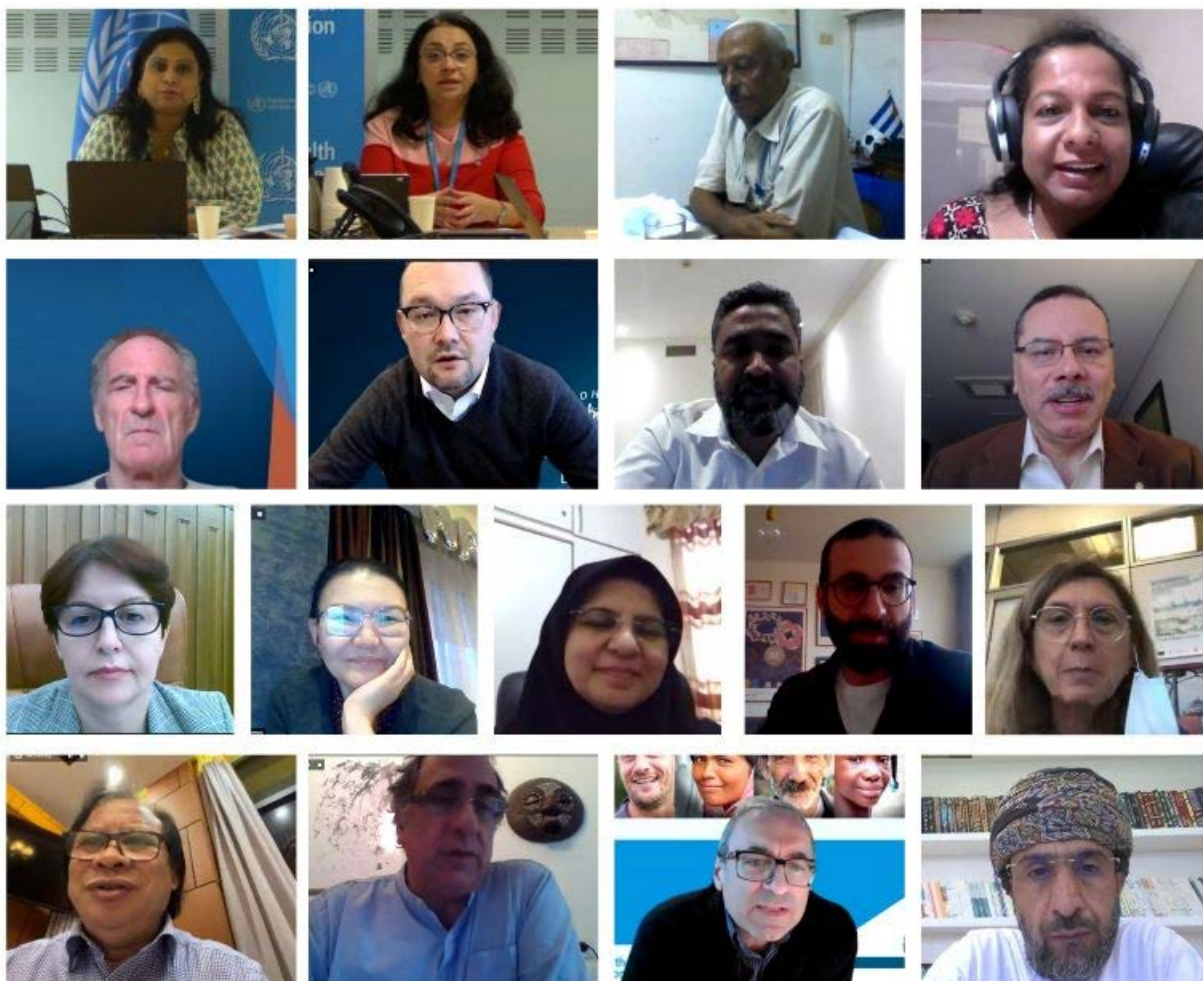
NEW VACCINE DEVELOPMENT

WHO, in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine is carrying out a full value assessment of new TB vaccines to develop the evidence base necessary for making health and economic impact arguments for the development and uptake of new TB vaccines. [Read more about this here](#)

IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH FOR DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AND TB (IR4DTB)

The Global TB Programme and TDR jointly created a toolkit to help countries gather evidence while using innovative digital technologies in TB programmes (<https://www.ir4dtb.org/>). The toolkit was used in a training workshop held in China in November 2020, during which national research teams mounted funding proposals to investigate the barriers and facilitators for interventions employing digital innovations.

TB Elimination



The World Health Organization held a first consultation on TB Elimination on 17 December virtually with key experts from countries and partners. This consultation is the first in a series and geared towards mapping the process for the update of WHO's TB Elimination Framework and roll out.

The focus of the update of the elimination framework is to: harmonize targets and criteria for TB elimination; contribute to motivating low incidence countries that have deprioritized TB to focus on ending TB; provide guidance on how to address different country contexts including among vulnerable groups and other key populations; develop and promote uptake of a verification and certification process; and be implemented efficiently in alignment with other disease elimination efforts.

WHO STRATEGIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP FOR TUBERCULOSIS (STAG-TB)



Two meetings of the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Tuberculosis (STAG-TB) took place virtually in June and November 2020. The meetings were organized by the WHO Global TB Programme, which provides the Secretariat for the advisory body.

The mission of STAG-TB is to contribute to ending the TB epidemic, and eventually eliminating the disease, by providing state-of-the-art scientific and technical guidance to WHO. The STAG-TB reports to the Director-General of WHO, and members are appointed by the Director-General.

[NOTE FOR THE RECORD: Introductory WHO STAG-TB Meeting, June 2020](#)

[WHO STAG-TB meeting report, November 2020](#)

WHO END TB STRATEGY SUMMIT 2020

Setting course for 2021 to regain momentum: 30 highest TB burden countries gather virtually for the 6th End TB Strategy Summit



As the world faces the ongoing health, social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the WHO Global TB Programme convened the 6th WHO End TB Strategy Summit. It brought together over 200 participants, including National TB Programme leaders of all 30 highest TB burden countries with representatives of the WHO Civil Society Task Force, key partner agencies with a global reach, and WHO staff from all levels of the Organization. This Summit focused on challenges and opportunities taken in 2020 and priority actions for 2021, and involved plenary and multi-country/stakeholder breakout group discussions. [Read more](#)

TB and comorbidities

As part of efforts to scale up action on TB and comorbidities normative work, technical support and scientific advocacy has focussed on reducing the gap in TB detection and ensuring early access to ART and to treatment for latent and active TB among people living with HIV.

A baseline assessment and policy review of uptake of WHO guidelines on comorbidities has been conducted in the 30 high TB burden countries and a joint UN High-Level mission to Nigeria in February brought together cross governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to promote multi-sectoral action on TB and NCDs.



Essential WHO policies, guidelines and tools for global and country progress



Read:

[Global Tuberculosis Report 2020 Launch](#)

[Full Report](#)

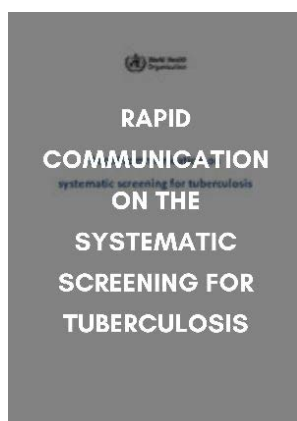
[Executive Summary](#)

[Country profiles of 48 high TB burden countries](#)

[Advocacy toolkit](#)

[Press release](#)

[TB report app](#) available in multiple UN languages



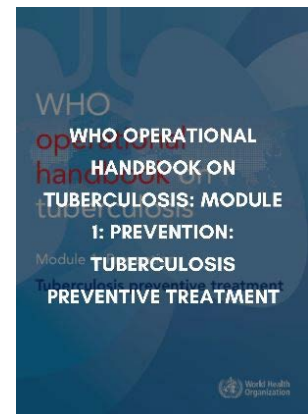
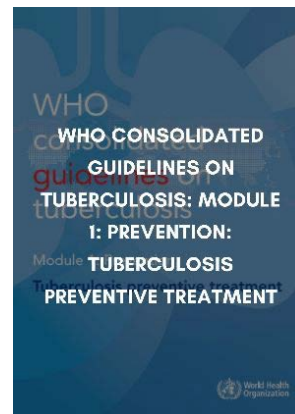
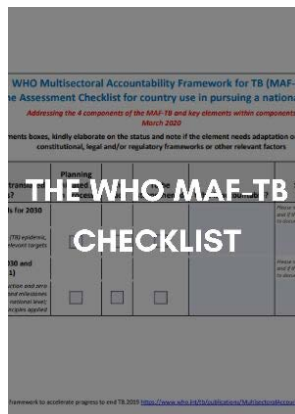
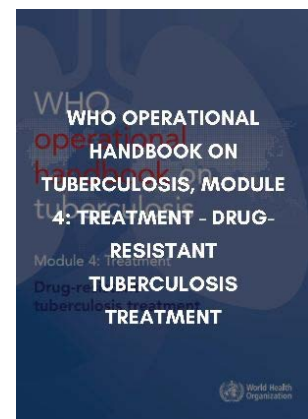
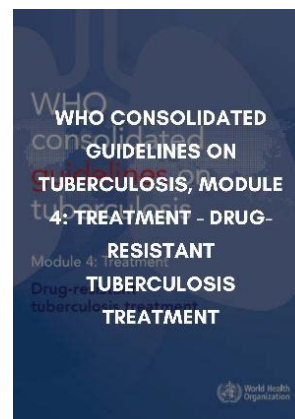
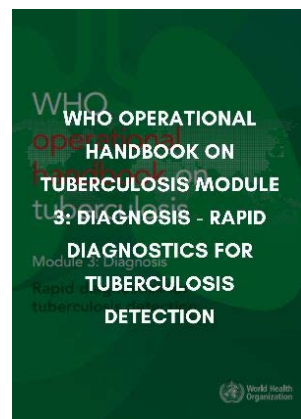
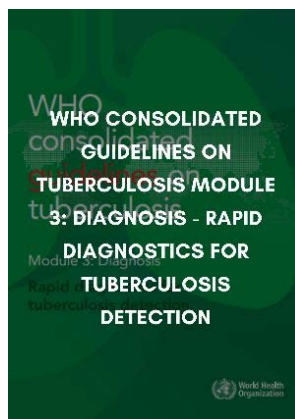


Read:

[French](#)

[Spanish](#)

[Russian](#)





WHO #EndTB Webinars

The WHO Global TB Programme organized a series of #EndTB webinars to place the spotlight and share information on key policies, latest developments and critical issues.



#EndTB Webinar
Overcoming the drug-resistant TB crisis in children and adolescents
 20 NOVEMBER 2020, 11:00H-13:00H CET





World Health Organization #ENDTB WEBINAR
TACKLING THE DUAL BURDEN OF TB AND MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS THROUGH PEOPLE-CENTERED APPROACHES: Improving treatment outcomes and quality of life

On the occasion of World Mental Health Day, the World Health Organization (WHO) is organizing a webinar to place a special spotlight on the linkages between TB and mental health disorders and the need for collaborative action to address both challenges.

Thursday, 8 October 2020 14:30-16:00 CEST




World Health Organization #End TB Webinar
Launch of the Target Product Profiles for Tuberculosis Preventive Treatment
Wednesday, 26 August 2020 15:00-17:00 CET Geneva






Register for the Webinar:
https://who.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rXZ_e45R5diexc0_jQDEJA

World Health Organization #EndTB Webinar
From Policy to Practice: Rolling out new WHO guidelines on rapid diagnostics and drug-resistant TB treatment

Thursday, 9 July 2020 13:30-15:00 CET Geneva

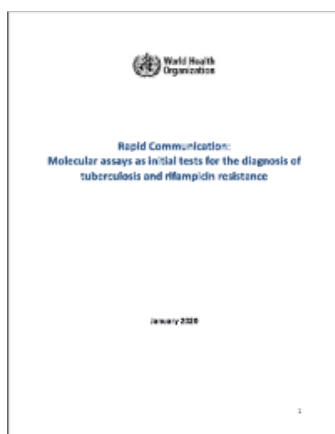
Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://who.zoom.us/j/93449032964>
 Password: WHOTUB1*




2020 Calendar

Key WHO events and news

January



WHO announces updates on new molecular assays for the diagnosis of tuberculosis and drug resistance

Significant improvements to the diagnosis of tuberculosis (TB) and rifampicin resistance in adults and children are expected, following key updates on new molecular assays, announced by the World Health Organization (WHO) in a [Rapid Communication](#)
[Read on](#)

WHO Global TB Report App launched

A mobile application for easy access to the latest global tuberculosis (TB) data. The game-changing app brings to the users' fingertips the current statistics and trends, country and region comparisons and quick search for indicators.

[Read on](#)



February



meeting on digital innovations, TB and implementation research organized by WHO and the European Respiratory Society

WHO's Global Tuberculosis Programme (WHO/GTB) and the European Respiratory Society convened a technical meeting on digital innovations, TB and implementation research.

[Read more](#)

Executive Board supports WHO progress report on the End TB Strategy and recommends adoption of a Global Strategy for TB Research and Innovation

Member States during the 146th session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board, reviewed a progress report on the implementation of the End TB Strategy and put forward a resolution to the World Health Assembly adopting a new global strategy for tuberculosis (TB) research and innovation.

[Read more](#)



WHO announces forthcoming changes to the programmatic management of TB preventive treatment

World Health Organization (WHO) is announcing a number of updates to its latest guidance on tuberculosis (TB) preventive treatment In a [Rapid Communication](#). These changes are expected to enhance the scale-up of preventive treatment worldwide.

[Read more](#)

March



PLOS Medicine Special Collection on Advances in Clinical Trial Design for Development of New Treatments for TB

A Special Collection on [Advances in Clinical Trial Design for Development of New Treatments for Tuberculosis](#) has been released by PLOS Medicine. This Special Collection, that is now complete with the publication of its last paper, contains a series of articles that articulate the essential new steps in clinical research that will pave the way for the development of future optimal treatment for all forms of tuberculosis.

[Read on](#)

World Tuberculosis Day

World TB Day, this year, comes at a sobering time – as the world grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic. We stand in solidarity with those affected, those at the frontlines of the fight to combat COVID-19, as well as those who continue efforts to support those ill with longstanding health problems like TB, HIV and other diseases.

[Read on](#)

[Press Release:](#) New WHO recommendations to prevent tuberculosis aim to save millions of lives

[World Tuberculosis Day 2020](#)

[World TB Day Talk Show](#)

It's time to Find.Treat.All.#EndTB

TB is the world's top infectious disease killer. Reaching people early with care can prevent death and suffering.



World Health Organization



Ensuring continuity of TB services during the COVID-19 pandemic

As the world comes together to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to ensure that essential health services and operations are continued to protect the lives of people with TB and other diseases or health conditions.

[Read on](#)

[Information note: Tuberculosis and COVID-19](#)

[Website: Tuberculosis and COVID-19](#)

WHO public consultation on draft Target Product Profiles for Tuberculosis Preventive Treatment

An estimated one fourth of the world's population is infected with the TB bacterium, of whom 5–10% advance to active TB disease in their lifetime. Prevention of TB is a crucial component of the WHO's End TB Strategy that calls for 90% coverage of TB preventive treatment (TPT) among persons living with HIV (PLHIV) and household contacts of infectious TB cases by 2035.

[Read on](#)



April



#ThanksHealthHeros - World Health Day Message

Today is World Health Day! This day is especially poignant as the focus is on nurses and health workers, who are on the frontline of the COVID-19 response across the world. They are the *real heroes* risking their lives to save the millions affected by COVID-19 as well as other deadly diseases like tuberculosis (TB).


[Read on](#)

[Video: Emily: A Day in the Life of a TB Nurse](#)

WHO offers national assessment checklist for the Multisectoral Accountability Framework for TB (MAF-TB)

WHO released a Checklist to enable Member States and their partners to assess the status of work at the national level to strengthen accountability to End TB, principally: national commitments made, actions taken on those commitments, monitoring & reporting approaches, and the nature of any high-level review mechanisms.

[Read on](#)



WHO Multisectoral Accountability Framework for TB (MAF-TB)
Baseline Assessment Checklist for country use in pursuing a national MAF-TB

Assessing the 'success' of the MAF-TB process to achieve its goals

Health systems and countries assess their status on the issues and areas of the framework and decide on the actions to be taken according to the results of the assessment. It is a tool for self-assessment and for external assessment.

COMMITMENTS	Planning in place?	In progress?	Not in progress?	Who is accountable?	What evidence is available, and reference to relevant documents?
1. National Development Strategy (NDS) for TB (2016-2020)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2. National TB Strategy (NBS) 2019-2025	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

May



Compendium of research projects at the interface of tuberculosis and COVID-19

As the world comes together to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to ensure that tuberculosis (TB) prevention and care approaches are adapting appropriately to ensure continuous and safe delivery of high-quality TB services.

[Read on](#)

Coping with tuberculosis (TB) in the times of COVID-19 and TB funding priorities: Webinar

The World Health Organization and Stop TB Partnership organized two identical webinars on: Coping with TB in the times of COVID-19; and TB funding priorities: next Global Fund funding cycle and additional COVID-19 funding. [Read on](#)



Joining forces to end TB and COVID-19 Message from Dr Tereza Kasaeva, Director, WHO Global TB Programme

The current COVID-19 crisis has been a test for countries, health systems, key stakeholders, and those delivering health services at the front line. In the presence of new health threats like COVID-19, it has become even more critical to protect those most vulnerable and ensure continuity of care for those grappling with ongoing epidemics like tuberculosis (TB).

[Read on](#)

UNODC, WHO, UNAIDS and OHCHR joint statement on COVID-19 in prisons and other closed settings

We, the leaders of global health, human rights and development institutions, come together to urgently draw the attention of political leaders to the heightened vulnerability of prisoners and other people deprived of liberty to the COVID-19 pandemic, and urge them to take all appropriate public health measures in respect of this vulnerable population that is part of our communities.

[Read on](#)





Global partners issue Call to Action to overcome barriers to scale up TB preventive treatment

Global partners in the fight to end tuberculosis (TB) including the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, UNITAID, US Agency for International Development (USAID), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Stop TB Partnership, The Union, KNCV, European Respiratory Society and IAS, came together today to release a joint [Call to Action](#) to scale up access to TB preventive treatment.

[Read on](#)

June



WHO urges countries to enable access to fully-oral drug-resistant TB treatment regimens

The World Health Organization (WHO) is urging countries to facilitate access to fully-oral treatment regimens for patients with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in updated guidance.

[Read on](#)

Update of the WHO guidance on screening for active tuberculosis

The World Health Organization (WHO) is convening a Guideline Development Group (GDG) to advise on updates needed to its recommendations on the systematic screening for tuberculosis (TB).

[Read on](#)





Public call for data on diagnostic accuracy on nucleic acid amplification tests to detect TB and resistance to selected anti-TB agents

Nucleic acid amplification tests (NAAT) are promising technologies for the rapid and accurate detection of TB and resistance to selected anti-TB agents. Ahead of a Guidelines Development Group (GDG) meeting to update its diagnostic guidelines on the use of NAATs to detect TB and resistance to selected anti-TB agents, WHO will commission reviews of relevant evidence on diagnostic accuracy for several NAAT assays.

[Read on](#)

WHO urges countries to expand access to rapid molecular tests for the detection of TB and drug-resistant TB

The World Health Organization (WHO) is urging countries to expand access to rapid molecular tests for the detection of TB and drug-resistant TB in updated consolidated guidelines, released today. The guidelines are accompanied by an operational handbook to facilitate rapid implementation and roll out of rapid molecular tests by national TB programmes, ministries of health and technical partners.

[Read on](#)



July



Introductory meeting of WHO's Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Tuberculosis

An introductory meeting of WHO's Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Tuberculosis (STAG-TB) was held on 24-25 June 2020. STAG-TB, which is comprised of 15 eminent experts from ministries of health, national TB programmes, academic and research institutions, civil society organizations, and communities and patients affected by TB.

[Read on](#)

Framework for the evaluation of new tests for tuberculosis infection

WHO and the Stop TB Partnership's [New Diagnostics Working Group \(NDWG\)](#) launched today [a framework for the evaluation of new tests for tuberculosis infection](#). The document provides details on study design, populations, reference standards, sample size calculation and data analysis to guide the future development of these tests.

[Read on](#)



August



Member States adopt the Global Strategy for TB Research and Innovation at 73rd World Health Assembly

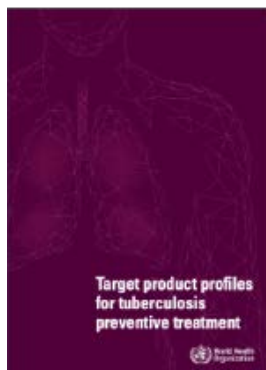
Member States have adopted the [global strategy for TB research and innovation](#) through an unprecedented [written silence procedure](#) of the 73rd session of the World Health Assembly (WHA)

[Read on](#)

International Youth Day message

Director, WHO Global TB Programme spread the word on young people's unique role in the fight to end TB on International Youth Day.

[Read the message](#)



Target product profiles for tuberculosis preventive treatment

The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched target product profiles to drive the rapid development of novel tuberculosis (TB) preventive treatment today. The target product profiles characterise the most important product attributes to be considered for developing the best suited TB prevention treatments in future.

[Read on](#)

September



GDG Virtual Meeting on the update of the Consolidated Guidelines for use of antiretrovirals for preventing and treating HIV infection

The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched target product profiles to drive the rapid development of novel tuberculosis (TB) preventive treatment today. The target product profiles characterise the most important product attributes to be considered for developing the best suited TB prevention treatments in future.

[Read on](#)

Official UN General Assembly side event: Progress and Multisectoral Action towards achieving global targets to end TB

Nearly 5000 people virtually joined the official UN General Assembly side-event: "Progress and Multisectoral Action towards achieving global targets to end TB" co-organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Russian Federation on 23 September. Held on the sidelines of the 75th UN General Assembly (UNGA), the event brought together a distinguished line-up of speakers spanning WHO and UN leadership, health ministers, partners and civil society.

[Read on](#)

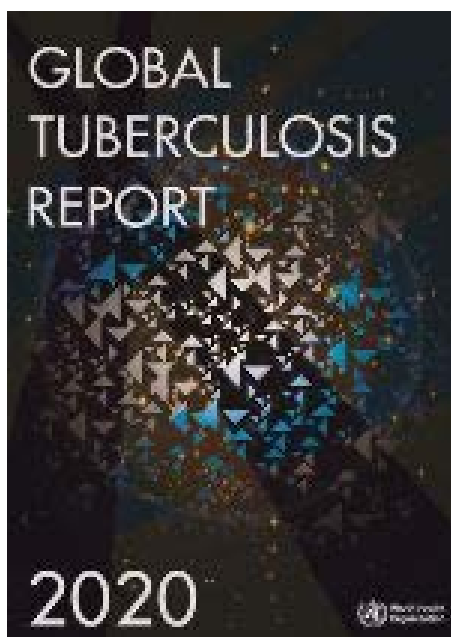
[Watch the virtual event](#)

Read the document:

[Overview: Progress towards achieving global tuberculosis targets and implementation of the UN Political Declaration on Tuberculosis](#)



October



Launch of Global TB Report 2020

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries were making steady progress in tackling tuberculosis (TB), with a 9% reduction in incidence seen between 2015 and 2019 and a 14% drop in deaths in the same period. High-level political commitments at global and national levels were delivering results. However, a new report from WHO shows that access to TB services remains a challenge, and that global targets for prevention and treatment will likely be missed without urgent action and investments.

[Read on](#)

[Virtual press conference
Global Tuberculosis Report 2020](#)

New Study 31/A5349 on the treatment of drug-susceptible TB

The meeting focused on progress achieved in the second year of implementation of the ambitious initiative of the Global Fund to find and treat an additional 1.5 million missing people with TB by the end of 2019.

[Read on](#)

SHINE trial on shorter treatment for children with minimal TB

The World Health Organization's (WHO) Global TB Programme welcomes the results from an important study on shortened treatment for drug-susceptible tuberculosis (TB) in children, presented at the 51st virtual Union World Conference on Lung Health.

[Read on](#)

November



Overcoming the drug-resistant TB crisis in children and adolescents

*Special message from Dr Tereza Kasaeva,
Director of WHO's Global TB Programme on the
occasion of World Children's Day and World
Antimicrobial Awareness Week*

World Children's Day marks the day, over three decades ago, on which world leaders adopted the historic Convention of the Rights of the Child, promising to every child to promote and protect their rights, including the right to life and the right to health.

[Read on](#)

Related News:

[WHO and other stakeholders join forces to accelerate access to effective paediatric HIV and tuberculosis diagnostics and medicines](#)

TDR and WHO launch a new digital health research toolkit for TB care

TDR, in partnership with the WHO Global Tuberculosis Programme, has developed an interactive web-based toolkit that supports national TB programmes and other partners to conduct implementation research designed to evaluate digital technologies for TB care.

[Read on](#)



December



World AIDS Day

Special message from the WHO Global Tuberculosis Programme on the occasion of World AIDS DAY

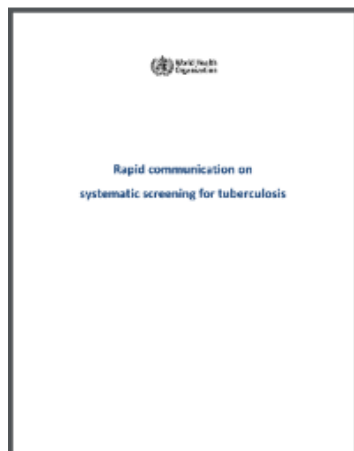
The theme of this year's **World AIDS Day** is "Global solidarity, resilient services". At the 2016 UN High-level Meeting on ending AIDS, member states committed to a 75% reduction of TB deaths among people living with HIV by 2020, compared with 2010. Estimates for 2019 suggest that there has been some notable progress with a 63% reduction; however, the target for 2020 is unlikely to be reached, particularly in the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read on](#)

It's Time to Stand up for Human Rights! #EndTB

Tuberculosis remains one of the world's deadliest infectious killers. It is deeply rooted in populations where human rights and dignity are limited. While anyone can fall ill with TB, the disease thrives on the most vulnerable—the marginalized, discriminated against populations, and people living in poverty. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the situation even more especially for the most vulnerable, where people affected with TB and COVID 19 face dual burdens of stigma or barriers in accessing their right to health.

[Read on](#)



WHO announces forthcoming updates on the systematic screening for tuberculosis

In a [Rapid Communication](#) issued today, the World Health Organization (WHO) is announcing a number of updates to its forthcoming guidance on the systematic screening of tuberculosis (TB) disease. This will help national TB programmes, public and private healthcare providers, funders and other stakeholders to prepare for the changes that will be introduced when the new guidelines are released in early 2021.

[Read on](#)

