

Basic facts on TB



Tuberculosis

- ▷ TB kills 2 million people per year.
- ▷ The breakdown in health services, the spread of HIV/AIDS and the emergence of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) are contributing to the worsening impact of the disease.
- ▷ It is estimated that between 2000 and 2020,
 - ▶ nearly one billion people will be newly infected
 - ▶ 200 million people will get sick
 - ▶ 35 million people will die from TB if control is not further strengthened.

Disease and transmission

- ▷ TB is a contagious disease that spreads through the air.
- ▷ Only people with pulmonary TB are infectious.
- ▷ Each person with infectious TB will infect on average between 10 and 15 people every year.
- ▷ Someone in the world is newly infected every second.
- ▷ Overall, one-third of the world's population is currently infected.
- ▷ People infected with TB will not necessarily get sick. The immune system 'walls off' the TB germs which can lie dormant for years.
- ▷ 5-10% of people who are infected with TB become sick at some time during their life.

The effective tool for detection and cure, the DOTS strategy with five components:

- ▷ Political commitment to sustain TB control
- ▷ Detection of infectious cases using sputum smear microscopy
- ▷ A standardised, short-course chemotherapy regimen of six to eight months, with direct observation of treatment
- ▷ A reliable supply of high quality drugs
- ▷ Information systems for monitoring and reporting of treatment outcomes.

World TB Day 24 March 2002 Stop TB, fight poverty