



## FAST FACTS

### Time to act: Save a million lives by 2015 - Prevent and treat tuberculosis among people living with HIV

#### THE PROBLEM

Tuberculosis (TB), a curable disease, is the leading cause of death among people living with HIV.

- At least one out of three people in the world living with HIV has latent TB infection, which increases the risk of becoming ill with TB.
- People living with HIV have an estimated 20 to 30 times greater risk of developing active TB than people without HIV infection.
- Some 400 000 people died of HIV-related TB in 2009, which makes TB responsible for one in four AIDS-related deaths.

#### THE SOLUTION

An epidemiological model\* that provides a clear blueprint for saving lives has been produced through a joint effort by the Stop TB Partnership, World Health Organization (WHO) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). It builds on well-established approaches to preventing and treating HIV-associated TB that are recommended by WHO and UNAIDS. The model shows that by scaling up these approaches worldwide a million lives could be saved by the end of 2015. The main elements are:

- Testing for HIV and TB should be provided every three years in places where both diseases are prevalent.
- Prompt TB treatment needs to be provided to every person living with HIV with active TB - or else treatment to prevent TB.
- HIV and TB treatment need to be accessible and of good quality so that people living with HIV are cured of TB.
- Antiretroviral therapy (ART) should be started early, which will help prevent TB, since people living with HIV are far less likely to become ill with and die of TB if they begin ART before their immune systems begin serious decline.
- People who are HIV-positive and diagnosed with active TB should start ART regardless of the status of their immune systems.

#### WHAT WILL IT COST?

The cost of all health interventions needed to save a million lives from AIDS-related TB would be US\$ 790 million per year.

\*Williams B, Dye C et al, Tuberculosis among people living with HIV: is it possible to prevent a million TB deaths by 2015? Unpublished technical report.

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For more information and statements of support link to:

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