



# TUBERCULOSIS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

**StopTB Partnership**



## TUBERCULOSIS: A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious, airborne disease. Although the tools now exist to prevent and treat it, TB continues to kill 4500 people every day. Between now and the 2015 target date for the Millennium Development Goals, nearly 9 million people—most of them among the world's poorest—will die from a curable and preventable disease.

TB damages economies, destroys families, and keeps millions of people locked in the prison of poverty, especially in Africa and Asia.

While these continents are hardest hit, TB affects all regions: no country is immune, especially with millions of people crossing borders, continents and oceans.

In the Muslim countries TB is a leading cause of death due to an infectious disease. Between now and 2015, up to 3 million people will die of TB in the Member States of the Islamic Development Bank.

TB control is not only an end in itself, but also a way of contributing to poverty reduction, human development and the

achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Stopping TB is fundamental to the achievement of MDGs 1 (poverty) and 6 (diseases), and—since more than a third of TB patients are women and children—also essential for the achievement of MDGs 4 and 5 (child mortality and maternal health).

Global efforts to halt the increase in TB have led to the successful treatment of more than 40 million people in the last 15 years, saving 6 million lives. The World Health Organization and the Stop TB Partnership have been guiding and supporting the dramatic expansion of global TB care and control.

## TB IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

TB is a serious development problem for the Member States of the Islamic Development Bank.

Each year, TB kills 600 000 people in these countries and infects 2.7 million.

Drug resistant forms of TB—which are more difficult to diagnose, and harder and more expensive to treat—have become a major concern.

Among the countries making up the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, Afghanistan and Pakistan have a very high number of TB patients, and are among the world's 22 countries with the highest burden of the disease.

The region's countries have worked very hard to expand TB care, but so far no country has eliminated the disease. Universal access to quality care remains a key challenge.

## INVESTING IN TB CONTROL

TB treatment has been ranked among the ten 'best buys' in public health and researchers have reported that countries could earn up to 10 times what they invest in TB care. The Stop TB Partnership's Global Plan to Stop TB 2011–2015 maps out what is needed in order to transform the fight against TB. Its two goals are to reach the MDG of halting and beginning to reverse the epidemic by 2015, and to halve TB prevalence and death rates by 2015, compared with 1990 levels. Full funding of the plan will result in 28 million people being cured of TB, but at present there is a significant funding gap of US\$ 21 billion for both research and implementation.

## THE STOP TB PARTNERSHIP

The Stop TB Partnership was established in 2001 with the aim of eliminating TB as a public health problem and, ultimately, to obtain a world free of TB. It comprises a network of international organizations, countries, donors from the public and private sectors, governmental and nongovernmental organizations that have expressed an interest in working together to achieve this goal.

## OUR MISSION IS TO:

Ensure that every TB patient has access to effective diagnosis, treatment and cure.

Stop transmission of TB.

Reduce the inequitable social and economic toll of TB.

Develop and implement new preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic tools and strategies to stop TB.

[www.stopTB.org](http://www.stopTB.org)