

# Global Tuberculosis Fact Sheet

## The global impact of Tuberculosis is staggering

**While Tuberculosis (TB) is often thought of as a disease of the past, it remains a major global health threat, and cases and deaths are back on the rise.** TB resources, equipment, and expertise were drafted into the frontlines of the COVID pandemic, at the expense of the already under-funded TB response. Now, a [World Health Organization \(WHO\) report](#) shows that TB incidence rates and mortality increased in 2020 and again in 2021. We have lost over a decade of progress on TB, putting high-risk countries and communities in danger.

**WHO reports that over 10.5 million people fell ill with TB in 2021, and 1.6 million died.** These cases disproportionately affect low-income and otherwise marginalized communities, and are a key driver of poverty. In fact, over [98 percent](#) of TB cases and deaths are in low- and middle-income countries. The vast majority of TB cases are curable, but in resource-poor areas treatment often comes too late.

## We need to recover lost progress on TB to save lives

TB does not impact everyone equally. Children, pregnant people, undernourished people, and immunocompromised people like those living with HIV/AIDS are much more susceptible to TB. As a result, TB disproportionately affects marginalized and impoverished communities, and the months-long treatment regimens force patients out of the workforce and further into poverty.

The lack of investment and added stress on health systems during COVID means the United Nations End TB Strategy goals are now off track. The Stop TB Partnership estimates that delaying or failing to achieve the goals will mean **43 million people developing TB, leading to 6.6 million deaths by 2030.** This will cost upwards of \$1 trillion in economic loss and 234 million disability-adjusted life years by 2030.

## Opportunities to take action in 2023

### USAID bilateral TB programs

Backed by strong bipartisan Congressional support, USAID leads the U.S. government's bilateral global TB efforts. Their programs support [24 priority countries](#) and prioritize innovative strategies and tools. They also played a key role in expanding the availability of medicines to treat multi drug-resistant TB (MDR-TB).

This year, civil society and over 160 allies in Congress are calling for a \$1 billion budget for USAID to restore critical TB services and strengthen programs for the future. That money will empower USAID to support health workers, expand their list of priority countries, address supply challenges affecting access to medications and diagnostics, and more.

## **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria**

Since 2002, the Global Fund has saved [50 million lives](#). In 2021 alone, the Global Fund treated 5.3 million people for TB, thanks to consistent U.S. leadership and funding. Last September, global leaders pledged almost \$16 billion to the Global Fund over the next three years. Congress agreed to approve \$2 billion in FY23, our maximum contribution. And over 140 Representatives and 38 Senators signed letters calling for the same in FY24.

Securing \$2 billion in FY24 will demonstrate the U.S.'s continued commitment to fighting these diseases of poverty and can leverage action from other countries to increase their pledges as well. A fully funded Global Fund could save 20 million lives and prevent more than 450 million cases of HIV, TB, and malaria by 2026, reduce barriers to health care around the world, and yield a return on investment of 1:31.

## **Ensuring Accountability with the End TB Now Act (H.R.1776 / S.288)**

In addition to increasing funding for TB programs, we need to make sure that the money is used effectively. The End TB Now Act received bipartisan support last Congress, and was reintroduced this year by Senators Menendez (D-NJ) and Young (R-IN), and Representatives Bera (D-CA) and Salazar (R-FL). It requires USAID to establish bold goals for reaching the most vulnerable populations to detect, cure, and prevent all forms of TB. It also supports research to better fight the disease, promotes partnerships and coordination across allied groups fighting TB, and embeds accountability and reporting into our TB strategy. Let's hold USAID accountable to ensuring their money is used for the highest-impact interventions, and helping communities who need it most.

## **United Nations High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis**

The U.S. has an opportunity to demonstrate our global leadership at the UN HLM in September. It's a chance to set bold new goals to drive down TB deaths and incidences, and create country-led plans to prevent, treat, and cure all forms of TB. We must take advantage of this opportunity by sending high-level representatives and urging other countries to contribute to the ambitious planning.

## **We must increase Tuberculosis resources and impact**

With U.S. Congressional support, we can prevent millions of deaths of and improve the equity and impact of our global health programs.

**Will you support increasing funding for the Tuberculosis programs at USAID and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria in fiscal year 2024? And will you co-sponsor the End TB Now Act (H.R.1776 / S.288)?**