

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

Tuberculosis

RESULTS requests \$1 billion for Tuberculosis within USAID Global Health in fiscal year 2023.

In November 2020 COVID-19 overtook tuberculosis (TB) as the foremost infectious disease killer. But TB is still the leading lethal infectious disease in most low- and middle-income countries, and disproportionately affects people in impoverished and marginalized communities. While often thought of as a disease of the past, the most recent World Health Organization [Global TB Report](#) found that TB sickened nearly 10 million people and killed 1.5 million in 2020. This represents the first year-on-year increase (of 5.6 percent) in TB deaths since 2005.

Over the past two decades and with U.S. leadership, progress has been made to fight TB where it occurs most often. Innovations can now dramatically shorten TB treatment, reduce side-effects, and save more lives—provided they reach patients in time. Yet, as of 2021, USAID TB funding represents just 3 percent of the \$9.1 billion provided to USAID and State Department global health programs. **The biggest obstacle to faster progress is lack of funding.** The U.S. cannot reach the next stage of its plan to find and treat people with all forms of TB and reach the global TB prevention goals, without significantly increasing funding above current levels.

TB and COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has reversed years of progress in providing essential TB services and reducing TB disease. Decades of global health gains are at risk—we must act now and accelerate progress to end TB. Because TB and COVID-19 are both airborne, infectious lung diseases the expertise of TB programs, facilities, and staff were tapped into to address COVID-19. But, a USAID [survey](#) found this has come at the expense of the TB response, putting unprecedented pressure on the health workforce, infrastructure, and resources globally.

There has been an alarming 18 percent [decrease](#) in the number of people newly diagnosed with TB. This does not reflect a decrease in incidence of TB, but rather a lack of access to diagnosis and treatment. In 2020 there was an [increase](#) in TB deaths—the best estimates are that over 1.5 million people died from TB. This represents a significant backslide of deaths of both HIV-negative people (back to 2019 levels) and HIV-positive people (back to 2017 levels).

Public health experts warn that the forecast for 2021 and 2022 could be worse. According to [modelling](#) done by The Stop TB Partnership, the world could see an **additional 6.3 million cases of TB, and an additional 1.4 million TB deaths, between 2020 and 2025, setting the fight against TB back 10 years or more.**

Why Funding Matters

U.S. investments in TB should be expanded in order to accelerate progress to end TB, achieve critical synergies in COVID-TB responses, and contribute to crucial TB research. With substantial new resources, USAID can:

- **Save lives**, recover lost progress, and accelerate momentum to expand treatment for all forms of TB, including for multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB, while expanding support for TB prevention as well as crucial TB research.
- **Assist an expanded list of priority countries** in training staff on new approaches required due to COVID-19, digital health, improving infection control, providing mobile diagnostic labs and community-based service delivery, and more
- **Support expanded integration by training staff** on using TB diagnostic networks for COVID-19 and TB and bi-directional testing to find more active cases of disease.
- **Support countries to apply for and implement grants from the Global Fund** and leverage existing U.S. and global investments in global TB response
- **Channel additional resources to local, community-based organizations**, which are now even more important in maintaining and improving TB services.

Increasing access to TB services in Nigeria



Photo credit: KNCV/USAID

Public health experts estimate that in 2019, 2.9 million people with TB were [missed](#) by the public health system. In 2020, global TB case notifications [decreased](#) by 1 million, meaning even more people did not have access to the TB treatment they need and deserve.

To improve TB case detection and reduce the turnaround time for test results, USAID supports two solar-powered Wellness on Wheels Mobile

Diagnostic Units (WOW units) that rotate within 14 of the country's high TB burden states. From April to December 2020, the WOW units screened nearly 30,000 people. This helped contribute to Nigeria nationally recording a 16 percent increase in TB case notifications in 2020, despite there being an 18 percent decrease globally.

[Read the full story here.](#)

RESULTS' Request and Funding History

As members of Congress submit annual personal appropriations requests forms, they should protect critical funding for anti-poverty programs in the International Affairs account. RESULTS asks Members to also show their support specifically for ending the TB epidemic by requesting \$1 billion in the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for the TB program within USAID Global Health.

To do so, please submit a formal appropriations request form for the USAID TB account to Senators Coons and Graham or Representatives Lee and Rogers as Chairs and Ranking Members of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittees of Appropriations. Contact RESULTS' staff Crickett Nicovich for support: cnicovich@results.org

	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	RESULTS' FY23 Request
USAID Tuberculosis	\$301 million	\$310 million	\$319 million	TBD	\$1 billion