



Book Review

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Global Tuberculosis Report 2012

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Tuberculosis (TB) remains a major global health problem. It causes ill health among millions of people each year and ranks as the second leading cause of death among infectious diseases worldwide, after human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). In 2011, there were an estimated 8.7 million new cases of TB and 1.4 million people died from TB.

WHO has published a global report on TB every year since 1997. The 17th in this series "Global Tuberculosis Report 2012" provides the latest information and analysis about the TB epidemic and progress in TB care and control at global, regional and country level. It is based primarily on data reported by WHO's member states in annual rounds of global TB data collection. In 2012, 182 member states and a total of 204 countries and territories that collectively have more than 99% of the world's TB cases, reported the data.

The report is structured in eight major chapters. Chapter 1 states basic facts about TB, DOTS, MDG and Stop TB strategy. Chapter 2 contains the latest estimates of the burden of disease caused by TB and assessment of the progress towards the 2015 targets at global, regional and country levels. The chapter puts the spotlight on Cambodia as a new success story in TB control that is inspirational and motivating to other high burden countries (HBC). Chapter 3 presents data on the numbers of cases notified to National tuberculosis control programme (NTP) and reported to WHO and their treatment outcomes. Chapter 4 focuses on drug-resistant TB, covering progress in drug-resistant surveillance and associated estimates of the proportion of TB patients that have MDR-TB and extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB). Chapter 5 assesses financing for TB care and control. Trends since 2006 are described by source of funding and category of expenditure. Important contrasts in the extent to which different country groups rely upon domestic and donor financing are illustrated. Funding gaps, unit costs of TB treatment and the cost-effectiveness of TB interventions are discussed as well. Chapter 6, on TB diagnostics and laboratory strengthening, summarises recent policy development and analyses laboratory capacity in 2011. Chapter 7 contains the

most recent data on progress in implementing collaborative TB/HIV activities to jointly address the epidemic of TB and HIV. Chapter 8 discusses research and development for new TB diagnostics, drugs and vaccines.

This report gives us hope as the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target to halt and reverse the TB epidemic by 2015 has already been achieved. The world is on track to achieve the global target of 50% reduction in the mortality rate of tuberculosis. Simultaneously, it raises the serious concern on MDR-TB & XDR-TB and highlights the critical funding gaps in TB care and in research.

About the book:

WHO. Global Tuberculosis Report 2012. Geneva: WHO; 2012.

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Available online from
http://www.who.int/entity/tb/publications/global_report/gtbr12_main.pdf