

Global Tuberculosis Report (2022)

ABSTRACT. Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the leading causes of death worldwide. In 2014-2015, member states of the UN and World Health Organization committed to stop the TB pandemic and adopted the End TB Strategy.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had and continues to have an adverse impact on the global burden of TB. The significant reduction in the number of newly diagnosed TB cases is the most obvious impact.

Total TB deaths decreased by 41 % between 2000 and 2019, and by 36 % between 2000 and 2021, reflecting the impact of the pandemic. 10.6 million people developed TB in 2021, which is higher than in 2020. The total reduction in TB incidence from 2015 to 2021 was 10 %, which is only half of the planned strategic goal. Other adverse trends include insufficient coverage of the global population with rapid diagnostic tests, bacteriological confirmation of TB, preventive treatment of contacts, and vaccination.

Current research priorities in the field of TB include new vaccines capable of reducing the risk of infection; vaccines or drugs capable of reducing the risk of developing TB in infected persons; methods of rapid diagnosis of TB, and drugs for simple and short-term treatment of TB.

Reversing the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global burden of TB requires intensive efforts of the scientific and medical community, supported by increased funding.

KEY WORDS: WHO, tuberculosis, COVID-19 pandemic.