



Agreement with the World Bank to Eliminate TB

The Government of India and the [World Bank](#) have signed a loan agreement of **\$400 million** for the **Program Towards Elimination of Tuberculosis (TB)**.

- The program builds on a partnership between the Government of India and the World Bank that has spanned more than 20 years. The **World Bank supported programs** have helped **treat more than 20 million people since 1998** and averted 3.5 million deaths.
- The loan has a 19-year maturity including a 5-year grace period.

Program Towards Elimination of Tuberculosis

- The program aims to **improve the coverage and quality of TB control** interventions in nine states: **Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Assam and Tamil Nadu**.
- It will **support the Government of India's (GoI) National Strategic Plan to end TB in India by 2025**. It will do so by helping improve and strengthen diagnostics and management of drug-resistant tuberculosis and increase the capacity of public institutions engaged in monitoring and treating TB in the country.
- The Program will **provide financial incentives to private sector care providers** for reporting cases of TB and ensuring that their patients complete the treatment regimen.
- It will also provide **Direct Benefit Transfers to patients** for acquiring the critical nutrition needed during treatment.
- The Program will even help the GoI **strengthen** the monitoring and implementation of **Nikshay** - a web-based TB case monitoring system introduced by the government.

Need behind the Program

- TB kills approximately half a million people in India every year.
- Drug resistant TB is a major public health threat in the country.
- Despite a growing number of TB cases being notified, India has more than a million **missing cases** every year with most of them being either undiagnosed or inadequately diagnosed and treated in the private sector.
- Other **challenges** that India face while eliminating TB in its region are: **delayed care-seeking by suspected TB patients**, low adherence to treatment, and fragmented health care service providers, including **an unregulated private sector** which is treating more than half of TB cases in India.

National Strategic Plan (NSP) to end TB

- It encapsulates the bold and innovative steps required to [eliminate TB in India](#) by the **year 2025**.
- **Objective** (Detect-Treat-Prevent-Build)
 - **Detect:** Find all Drug Sensitive TB and Drug Resistant TB cases with an emphasis on reaching TB patients seeking care from private providers and undiagnosed TB in high-risk populations.
 - **Treat:** Initiate and sustain all patients on appropriate anti-TB treatment wherever they

- seek care, with patient friendly systems and social support.
- **Prevent** the emergence of TB in susceptible populations.
 - **Build** and strengthen enabling policies, empowered institutions, additional human resources with enhanced capacities, and provide adequate financial resources.

Tuberculosis (TB)

- TB is caused by **bacteria (Mycobacterium tuberculosis)** that most often **affect the lungs**.
- **Transmission:** TB is spread from person to person through the air. When people with lung TB cough, sneeze or spit, they propel the TB germs into the air.
- **Symptoms:** Cough with sputum and blood at times, chest pains, weakness, weight loss, fever and night sweats.
- **Treatment:** TB is treatable and curable disease. It is treated with a standard 6 month course of 4 antimicrobial drugs that are provided with information, supervision and support to the patient by a health worker or trained volunteer.
- Anti-TB medicines have been used for decades and strains that are resistant to 1 or more of the medicines have been documented in every country surveyed.
 - **Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB)** is a form of TB caused by bacteria that do not respond to isoniazid and rifampicin, the 2 most powerful, first-line anti-TB drugs. MDR-TB is treatable and curable by using second-line drugs.
 - **Extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB)** is a more serious form of MDR-TB caused by bacteria that do not respond to the most effective second-line anti-TB drugs, often leaving patients without any further treatment options.

Global Burden

- In the year 2017, the largest number of new TB cases occurred in the South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions, with 62% of new cases, followed by the African region, with 25% of new cases.
- Also, **eight countries** accounted for **two thirds of the new TB cases: India, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria, Bangladesh and South Africa**.
- According to the WHO's 2018 Global TB Report, nearly half of the world's MDR-TB cases are in India (24 %), China (13 %), and Russia (10 %).

Global Actions Against TB

- **Ending the TB epidemic by 2030** is among the health targets of the newly adopted [Sustainable Development Goals](#).
- **The WHO End TB Strategy** outlines global impact targets to reduce TB deaths by 90%, to cut new cases by 80% between the years 2015 and 2030, and to ensure that no family is burdened with catastrophic costs due to TB.