



## World Tuberculosis Report 2022: WHO

**For Prelims:** Tuberculosis, World TB Report, World Health Organisation, PM TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, BCG Vaccine, DR-TB, MDR-TB.

**For Mains:** India's performance in World TB Report, Challenges to eliminating TB, India's progress in eliminating TB

### Why in News?

The [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#) recently released the [World Tuberculosis Report](#) 2022 noting the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the diagnosis, treatment and burden of disease for [Tuberculosis \(TB\)](#) all over the world.

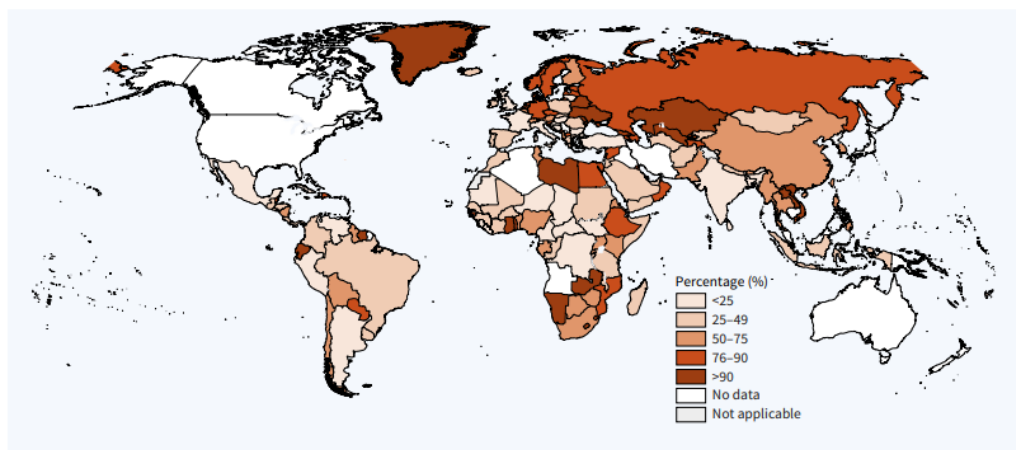
- The 2022 report features data on trends of disease and the response to the epidemic from 215 countries and areas, including all 194 WHO member states.

### What are the Key Findings of the Report?

- **Diagnosis and Mortality Globally:**
  - Around **10.6 million people across the world were diagnosed with TB** in 2021, an **increase of 4.5%** from 2020, while **1.6 million patients died of the disease.**
  - Of the total TB deaths, 187,000 patients were also positive for [HIV \(human immunodeficiency virus\)](#).
    - Nearly 82% of global TB deaths among HIV-negative people occurred in the **African and South-East Asia regions.**
  - The reported number of people newly diagnosed with TB fell from 7.1 million in 2019 to 5.8 million in 2020.
    - There was a **partial recovery to 6.4 million in 2021**, but this was still well below pre-pandemic levels.

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**Percentage of people newly diagnosed with TB who were initially tested with a WHO-recommended rapid test at country level,<sup>a</sup> 2021**



<sup>a</sup> Data are for notified cases.

▪ **India and TB:**

- With 28% cases, India was among the eight countries **accounting for more than two-third (68.3%) of the total TB patients' count.**
  - The other countries were **Indonesia (9.2% cases), China (7.4%), the Philippines (7%), Pakistan (5.8%), Nigeria (4.4%), Bangladesh (3.6%) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2.9%).**
- India **accounted for 36% of the global TB related deaths** among HIV negative people.
- India was among the three countries (along with Indonesia and the Philippines) that **accounted for most of the reduction in 2020 (67% of the global) and made partial recoveries in 2021.**
- **India's Stand on the Report:** India has **performed far better on major metrics** as compared to other countries over time.
  - **India's TB incidence for the year 2021 is 210 per 100,000 population - compared to the baseline year of 2015 (which was 256 per 100,000 population).**
  - There has been an **18% decline (7 percentage points); better than the global average of 11%** placing India at the 36th position in terms of incidence rates.

▪ **Major Challenges to TB Elimination:**

◦ **Rise in Drug-Resistant TB:**

- The **burden of drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) increased by 3% globally** between 2020 and 2021, with 450,000 new cases of rifampicin-resistant TB (RR-TB) being reported in 2021.

▪ **Disruptions due to Covid-19:**

- This is the **first time in several years** that an **upward trend** has been reported in the number of **people developing both TB and DR-TB.** Experts attribute this trend to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Many services were disrupted by the Covid-19 in 2021 but its impact on the TB response has been particularly severe.

▪ **Underreporting - A Major Concern:**

- **Ten countries collectively accounted for 75% of the global gap** between estimated TB incidence and the reported number of people newly diagnosed with the disease. These gaps are due to:
  - **Underreporting** (of people diagnosed with TB)
  - **Underdiagnosis** (people with TB being unable to access health care or not being diagnosed when they do).
- Underreporting is more of a problem in India; the country is among the top five contributors - **India (24%), Indonesia (13%), the Philippines (10%), Pakistan (6.6%) and Nigeria (6.3%).**

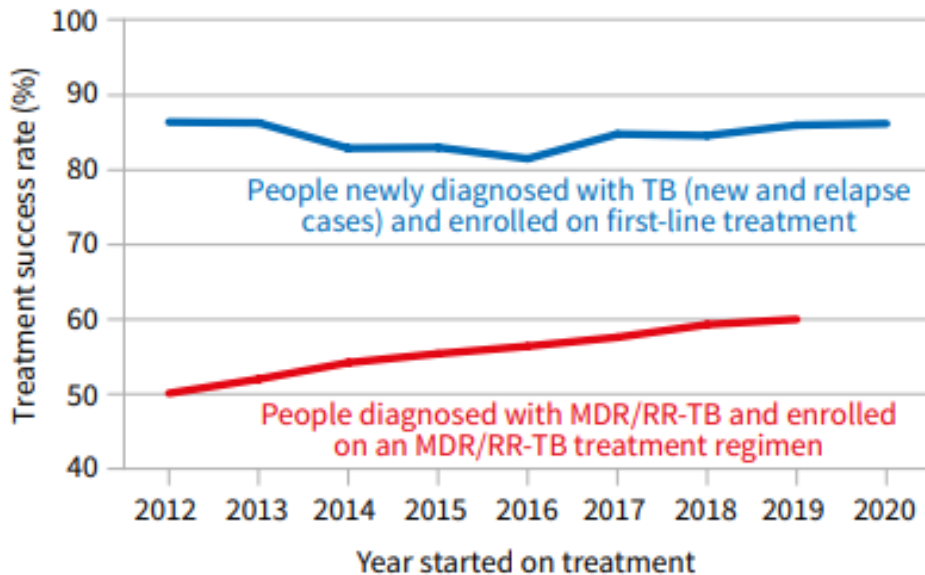
▪ **Decline in Diagnosis and Expenditure:**

- Reductions in the reported TB cases suggest an increase in the number of people with undiagnosed and untreated TB.
- The number of people provided with **treatment for RR-TB and multidrug-resistant TB**

(MDR-TB) also declined between 2019 and 2020.

- The reported number of people receiving treatment for RR-TB in 2021 was 161,746, which is only about **one in three of those in need**.
- The report also notes a **decline in global spending on essential TB services** from **US\$6 billion in 2019 to US\$5.4 billion in 2021**, which is less than half of the global target of US\$13 billion annually by 2022.

## Global success rates for people treated for TB, 2012–2020<sup>a</sup>



## What is Tuberculosis?

- **About:**
  - TB is caused by a bacterium called **Mycobacterium tuberculosis**, belonging to the Mycobacteriaceae family consisting of about 200 members.
  - In humans, TB most **commonly affects the lungs (pulmonary TB)**, but it can also affect other organs (extra-pulmonary TB). It **can spread from person to person** through the air.
  - Most people who develop the disease are adults — in 2021, **men accounted for 56.5% of the TB burden, adult women - 32.5% and children - 11%**.
  - TB is **preventable and curable** - around 85% of people who develop the disease can be successfully treated with a 4/6-month drug regimen.
- **India's Initiatives to Eliminate TB:**
  - Under the [Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan](#), India aims to eliminate TB from the country by 2025 (5 years earlier than the global target of 2030).
    - **Ni-kshay Mitra** is a component of this initiative that ensures additional diagnostic, nutritional, and vocational support to those on TB treatment.
  - India conducts its own **National TB Prevalence Survey** to assess the true TB burden in the country which is the **world's largest such survey ever conducted**.
    - The Union Ministry for Health and Family Welfare also launched the **'TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign'**, along with the Survey.
  - Currently, two vaccines **VPM (Vakzine Projekt Management) 1002** and **MIP (Mycobacterium Indicus Pranii)** have been developed and identified for TB which are under clinical trials.
- **Note:**
  - The [World Tuberculosis \(TB\) Day](#) is observed on **24th March** to spread awareness about the disastrous health, social, and economic consequences of TB and to make efforts to end the TB epidemic globally.
  - The [Bacille Calmette-Guérin \(BCG\) vaccine](#) is presently the **sole vaccine available**

**for the prevention of TB.**

## **Way Forward**

- The report reiterates its call for countries to **put in place urgent measures to restore access to essential TB services.**
  - It further calls for **increased investments, multi-sectoral action** to address the broader determinants that influence TB epidemics and their socioeconomic impact as well as the **need for new diagnostics, drugs and vaccines.**
- For the TB mitigation strategy to be effective, it is important to increase levels of awareness of people about the disease and ensure that the **people affected by TB overcome their social insecurities and access TB care.**

[Source: HT](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/world-tuberculosis-report-2022-who>

