

DRUG-RESISTANT TB

SURVEILLANCE & RESPONSE



World Health
Organization

SUPPLEMENT: GLOBAL TUBERCULOSIS REPORT 2014

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DRUG-RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS

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TUBERCULOSIS (TB) DRUG RESISTANCE SURVEILLANCE HAS BEEN A **PATHFINDER** IN GLOBAL EFFORTS AGAINST **ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)**

20 YEARS: IT IS THE **OLDEST AND LARGEST AMR SURVEILLANCE PROJECT** IN THE WORLD

GLOBALLY, THE PROPORTION OF NEW CASES WITH MULTIDRUG-RESISTANT TB (MDR-TB)* HAS NOT CHANGED IN RECENT YEARS. HOWEVER, ALMOST HALF A MILLION NEW CASES CONTINUE TO EMERGE EACH YEAR AND SERIOUS EPIDEMICS IN SOME COUNTRIES JEOPARDIZE PROGRESS

THERE IS PROGRESS IN THE MDR-TB RESPONSE: 136 000 CASES ELIGIBLE FOR MDR-TB TREATMENT WERE DETECTED IN 2013, UP FROM 52 825 CASES DETECTED IN 2009. THE NUMBER OF MDR-TB CASES ENROLLED ON TREATMENT WENT UP FROM 30 500 IN 2009 TO 97 000 IN 2013

KEY CHALLENGES IN THE MDR-TB RESPONSE INCLUDE: GROWING GAPS BETWEEN NUMBERS DETECTED AND NUMBERS STARTED ON TREATMENT, POOR TREATMENT OUTCOMES DUE TO HEALTH SYSTEM WEAKNESSES AND INADEQUATE DRUG REGIMENS, AND INSUFFICIENT FUNDING INCLUDING FOR RESEARCH

5 PRIORITY ACTIONS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED TO ADDRESS THE GLOBAL MDR-TB CRISIS

* MDR-TB is defined as resistance to at least isoniazid and rifampicin, the two most powerful anti-TB drugs.



CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS

MARKING 20 YEARS OF ANTI-TB DRUG RESISTANCE SURVEILLANCE

1. The oldest and largest anti-microbial drug resistance (AMR) surveillance project in the world
2. Strong network of supranational TB reference laboratories fundamental to progress
3. Impressive progress in surveillance coverage
4. The burden of MDR-TB is low globally and in many countries
5. However, some countries have serious MDR-TB epidemics
6. More than half of the global burden of MDR-TB is in three countries: India, China and the Russian Federation
7. Global MDR-TB trend analysis available for the first time
8. Many more countries need to build capacity for continuous surveillance
9. Rapid molecular tests have a growing role in surveillance
10. Surveillance now expanding to cover more drugs

DRUG RESISTANCE SURVEILLANCE DRIVES POLICY AND RESPONSE

11. MDR-TB response is guided by evidence-based policies
12. The status of the MDR-TB response
13. Five priority actions to address the global MDR-TB crisis
 14. (1) Prevent the development of drug resistance through quality treatment of drug-susceptible TB
 15. (2) Expand rapid testing and detection of cases
 16. (3) Provide immediate access to effective treatment and proper care
 17. (4) Prevent transmission through infection control
 18. (5) Increase political commitment and financing
19. New drugs provide new hope
20. Financing for TB and MDR-TB



FOREWORD

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) represents a growing threat to global public health and security. New resistance mechanisms continue to emerge and spread, undermining the world's ability to treat common infectious diseases. Surveillance to monitor the emergence and spread of drug resistance is a crucial component of the global strategy to combat AMR.

This special supplement to the *Global Tuberculosis Report 2014* marks the 20th anniversary of the *Global Project on Anti-Tuberculosis Drug Resistance Surveillance* and its TB Supranational Reference Laboratory Network. It remains the oldest and largest project on AMR surveillance in the world and guides the response to the epidemic of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) at national and global levels.

The first half of the document highlights the progress made in surveillance of anti-TB drug resistance between 1994 and 2013 as well as recent innovations. The second half of the document profiles the global status of the response to the MDR-TB epidemic, which remains a mix of success and failure. Following WHO's pronouncement in 2013 that MDR-TB represented a public health crisis, five priority areas for action, from prevention to cure, are defined.

As a pathfinder with two decades of experience to draw upon, the *Global Project on Anti-Tuberculosis Drug Resistance Surveillance* has not only facilitated the response to MDR-TB but can also be considered as a model for scaling up AMR surveillance for other infectious diseases.



Dr Mario Raviglione

Director, Global TB Programme
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MARKING 20 YEARS OF ANTI-TB

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THE OLDEST AND LARGEST ANTIMICROBIAL DRUG RESISTANCE SURVEILLANCE PROJECT IN THE WORLD

The *Global Project on anti-TB drug resistance surveillance* (DRS), supported by the TB Supranational Reference Laboratory Network (SRLN), was established in June 1994 in Mainz, Germany by WHO and the Union.* It remains the oldest and largest project on surveillance of anti-microbial drug resistance (AMR) worldwide.

Since 1994, WHO has issued

KEY WHO PUBLICATIONS ON DRUG RESISTANCE SURVEILLANCE (DRS), 1994–2014



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