

ASSESSING tuberculosis UNDER-REPORTING THROUGH inventory studies



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Introduction

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The World Health Organization (WHO) declared tuberculosis (TB) a global public health emergency in 1993, when an estimated 7–8 million cases and 1.3–1.6 million deaths occurred each year [1]. In 2011, there were 8.3–9.0 million cases and 1.3–1.6 million deaths from TB. Despite the availability of treatment that can cure over 90% of cases, TB remains the second leading cause of death from an infectious disease worldwide after the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which caused an estimated 1.7 million deaths in 2011 [2].

Global targets for reducing the burden of disease caused by TB have been set for 2015. The target set within the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is that TB incidence – the number of new cases of TB arising each year – should be falling by 2015. The Stop TB Partnership has set two additional targets, which are to halve rates of TB prevalence and mortality (per 100 000 population) by 2015 compared with 1990. To assess whether these targets are reached, and to build a foundation for better measurement of progress in the post-2015 period, robust monitoring and evaluation of trends in the burden of TB are essential.

In 2006, WHO established a Global Task Force on TB Impact Measurement with the following mandate:

- To produce a robust, rigorous and widely endorsed assessment of whether the 2015 targets for reducing TB incidence, prevalence and mortality are achieved at global, regional and country levels;
- To regularly report on progress towards these targets in the years leading up to 2015; and
- To strengthen national capacity in monitoring and evaluation of TB control

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