



**National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTP)**  
DGHS  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare



**World TB Day**  
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**Unite to End TB!**

**ark foundation**  
advancement through research and knowledge

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### What is World TB day?

On the 24th March 1882, Dr. Robert Koch officially announced his discovery of the TB bacillus. That discovery made possible the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and indeed this was an important step taken towards the control and elimination of the disease. In 1982, on the 100th anniversary of Dr. Koch's announcement WHO and IUATLD sponsored the first World TB Day to raise public awareness about tuberculosis aiming to its prevention and control



### Why World TB Day?

World TB Day, falling on March 24 each year, is designed to build public awareness about TB and its control. It commemorates the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch astonished the scientific community by announcing that he had discovered the cause of tuberculosis, the TB bacillus. World TB day-

- is an opportunity to renew the world's focus on TB.
- is aimed at mobilizing the primary audience, the people who live with TB and the community they live in.
- also serves to sensitize the secondary audience: policy and decision makers, health care providers, nongovernmental organizations, corporations and other potential partners.
- calls for sustained action to stop TB with powerful strategies globally, regionally and locally

For world TB Day 2017, the overall theme has been selected as "Unite to End TB"! (that was used in 2016)

Partners and stakeholders decided on a strong and action-oriented tagline for this year's campaign, choosing this dynamic and unifying rallying cry which allows for strong mobilization on the ground as well as high level advocacy. Considering the umbrella motto "Unite to End TB", NTP Bangladesh has selected the Bengali slogan as: *ঐক্যবদ্ধ হ'লে সবে, যক্ষ্মা মুক্ত দেশ হবে।*

The main focus of the day will be to involve all care providers whether public or private in TB control activities in order to increase case detection. Special efforts need to be given for people living in hard to reach areas such as slums-dwellers, haor/baors, chars, prisons, work places etc

Theme of the World TB day 2017:  
**UNITE TO END TB!**

TB is curable, but our current efforts to reach, treat and cure everyone who gets ill with the disease are not sufficient of the total people a year who get sick with TB, about 43% of them are "missed" by our present effort according to WHO estimates (Ref Global TB report 2016). Many of these missed people live in the hard to reach areas like isolated chars, Haor/Baors, coastal areas, hill tracts, slums and work places. Most of them are poorest and majority of them belongs to most vulnerable communities and they include groups such as prisoners, migrants, drug users, factory workers and sex workers. On the other hand many of the missed cases might be diagnosed and treated by the private sectors or even by non-NTP public sectors but not reported to NTP. Tuberculosis disease in Bangladesh is now notifiable. So every care provider whoever presuming, diagnosing and/or treating TB must refer or report to NTP. We believe that no one should be left behind in the fight against TB. We must enhance/continue our united effort to accelerate progress towards the bold goal of ending TB epidemic by 2035

### What can be done on World TB Day?

- Rally:** at central, district and Upazila levels- to draw the attention of the mass people to fight against TB through unified action
- Seminar/Meeting:** at various levels- to disseminate information on update facts about tuberculosis and its control and to share experiences
- Round Table Discussion/Talk Show at central level in Radio/TV:** To discuss different issues in relation to TB control
- Press Conference:** to build mass awareness through media about tuberculosis and its control
- TB fair at various levels** to make people aware about Nature/Place/Cost of available services for diagnosis and management of TB. TB services are free of cost.
- Special ACSM material** such as Fact Sheet, "T-Shirt", Cap, Banner, Poster, Leaflets etc
- News Broadcast, Newspaper Articles and Publications**
  - Publishing case studies of cured patients in national dailies and weeklies,
  - Publishing success stories involving patients working for control of TB.

### What is Tuberculosis?

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by an organism called Mycobacterium tuberculosis (also called tubercle bacilli.) Usually they affect the lungs when it is called Pulmonary Tuberculosis. They can also affect any other parts of the body when it is called Extra-pulmonary tuberculosis.

### How dose TB spread?

When a person with pulmonary TB coughs, sneezes, laughs or talks, tubercle bacilli are spread in to the air in tiny droplets. People who are in close contact can breathe in these droplets and become infected.

### How TB can be prevented?

TB is curable and curing TB patients is the best way to prevent its spread

Contact nearby health centre for diagnosis and treatment of TB- it is free of cost

Left untreated, each person with active TB disease will infect on average 10 - 15 people every year. However, people infected with TB bacilli will not necessarily become sick with the disease. The immune system "walls off" the TB bacilli which, protected by a thick waxy coat, can lie dormant for years. When someone's immune system is weakened, the chances of becoming sick are greater.

### TUBERCULOSIS BURDEN IN BANGLADESH (2015)

According to the World Health Organization, the estimated incidence of all forms of Tuberculosis in 2015 was 225 per 100 000 population. It is further estimated that about 45 per 100 000 people died of TB in the same year. (Table 1)

Table 1: Estimated population and TB Burden, Bangladesh- 2015

Population:	161 million
Incidence rate (all TB cases):	25 /100,000 / yr
Mortality rate:	45 /100,000 / yr
Incidence rate HIV positive TB cases:	0.39 /100,000 / yr
Incidence rate (MDR/RR-TB)	6 /100,000 / yr
Estimated MDR among notified PTB	5100
Proportion of MDR-TB	
■ new cases:	1.6%
■ previously treated cases:	29%

### Achievements

Since the inception of the DOTS strategy in 1993 the NTP has achieved a commendable success in terms of service accessibility or coverage, case finding and treatment

- During 2016 a total of 222,250 TB cases (includes New and Relapse) were notified; case notification rate being 138/ 100,000 population (Fig 1 & 2.) (Projected population for 2016 based on 2011 census =161,109,252)

- Among the notified cases 124,588 were new smear positive/Pulmonary Bacteriologically confirmed; case notification rate being 77/ 100,000 population (Fig 1 & 2.)
- Treatment success rate for the new smear positive/Pulmonary Bacteriologically confirmed cases registered in 2015 was 95% (Fig 3).

- A total of 1,110 Microscopy centers are functioning country wide

- Microscopy lab quality is being ensured through 40 External Quality Assessment (EQA) centers.

- For diagnosis of MDR-TB a National TB Reference Laboratory (NTRL) at NIDCH, Dhaka and three Regional TB reference Laboratories (RTRL) at Rajshahi, Chittagong and Khulna have been established.

- DR-TB patients are being managed in : NIDCH, Dhaka, CDHs Chittagong, Khulna, Sylhet, Rajshahi and Pabna.

- Besides Government Facilities DR-TB Patients' diagnosis and management services are also available at Jalchatra under Tangail district, Onontopur under Netrokona district and Shambhuganj under Mymensingh district supported by NTP NGO Damien Foundation.

- As on December 2016 a total of 5,500 (including 918 in 2016) MDR TB cases have been enrolled for management.

- Treatment Success rate for the patient enrolled in 2014 is 70%

- NTP has been working in collaboration with its diverse partners including NGOs, public and private medical college hospitals, private hospitals, private medical practitioners, civil society and corporate health sectors. However to achieve the ambitious goal of ending TB epidemic by 2035 this partnership needs to the further expanded and strengthened