

# UNITED TO END THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST INFECTIOUS DISEASE



Last year, tuberculosis (TB) killed more people than HIV and malaria combined. Years of political neglect have led to the emergence and rapid spread of drug-resistant strains of the disease, against which we are all ill-equipped to respond. TB threatens livelihoods, undermines economic development, and presents a real threat to global health security. TB respects no national borders and affects every country in the world. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) envision ending TB by 2030 and the UK government has a leading role to play in making this a reality.

## KEY STATISTICS

IN 2016

**1.67**  
million

TB DEATHS

**10.4**  
million

PEOPLE INFECTED  
WITH TB

**600**  
thousand

PEOPLE INFECTED  
WITH DR-TB

**5,664**  
in 2016

TB CASES  
IN ENGLAND

PRICE OF A PANDEMIC

USD **983\***  
billion

COST TO GLOBAL ECONOMY  
BETWEEN 2015-2030

\*based on business as usual scenario

A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

**50%**

OF CASES  
IN G20

**19**

COMMONWEALTH  
COUNTRIES  
MOST AFFECTED

## THE DRUGS DON'T WORK

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) has been widely recognised as the biggest global public health threat. It is estimated that around **one third of all AMR-associated deaths are currently caused by drug-resistant TB (DR-TB)**. Lord O'Neill reported that "tackling TB and DR-TB must be at the heart of any global action against AMR". Because of a lack of research and development (R&D), treatments for DR-TB are outdated and ineffective. As a result, people with DR-TB

are forced to undergo an arduous treatment regimen which can last up to two years and is associated with severe side-effects including permanent hearing loss, chronic nausea, and psychosis. After enduring this, the chance of successful treatment remains dismally low at around 50 per cent. Health systems must be invested in to ensure appropriate care. Global coordination will be key. Without serious advances in prevention, diagnosis and treatment, we will never turn the tide against TB.



# A YEAR OF ACTION ON TB



Following years of political neglect, 2018 promises to be a year of global action culminating in a **UN High Level Meeting on TB in September**. Under the theme of ‘united to end tuberculosis: a global response to a global emergency’, Heads of Government are expected to act on the recommendations of the G7, G20 and BRICS summits as well as the 2017 Moscow Declaration’s commitment to “fundamentally transform the fight against TB”.

## UK LEADERSHIP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TB

Between 2000 and 2016, TB treatment **saved an estimated 53 million lives**. The UK’s investment in the fight against TB has been pivotal in making this possible.

- The UK is the second largest donor to the **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria**. The fund currently provides 65 per cent of all international financing for TB.
- The UK is the **third largest public funder of TB research and development (R&D)**, investing USD 24 million in 2015 and leading innovation in the AMR R&D space through the Ross Fund and G20 initiatives.
- **UK academic institutions** are at the forefront of TB research, collaborating with partners around the world to drive progress in the fight against TB from the laboratory to the community clinic.

Despite these efforts, a significant global funding shortfall persists. **At the current rate of progress, the SDG target will not be met for more than 160 years**. The UK government has the power to set the tone for this global year of action, by:

- Substantively engaging in the **UN High Level Meeting negotiations**, demonstrating the UK’s prioritisation of the fight against TB.
- Utilising the UK’s strong diplomatic relationships, **to drive international coordination and the creation of an accountability framework** that drives action
- Helping to **close the funding gap** by pledging to increase its investment in both TB programmes and research.

### REFERENCES

World Health Organization, *Global TB Report*, 2017.  
Lord O’Neill, *Review on Antimicrobial Resistance*, 2016.

Donor Tracker, Cited January 2018. <http://donortracker.org/UK/globalhealthtrd>  
The Global Fund, 2018. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/tuberculosis>



**THIS YEAR, WE HAVE AN UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSFORM THE FIGHT AGAINST TB. WITH THE UK’S LEADERSHIP AT THE UN HIGH LEVEL MEETING, ENDING TB BY 2030 CAN BECOME A REALITY.**