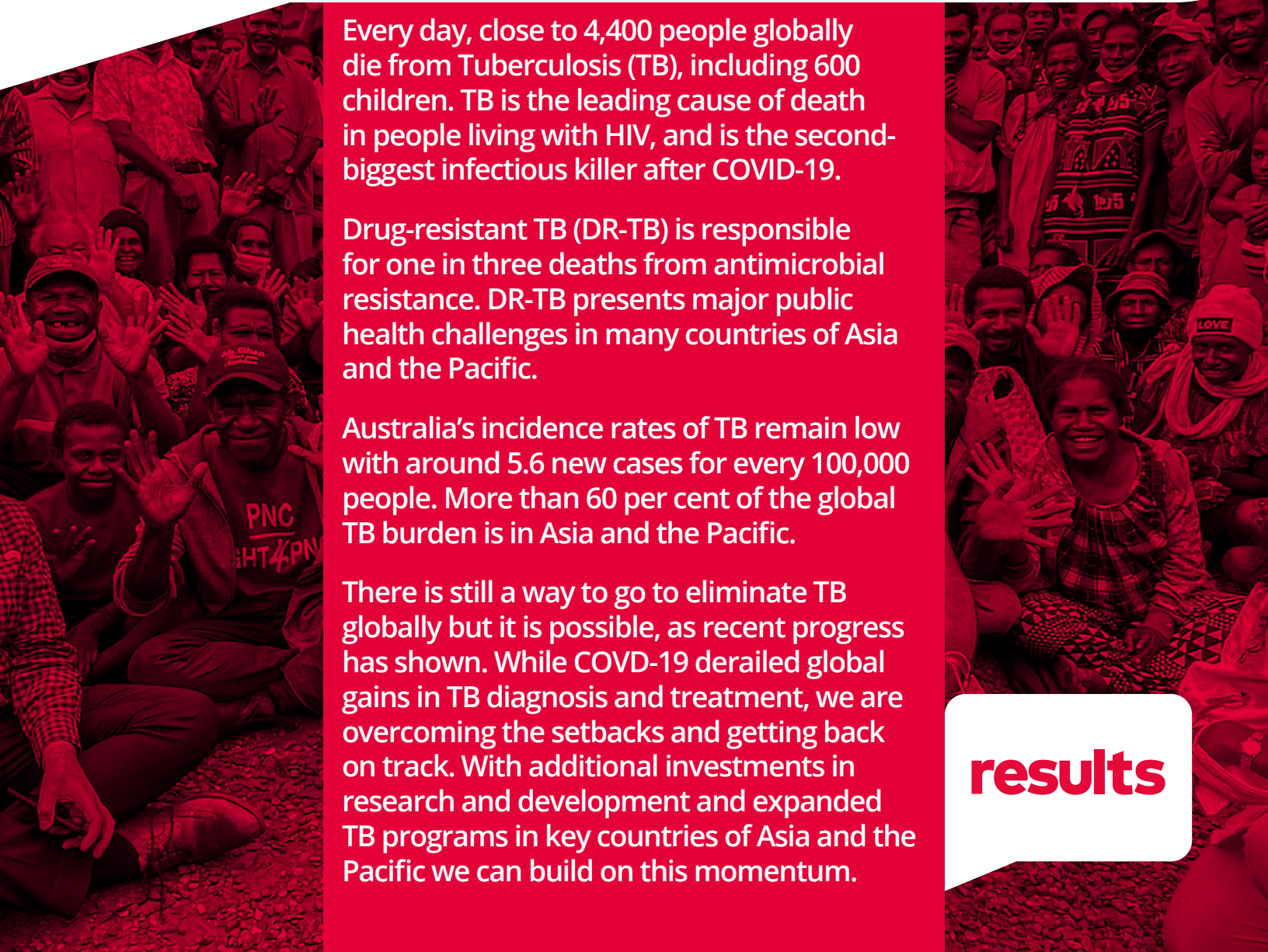


Ending TB in Asia and the Pacific

A PROGRESS SNAPSHOT



Every day, close to 4,400 people globally die from Tuberculosis (TB), including 600 children. TB is the leading cause of death in people living with HIV, and is the second-biggest infectious killer after COVID-19.

Drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) is responsible for one in three deaths from antimicrobial resistance. DR-TB presents major public health challenges in many countries of Asia and the Pacific.

Australia's incidence rates of TB remain low with around 5.6 new cases for every 100,000 people. More than 60 per cent of the global TB burden is in Asia and the Pacific.

There is still a way to go to eliminate TB globally but it is possible, as recent progress has shown. While COVID-19 derailed global gains in TB diagnosis and treatment, we are overcoming the setbacks and getting back on track. With additional investments in research and development and expanded TB programs in key countries of Asia and the Pacific we can build on this momentum.

results

Cambodia

Challenges

- Accelerated efforts are required in case detection, treatment initiation and reaching out to at-risk groups.

Progress

- Cambodia has made good progress in reducing the TB burden over many decades.
- The TB program has focused on contact tracing and active screening of high-risk groups including older people, people living with HIV, low-income urban residents and people in marginalised communities.
- With funding provided by the Australian Government and the Global Fund, Cambodia is currently conducting a new national TB prevalence survey and developing an updated strategy to align with global targets.



Indonesia

Challenges

- Like many countries, Indonesia struggles with under-reporting and under-diagnosis of TB cases and is conducting an inventory study to gather more information to target programs in the future.
- An external monitoring mission in 2022 recommended increased efforts to actively find people with TB, increasing the use of chest x-rays and expanded diagnosis at the primary care level.

Progress

- With a large population, Indonesia has the world's second-largest incidence of TB after India. Case detection programs in Indonesia are improving.
- Last year, WHO reported that Indonesia had reversed many of the negative impacts of COVID-19 disruptions. Access to and provision of TB services has recovered to 2019 levels.
- Over many years, Indonesia has worked to strengthen its response to TB with testing, treatment and care activities delivered across the country.
- Australian partners, including TB-CRE, the Burnet Institute and DFAT, have been important supporters in Indonesia's TB response.





Papua New Guinea

Challenges

- TB is the leading infectious cause of morbidity and mortality in PNG. Across the country, there is an urgent need to expand access to treatment, improve measures for infection, prevention and control (IPC), improve screening programs for at-risk groups, strengthen the health workforce and improve access to medicines and tests.
- PNG's health system is constantly under pressure and short of essential resources. Medicine shortages are common, and over the past year health officials have struggled with import delays and stock-outs of TB medicines and essential drugs.
- The island of Daru, in Western Province, has some of the highest rates of MDR-TB globally. Active case finding through contact screening and preventive treatment for at-risk contacts is a priority. Working closely with the community to design and deliver effective programs is critical.

Progress

- PNG's TB response is supported by a range of Australian-based partners including DFAT, Childfund and the Burnet Institute.
- Community-based TB programs that work to address access barriers and provide support for families with nutrition, housing and counselling have been most effective.

results



Philippines

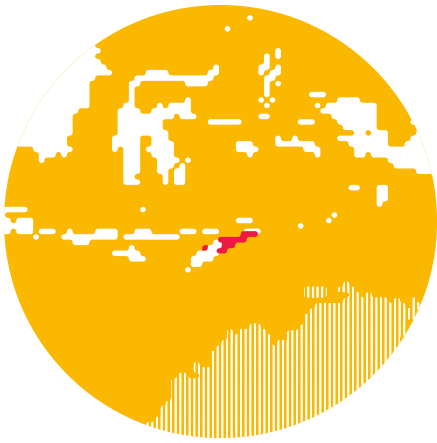
Challenges

- Under-reporting and under-diagnosis of TB cases remains a challenge in the Philippines, and results from an inventory study are expected later this year, which will help to target TB programs in the future.
- During outbreaks of COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021, the Philippines saw declines in TB case notifications and access to TB treatment programs, which left gaps in the continuum of care and threatened important gains in the country's efforts to end TB.



Progress

- In 2023, WHO noted that with expanded services and efforts to improve access, the Philippines had recovered to pre-COVID levels.
- Earlier that year, the Philippines developed an Accelerated Action Plan for TB, a multi-sectoral strategy to end TB by 2035. The plan includes actions for social protection, community engagement, labour protection and patient-centred service delivery, particularly in primary healthcare.



Timor-Leste

Challenges

- There are major gaps in case notification. Active case finding through proactive involvement with health facilities and communities remains a key part of Timor-Leste's national strategic plan for ending TB.

Progress

- Vietnam - together with Indonesia and the Philippines - was involved in the LIFT-TB program to accelerate the roll-out of new regimens to reduce treatment time for DR-TB.
- Partners such as DFAT, the Global Fund and the Menzies School of Health Research provide significant support to Timor-Leste's TB program and the National Health Laboratory.



Vietnam

Challenges

- Estimates suggest large numbers of people with TB are not diagnosed, recorded and notified in Vietnam.

Progress

- Vietnam's national plan for TB focuses on person-centred care, bold policies, expanding partnerships, strengthening health systems, as well as investments in key innovations and research.
- In recent years, Vietnam has been testing new technologies to improve diagnosis, including rapid devices for faster and more precise results.
- Vietnam - together with Indonesia and the Philippines - was involved in the LIFT-TB program to accelerate the roll-out and develop new guidelines for regimens to reduce the length of treatment for DR-TB.
- Vietnam's TB program has a long-standing partnership with the University of Sydney to build capacity and improve case detection in endemic settings using active screening and new molecular tests.

results

TB data by country 2022

Change from 2021

	Cambodia	Indonesia	PNG	Philippines	Timor-Leste	Vietnam
Number of TB deaths	4,510 ↑18%	141,000 ↑4%	5,040 ↓32%	40,100 ↓1.6%	779 ↓50%	13,600 ↑20%
People newly diagnosed and reported with TB	32,772 ↑52%	708,658 ↑64%	35,240 ↑22%	435,890 ↑36%	5,249 ↑64%	102,479 ↑32%
TB incidence rate (new and relapsed cases per 100,000)	320	385	432	638	498	176
People started on TB preventive treatment	24,665 ↑42%	22,566 ↑310%	2,212 ↑22%	44,417 ↑130%	9,964 ↑1000%	26,121 ↑33%
% new and relapse cases with known HIV status	90%	52%	63%	61%	92%	86%

Source: World Health Organisation

Change from 2021



Number of TB deaths 2022

Vietnam

One person every 39 minutes

Cambodia

One person every two hours

Philippines

One person every 13 minutes

PNG

One person every two hours

Indonesia

One person every four minutes

Timor-Leste

One person every 11 hours

Source: World Health Organisation

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Thanks to our sponsors



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