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Tuberculosis in Numbers: Deaths Down 35% Since 2015, but the 2030 Goal Is Slipping Away

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WHO’s 2026 TB report: 10.6m cases, 1.13m deaths in 2025. Deaths down 35% since 2015, but incidence is only 14% lower and funding covers 30% of the need.

KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS & STRATEGIC OUTLOOK

Executive Summary The World Health Organization released its Global Tuberculosis Report 2026 on 12 November, and the numbers tell two stories at once. An estimated 10.6 million people developed tuberculosis in 2025 and 1.13 million died from it. Deaths have fallen 35% since 2015, finally reaching a milestone the WHO’s End TB Strategy had set for 2020. Yet new infections are falling far too slowly, and the money to close the gap is not arriving. Tuberculosis remains the world’s leading cause of death from a single infectious agent, and the thirteenth cause of death overall. The report, built on data from 187 countries covering more than 99% of the world’s population, shows the burden concentrated in 30 high-burden countries that account for 88% of cases. India alone accounts for about a quarter. This study measures the progress, the gaps in diagnosis and treatment, and the funding shortfall that now decides whether the 2030 targets stay in reach. Methodology This study rests on the WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2026, released 12 November 2026, cross-checked against the WHO’s own summary of the findings and reporting of the release in Indian and international health outlets. Country figures are taken from the report’s estimates and from India’s Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, which published its own summary of the national numbers on the same day. Funding figures come from the WHO’s financing analysis for low- and middle-income countries. The WHO warns that its incidence and mortality figures rely heavily on statistical modelling, national prevalence surveys and vital registration, because millions of cases go unreported. Direct comparisons with earlier editions are not appropriate, the WHO says, because each report revises the time series. Where this study quotes a

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