

10 facts about the cost of tuberculosis

- Poverty increases the risk of tuberculosis; tuberculosis impoverishes its victims.
- **80 percent** of victims are aged between 15 and 49 and are in the most economically productive years of their lives.
- More than **90 %** of TB cases and deaths occur in low and middle-income countries.
- The estimated costs to poor households is **US\$ 12 billion** per year.
- TB carries **a direct cost** to the health service (diagnosis, treatment and control), patients and their family (drugs, transportation).
- TB carries **an indirect cost** to society, the family and the community.
- In order to reach the DOTS Expansion targets of diagnosing 70 % new cases and treating 85 % of them by the year 2005, the world's governments need to spend **US \$ 1.8 billion** per year.
- At its creation in July 2001, the Global Fund for Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) raised **US \$ 1,7 billion** for all three diseases.
- The World Bank ranked the DOTS strategy as one of the **“most cost-effective of all health interventions”**.
- The Global Drug Facility, part of the STOP TB Partners' Forum, reduced the cost of essential drugs to **US \$ 10** for a complete six-month course.

Source: *TB Advocacy, A Practical Guide 1999*, WHO Global Tuberculosis Programme, STOP TB Annual Report 2001.

