

# *10 facts about* **tuberculosis and women**

---

- TB is the single biggest infectious killer of women.
- Over **900 million** women —mainly between the ages of 15 and 44—are infected with TB world-wide, **one million** will die and **2.5 million** will get sick this year from the disease.
- TB is the single biggest killer of young women.
- TB accounts for **9 percent** of deaths among women between the ages 15 and 44, compared with war, which accounts for 4 percent, HIV 3 percent and heart disease 3 percent.
- Women of reproductive age are more susceptible to sickness once infected with TB than are men of the same age.
- Women in this age group are also at greater risk from HIV infection.
- In parts of Africa, young women with TB outnumber young men with TB.
- TB kills more women than any single cause of maternal mortality.
- In some parts of the world, the stigma attached to TB leads to isolation, abandonment and divorce of women.
- In some parts of the world, women's movements are leading the efforts to control TB.

Source: *TB Advocacy, A Practical Guide 1999*, WHO Global Tuberculosis Programme

