

# Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis is a highly contagious infectious disease, caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, generally affecting the lungs. While many cases of tuberculosis do not progress to active disease, those that do can be fatal; tuberculosis is especially deadly to patients who are smokers or have HIV/AIDS. Tuberculosis is a leading killer of people with HIV, and “a major cause of deaths related to antimicrobial resistance,” according to the World Health Organization.<sup>27</sup> By numbers of deaths, much of the world’s tuberculosis burden is in a few middle- and low-income countries, including India, Indonesia, Pakistan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Tuberculosis outcomes have also improved, in some cases dramatically, since 1990. For example, the rate of tuberculosis deaths in China in 1990 was 15.0 per 100,000, and in 2019 it was 2.6. Ethiopia’s rate of deaths due to tuberculosis was 157.2 in 1990 (at the time, the fourth-leading cause of death in Ethiopia), and by 2019 it had gone down to 27.8 per 100,000.

In 2017 – the latest year for which we estimate total spending by health focus area – a total of \$10.7 billion (comprising government spending, prepaid private spending, out-of-pocket spending, and development assistance for health) was spent on tuberculosis in low- and middle-income countries, of which 17.1% was DAH. In 2020, a total of \$1.5 billion was allocated for development assistance for health for tuberculosis, a decline of 5.5% from the previous year.

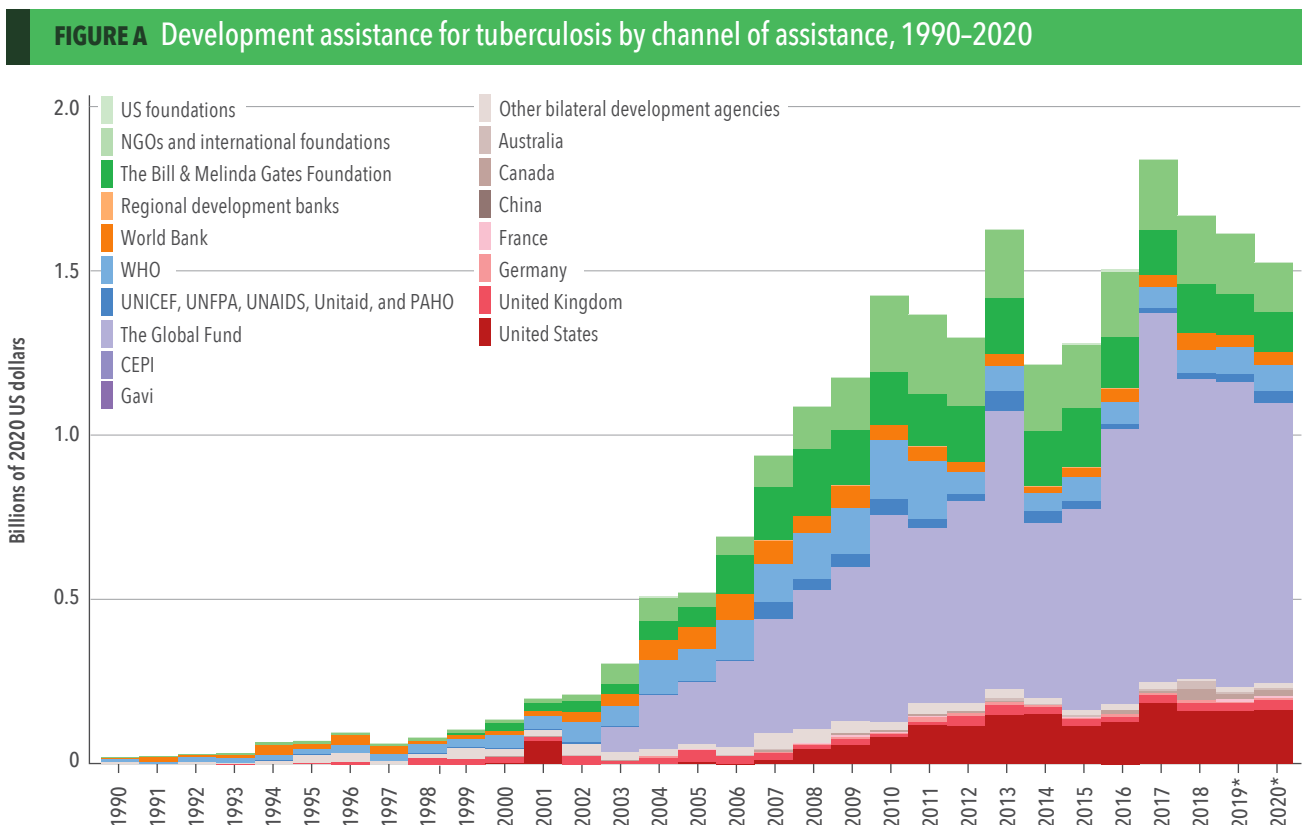
Figure A shows tuberculosis DAH by channel of assistance between 1990 and 2020; notably, DAH channeled through the World Bank increased 22.0% between 2019 and 2020. Meanwhile, Figures B and C, respectively, show tuberculosis DAH received by program area in 2020 and sources of tuberculosis DAH between 1990 and 2020. The largest change in tuberculosis DAH between 2019 and 2020 was in the “other” category (which comprises projects that did not clearly fit with the other tuberculosis program areas). Despite its growth over the past 30 years, tuberculosis DAH has relatively leveled since 2017.

**Figure A**

\*2019 and 2020 estimates are preliminary.

CEPI = Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations  
 Gavi = Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance  
 NGOs = Non-governmental organizations  
 PAHO = Pan American Health Organization  
 UNAIDS = Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS  
 UNFPA = United Nations Population Fund  
 UNICEF = United Nations Children’s Fund  
 WHO = World Health Organization

“Regional development banks” include the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank. “Other bilateral development agencies” include Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Italy, South Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the European Commission, and EEA.



**Figure B**

\*2019 and 2020 estimates are preliminary.

"Other" captures development assistance for health for which we have program area information but which is not identified as being allocated to any of the program areas listed.

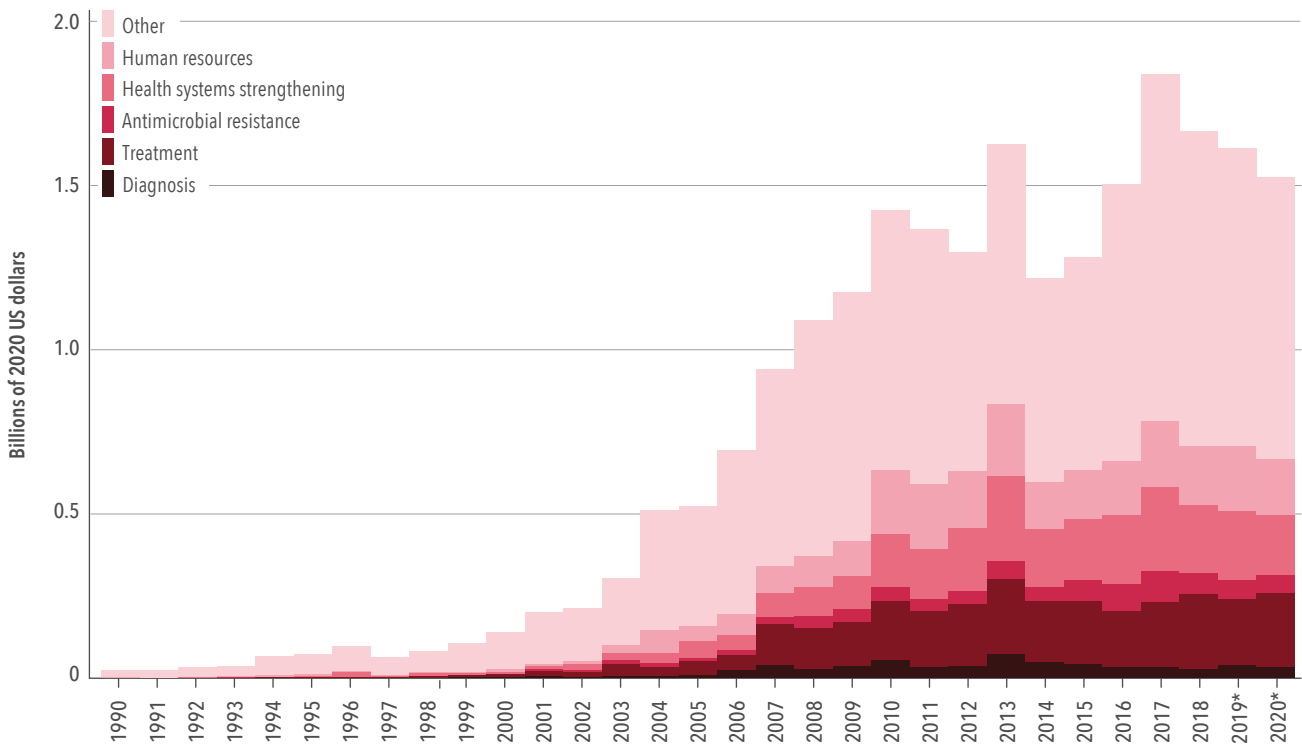
**Figure C**

\*2019 and 2020 estimates are preliminary.

IBRD = International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

"Other governments" include Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Monaco, Myanmar, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (province of China), Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. "Other sources" captures development assistance for health for which we have source information but which is not identified as originating within any of the sources listed. Health assistance for which we have no source information is designated as "Unidentified."

**FIGURE B** Development assistance for tuberculosis by program area, 1990-2020



**FIGURE C** Development assistance for tuberculosis by source of funding, 1990-2020

