

TB & ME: EFFECTS

THE GLOBAL MDR-TB CRISIS REQUIRES URGENT ACTION: PEOPLE NEED ACCESS TO DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT TO SAVE LIVES AND STOP TRANSMISSION.

TB AFFECTS AROUND 12 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE, OF WHICH 650,000 HAVE MDR-TB

WHAT IS TB?

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) IS AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE CAUSED BY THE BACILLUS MYCOBACTERIUM TUBERCULOSIS.

What is MDR-TB?

MULTIDRUG-RESISTANT TB (MDR-TB) IS A FORM OF TB THAT DOES NOT RESPOND TO STANDARD TREATMENTS USING FIRST-LINE DRUGS.

The classic SYMPTOMS of TB are:

COUGHING

FEVER

SPUTUM PRODUCTION

WEIGHT LOSS

psychological effects:

TB sufferers often become **stigmatized** by their local communities, and have to deal with the sense of **isolation** and emotional fall-out of **losing friends and family**.

THIS CAN BE **ACCELERATED** in cases of MDR-TB, depending on a person's situation and immune status.

5 IN 10 DIE WITHIN 5 YEARS
2 IN 10 DEVELOP CHRONIC INFECTIONS
3 IN 10 SELF-CURE

MORTALITY RATES

IF LEFT UNTREATED, MORTALITY RATES ARE HIGH FOR TB

TB typically affects the lungs

(pulmonary TB) but can affect other sites as well (extrapulmonary TB). The disease is spread in the air when people who are sick with pulmonary TB cough or sneeze.

THE EFFECTS OF THE DISEASE MAKE IT HARD TO WORK, OR LEAD AN ACTIVE LIFE.

PHUMEZA TISILE'S STORY:

They found two glands in my left lung and one gland in my right lung, which means the surgery will be very very difficult.

They told me that they have never done something like this - especially with the extreme drug resistant TB, especially on both lungs. I have had negative thoughts lately: like why bother fighting for something that we all see that it is impossible ...with the support of MSF staff they tried to encourage me not to give up..."

FIND OUT MORE AND LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR PHUMEZA AT BLOGS.MSF.ORG/TB

OPIRA CHURCHILL'S STORY:

But my brother, I don't know why, he won't come to visit me.

I asked someone else from the family to ask him to come but he doesn't. I have asked him many times on the phone, very many times! He just keeps on saying 'I'm coming, I'm coming, I'm coming'. But for more than a year, he has not come here to see his sick brother. We are just talking on the phone. The big problem is that my relatives do not believe I can be cured! But I really can get cured from MDR-TB and I can live with HIV for many years to come. But they believe that I will die any time now.

FIND OUT MORE AND LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR OPIRA AT BLOGS.MSF.ORG/TB

How BIG a problem is TB?

IN 2010 THERE WERE AN ESTIMATED 12 MILLION CASES OF TB, CAUSING BETWEEN 1.2 AND 1.5 MILLION DEATHS.

These figures are higher than when WHO declared a TB 'global health emergency' in 1993.

AN ESTIMATED 650,000 OF THE CASES ABOVE WERE MDR-TB IN 2010, THE HIGHEST EVER GLOBAL RATES RECORDED.

MSF data indicates that this could be the tip of the iceberg, based on the high numbers of people testing positive for MDR-TB in their projects.

TIMELY DIAGNOSIS:

The earlier TB is diagnosed and treated the better. This limits the impact of the disease on the body and hugely reduces likelihood of transmission.

BUT: less than five percent of TB patients worldwide have access to proper diagnosis, and only an estimated 10 percent of MDR-TB patients are being treated - far less in low-resource settings.