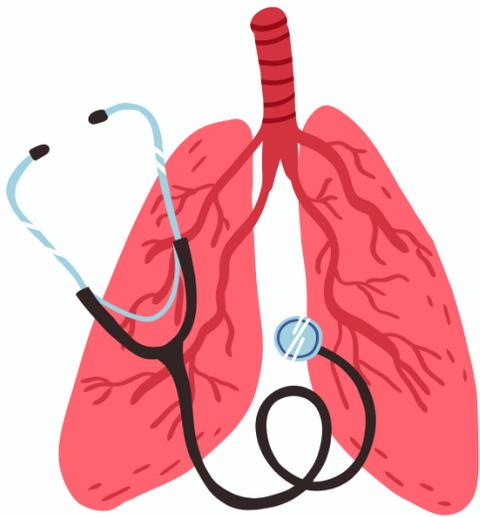


TUBERCULOSIS IN NEPAL

BACKGROUND



The 2019 National Health Policy of Nepal includes provisions for the implementation of effective programs for research, surveillance, prevention, control and eradication of communicable diseases including tuberculosis (TB), HIV/AIDS and malaria. In addition, the Public Health Services Act, 2018 provides that every citizen has the right to receive emergency health services and equal and easy access to quality health services. On the other, the fifteenth plan (the fiscal year 2019/20 - 2023/24) has planned for increasing the investment for the diagnosis of TB. With all these aspects in mind, a 5-year National Strategic Plan to End Tuberculosis in Nepal (2021/22- 2025/26) has been developed.

ESTIMATED BURDEN OF TB IN NEPAL

The burden of tuberculosis in Nepal (prevalence and incidence) was higher than expected. According to the 2017/18 National TB prevalence survey, the TB prevalence was 416 per 100,000 population which is 1.8 times higher than the previous WHO estimate and the revised incidence is 245 per 100,000 which is 1.6 times higher than previous estimation. According to the TB profile produced by the NTCC, 17,220 TB deaths (17,000 HIV-negative TB, 220 HIV-positive TB) were recorded in the fiscal year 2018/19. Therefore, Nepal has been included in the WHO list of countries with high resistance to TB drugs.



WAY FORWARD

Recommended from National Strategic Plan to end TB in Nepal:

- Secure commitments from the political leadership on ending TB.
- Leverage economic and technical support from funding agencies.
- Implement TB program by provincial and local level with the investment of their own resources.
- Establish patient-centered services for TB management; increase advocacy and support; and engage the community and private health institutions in TB program.
- Connect sputum collection and transportation with the TB Diagnostic Centre, and engage Provincial Public Health Laboratory for ensuring its quality.
- Create a conducive environment for utilization of knowledge and experiences gained during the implementation of COVID-19 control programs.
- Build capacity of health workers at all levels

SOURCES:
National Strategic plan to end Tuberculosis in Nepal
National TB Prevalence Survey, 2018-19 Key findings
Nepal NTP Factsheet