WeURGENTLY

•NEW DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS

• NEW TREATMENTS

TO SAVE MILLIONS OF LIVES

What is 7
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.

It is much more difficult, and takes much longer, to treat. In the vast majority of cases, drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) develops when TB patients fail to complete their full course of treatment; when healthcare workers provide the wrong treatment; when the supply of drugs is interrupted; or when the drugs have expired or are of poor quality.

HOWEVER NEWLY EMERGING DATA INDICATES THAT MDR-TB IS ALSO TRANSMITTING FROM PERSON TO PERSON.

What are the classic?
SYMPTOMS:

THE CLASSIC SYMPTOMS OF TB ARE A COUGH, SPUTUM PRODUCTION, FEVER AND WEIGHT LOSS. IT LEADS TO GENERAL WEAKNESS WHICH MAKES WORK OR ANYTHING ACTIVE DIFFICULT.





The doctor told me that the kind of bug I am infected with is a very resistant type and as the sputum sample grew, I could spread it as I breathed, so I have to be in ISOLATION until my sputum didn's t was 10-15 tablets and intravenous injection twice a day. It was a hellish feeling but still with a dim hope of being cured. I cried all day for my son and wanted to see him, feel him, love him.

Those days were the worst period of my life...



FIND OUT MORE AND LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR LUCKY AT



GRACE LAMWAKA'S STORY:

At the start I was having eight drugs (and the injections) and then it increased to 35. 35 drugs, plus the injections!

Then, when my condition was stabilising, it started declining From 35 it became 17. And that's where I am now... 17 tablets and I take them every day! Except Sundays, when I have a break. It's so much better on Sunday. In that gap I feel very free, very ok, like somebody who is not taking anything! But the worst comes on Monday when I start to take the drugs again - it's like I've started afresh! Life's not easy, I feel like just resting, all my body is hurting. It gives me A LOT OF PAIN!



Drugs

TB IS STILL PRIMARILY TREATED WITH DRUGS DEVELOPED AROUND 50 YEARS AGO. MDR-TB treatments are highly toxic and common side effects include rashes, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, psychiatric symptoms, aunaice, ototoxicity, peripneral neuropathy, muscle cramping, and palpitations.

WE URGENTLY NEED NEW, LESS TOXIC DRUGS THAT CAN BE TAKEN OVER A SHORTER PERIOD



Cost of treatment

TB: US\$21 For six month treatment.

MDR-TB: BETWEEN US\$4,400 AND US\$9,000 over around 2 years.



Lengthof treatment

TB TYPICALLY REQUIRES SIX MONTHS OF TREATMENT. MDR-TB REQUIRES AROUND TWO YEARS.



Number of tablets to be

taken MDR-TB: PATIENTS TAKE AROUND 14 TABLETS PER DAY, SIX DAYS PER WEEK, FOR AROUND TWO YEARS This is made up of 4 to 5 different drugs with high toxicity.

> HIGHLY TOXIC PILLS. Some patients require an estimated 208 injections, administered 6 days a week for 8 months. Some patients may require more injections over a longer duration. MDR-TB drugs must be taken twice daily, under supervision.

THAT'S A TOTAL OF AROUND 8736



Success

TREATMENT FOR DRUG-SENSITIVE TB IS EFFECTIVE IN 95% OF THE HIV NEGATIVE PATIENTS WHO STICK TO THE FULL SIX MONTHS OF TREATMENT. In MSF experience, the treatment of MDR-TB has a 52% success rate.



Access to treatment

ONLY AROUND 10% OF PEOPLE GLOBALLY CAN GET TREATMENT: Even fewer people in low resource and high prevalence settings (less than 5%).

WE URGENTLY NEED GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE **ACTION TO INCREASE ACCESS**



Drugs that can be Taken by children

PEDIATRIC TREATMENT: NUMBER OF CORRECT TREATMENT FORMULATIONS AVAILABLE TO TREAT CHILDREN: 0

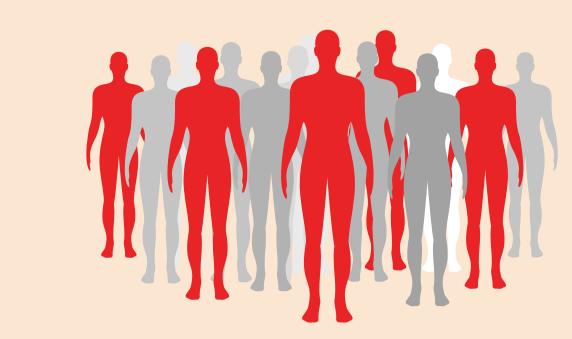
> WE URGENTLY NEED DRUGS THAT CAN BE TAKEN BY CHILDREN



UNREGULATED TREATMENT OF TB IS A HUGE PROBLEM AND ADDS TO THE GROWTH OF DRUG-RESISTANT STRAINS. HERE'S WHY.

When treatment is inadequate or poorly administered, the drug-resistant strain of TB can become dominant in an infected patient. This means that drug resistance is fuelled by bad practice and/or self treatment via drugs available on the private market. These established drug-resistant strains are then transmitted through a population, and are a significant source of new drug resistant cases.





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.

So how BIG a IS TB

