



**Republic of the Gambia
Ministry of Health
The Quadrangle
Banjul**

SEVENTY-NINTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER, GENEVA, 2026

Agenda Item: 12.3	Communicable diseases Ending TB as a public health problem
Documents	Documents A79/5 and EB158/2025/REC/1, decision EB158(3)
Requested action	Take note of the report and adopt the decision EB158(3)
Time limit	5 minute
Commission	A

Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Gambia aligned itself with statement deliver by Nigeria on behalf of the WHO African Region. The Gambia reaffirms its strong alignment with the WHO's global initiative to eradicate TB and the WHO End TB Strategy. This report highlights measurable progress in reducing the burden of TB through prevention, early detection, and effective treatment.

Since 2015, TB incidence in The Gambia has declined by 20% and TB-related mortality has reduced from 31 per 100,000 population in 2015 to 21 per 100,000 in 2024. The treatment success rate for new and relapse TB cases has consistently remained above 80 percent since 2015, reaching 87 percent in 2024.

In line with WHO recommendations, The Gambia has implemented key interventions to improve case detection and management of both drug-susceptible and drug-resistant TB. These include the nationwide use of molecular rapid diagnostics such as GeneXpert, the rollout of the WHO-recommended shorter BPaLM regimen for drug-resistant TB, and the provision of shorter TB preventive treatment regimens for eligible children and people living with HIV. These measures aim to improve early diagnosis, shorten treatment duration, and enhance patient adherence and outcomes.

To further strengthen service quality, The Gambia is piloting the Programme Quality and Efficiency (PQE) strategy in two hospitals. This approach focuses on systematic TB screening across clinical settings, ensuring that individuals presenting health facilities for any reason are appropriately screened and investigated if they show TB symptoms. The Gambia also emphasizes progress in addressing TB–HIV coinfection. In the 2024 TB patient cohort, more than 90 percent were counselled and tested for HIV, and over 90 percent of those diagnosed were enrolled on antiretroviral therapy.

The Gambia expresses gratitude to partners, including the Global Fund and WHO, and urges Member States to adopt decision EB158(3), reaffirming collective commitment to ending TB.

Thank you all.