Tuberculosis (TB) is the leading cause of illness and death among people living with HIV. TB can be cured.

- **1982** The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (the Union) sponsored the first World TB Day on 24 March, 100 years to the day since Robert Koch discovered the TB bacillus, the cause of TB. Dr Koch's discovery opened the way to diagnosing and curing TB.

- **1983** The first reports of an association between TB and HIV among people with AIDS in Haiti.

- **1985** Malawi uses a model for delivering antiretroviral therapy based on the TB model incorporating the DOTS principles. People with TB are offered HIV testing and given priority for antiretroviral therapy if eligible. During the year, 47% of registered people with TB accept HIV testing, 69% test positive and 90% start HIV treatment.

- **1986** The first reports of high HIV prevalence among people with TB in Africa from Zaire (the Democratic Republic of the Congo). Subsequent cases confirmed across sub-Saharan Africa.

- **1988** WHO and the UN recommend a joint approach to tackling TB and HIV.

- **1995** Data show that people living with HIV and active TB have higher viral loads and die sooner than people without TB.

- **1999** New WHO guidelines recommend that everyone with TB who is living with HIV should receive antiretroviral therapy, regardless of their CD4 count.

- **2000**–**2008** The overall TB response shows a cumulative total of 56 million people with TB successfully treated in DOTS programmes (the internationally recommended strategy for TB control), with up to 6 million deaths averted.

- **2002**–**2007** Data from Botswana indicate a decline in the number of TB cases reported nationwide that coincides with rapid roll-out of antiretroviral therapy. Improvements in Botswana’s national TB program during this same period, including case detection and reporting, mean that this decline probably reflects a true reduction in TB infections due to antiretroviral therapy.

- **2006** Jorge Sampaio, the former President of Portugal, is appointed as the United Nations Secretary-General’s first Special Envoy to Stop Tuberculosis.

- **2007** WHO convenes an urgent meeting to discuss the implications of a deadly outbreak of extensively drug-resistant TB among people living with HIV in South Africa. Extensively drug-resistant TB is resistant to the most important first- and second-line anti-TB drugs.

- **2009** New WHO guidelines recommend that everyone with TB who is living with HIV should receive antiretroviral therapy, regardless of their CD4 count.

- **2010** A study published in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene suggests that the Gambian pouched rat could be trained to detect the TB bacillus. Researchers hope that this 1.5 kg mammal, with a highly developed sense of smell, could one day be part of routine first-line screening for TB. The rats are already helping to detect landmines.

- **2015** Eric P. Goosby appointed as the United Nations Special Envoy on Tuberculosis.

- **2016** WHO recommendations announced to speed up detection and improve treatment outcomes for multidrug-resistant TB through use of a rapid diagnostic test and a shorter, cheaper treatment regimen.

- **2017** WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB, at which 120 national delegations adopt the Moscow Declaration to End TB.

- **2018** An estimated 58 million lives were saved through TB diagnosis and treatment between 2000 and 2018.