appear staggering despite a reasonably good performance. Three countries that are poised well to eliminating TB by 2030 are Maldives, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. Nepal too is doing well despite the twin challenges of its mountainous terrain and coping with a major natural disaster. Timor-Leste, though small in terms of absolute TB numbers, faces a major challenge in bringing down its incidence rate.

The overall success rate of tuberculosis treatment in the WHO South-East Asia Region stood at 79% in 2015, the lowest in the last five years, largely because, as mentioned before, India’s private sector healthcare system—accounting for a large proportion of TB patients—did not report to the National TB Programme. Of the recorded 2.7 million TB cases in the SEA Region, pulmonary tuberculosis and relapse cases accounted for 2.14 million.

Besides the high rate of relapse, the emergence of drug-resistant tuberculosis poses a major challenge to ending TB (Fig. 5) with traditional therapeutics. Only 52% of multi drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) patients worldwide were successfully treated. In SEAR less than half the MDR-TB cases (49%) were cured.

Globally, an estimated 250 000 people died of DR-TB in 2015. The number of MDR-TB cases detected worldwide represented only 37% of the estimated 340 000 MDR/RR-TB cases among pulmonary TB patients reported in 2015 and only 21.5% of the MDR-TB incidence cases. In SEA Region, the