

Staff Reporter

Bangladesh has successfully declined in tuberculosis (TB) and malaria death rates in the South Asia during 2000 to 2013, reducing their toll quicker than the global trend while HIV/AIDS mortality rates increased nearly 2 percent a year, says a new study.

The study, 'Global, regional, and national incidence and mortality for HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria during 1990-2013: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013', was conducted by an international consortium of researchers led by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington.

The findings of the study were published in *The Lancet*, the world's leading general medical journal and specialty journals in *Oncology*, *Neurology* and *Infectious Diseases*, on Tuesday.

"Bangladesh has worked hard to improve the diagnosis and treatment of TB. We've also invested in malaria control efforts, and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria provided important support for our national malaria program since 2007. Now we need to priorities our growing challenge with HIV/AIDS," said Dr Aliya Naheed, who is a co-author of the study and serves as an associate scientist at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research in Dhaka.

Today, fewer people are dying from TB and malaria in Bangladesh, according to a new, first-of-its kind analysis of trend data from 188 countries.

The pace of decline in deaths and infections has accelerated since 2000, when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established to stop the spread of these diseases by 2015. At the same time, more Bangladeshis are being infected with and dying from HIV/AIDS than in the past.

Globally, HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria kill fewer people than they have in the past, and declines in new cases and deaths from these diseases have accelerated since 2000.

Worldwide, deaths from HIV/AIDS declined at a rate of 1.5 percent between 2000 and 2013, while tuberculosis declined at a rate of 3.7 percent over the same period.

In contrast to global trends, deaths from HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh increased by a rate of 1.9 percent between 2000 and 2013. Deaths from tuberculosis and malaria have fallen at a faster rate than the global average at 6.7 percent (compared to 3.7 percent globally) and 11.1 percent (compared to 3.1 percent globally), respectively, between 2000 and 2013, according to the study.

After adjusting for differences in population size and ages across time, the researchers found that there were a total of 204 TB cases per 100,000 people in Bangladesh in 2013, and 193 new cases of TB per 100,000 were diagnosed that year. By comparison, there were 7 cases of HIV/AIDS per 100,000 in Bangladesh in 2013, and less than 1 new infection per 100,000 for that year.

In Bangladesh, new cases of HIV/AIDS and deaths from the disease primarily occurred in males. In 2013, there were 390 deaths from HIV/AIDS in males compared to 181 in females. TB deaths and new infections in Bangladesh were also largely concentrated in males; total TB deaths last year involved 12,257 males compared to 3,288 females. Similarly, new cases and deaths from HIV and tuberculosis are more common in males at the global level.

The study also assessed trends in annual malaria cases and deaths throughout the world. From 2000 to 2013, Bangladesh had a large decline in malaria deaths, dropping from 114 in 2000 to 32 in 2013. Less pronounced progress was found for rates of malaria cases, with Bangladesh

consistently recording between 122 to 127 cases per 100,000 between 2000 and 2013. The global malaria epidemic peaked in the early 2000s, at 232 million cases in 2003 and 1.2 million deaths in 2004. Worldwide, there were 164.9 million malaria cases and 854,566 deaths due to malaria in 2013.