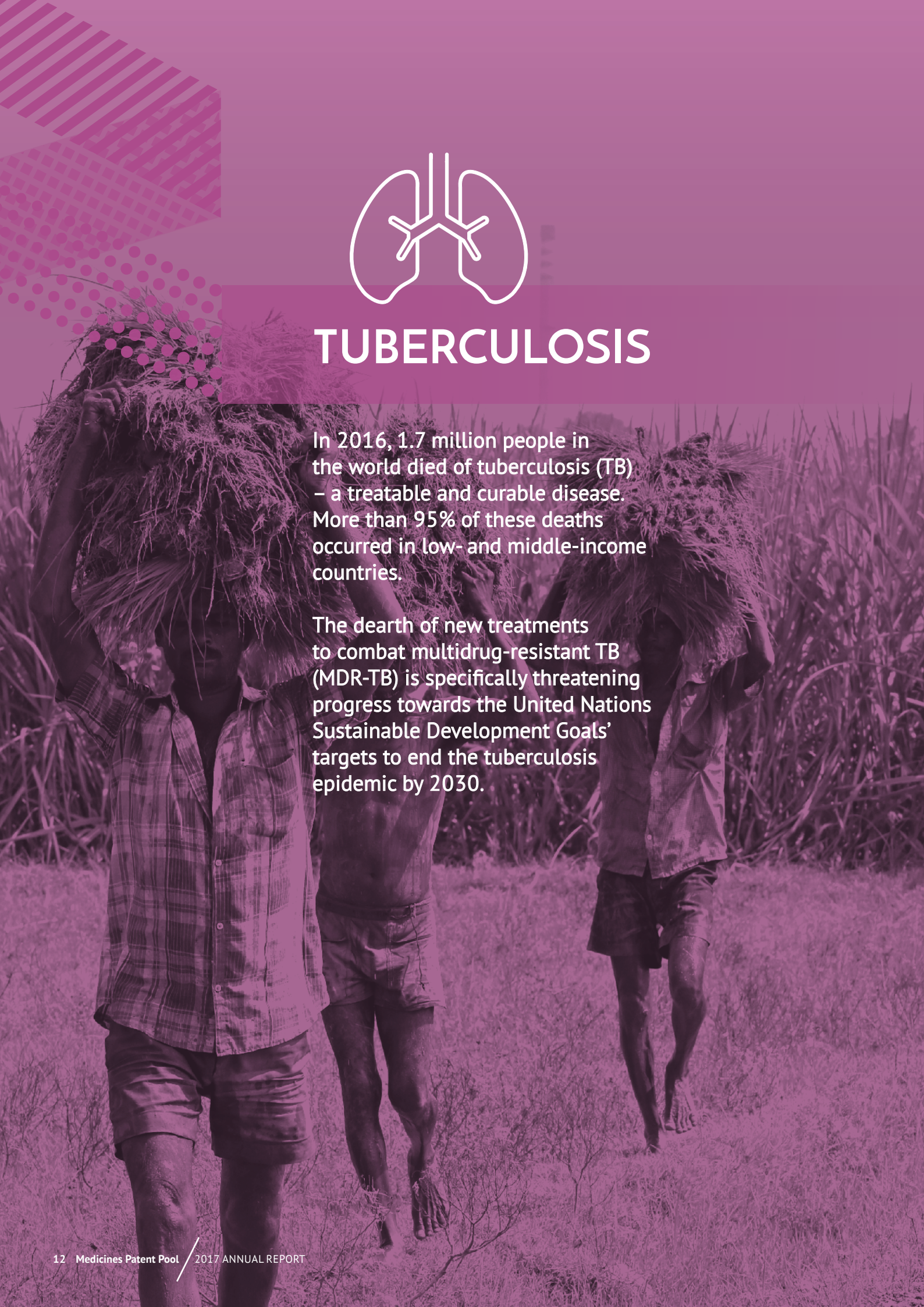

TUBERCULOSIS

In 2016, 1.7 million people in the world died of tuberculosis (TB) – a treatable and curable disease. More than 95% of these deaths occurred in low- and middle-income countries.

The dearth of new treatments to combat multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) is specifically threatening progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals' targets to end the tuberculosis epidemic by 2030.

"Unitaid strongly supports the TB Alliance-Medicines Patent Pool collaboration to jump-start the clinical development of the new tuberculosis treatment sutezolid. This World Tuberculosis Day, we must re-double efforts to find better, faster-acting treatment solutions, especially for resistant forms of the disease."

Lelio Marmora, Executive Director of Unitaid, 24 March 2017.

The MPP's Role in Improving Tuberculosis Treatment Access

Agreement with Johns Hopkins University

In January 2017, the MPP signed its first licence for a tuberculosis treatment with Johns Hopkins University to facilitate the clinical development of sutezolid. The antibiotic sutezolid has long been considered a promising investigational treatment that could be used to more effectively treat both drug-sensitive and drug-resistant TB in patients.

The university granted the MPP an exclusive, royalty-free licence. The agreement covers all countries that have current or pending patent issues for a combination therapy comprising sutezolid along with two additional TB compounds such as delamanid and bedaquilline.

Sublicence with TB Alliance

The MPP signed a sublicensing agreement with TB Alliance to support the development of sutezolid in March. The two organisations signed a follow-up memorandum of understanding to encourage the involvement of third-party investigators in the clinical evaluation of the compound.

Memorandum of Understanding with Otsuka

To accelerate the development, manufacturing of, and access to paediatric formulations containing delamanid for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), in October, the MPP signed a memorandum of understanding with research-based pharmaceutical company Otsuka Novel Products GmbH. Areas of collaboration include seeking funding to finance the development of paediatric formulations, licensing activities and possible further collaboration in the field of MDR-TB treatment. Delamanid 50mg tablet was added to the WHO's Essential Medicines List for Children to treat MDR-TB in June 2017.

48th Union World Conference side event

The MPP convened a symposium at the 48th Union World Conference on Lung Health in Mexico City in October on *The role of public health licences to accelerate development and access to tuberculosis drugs*. This session reviewed the experience of MPP's first tuberculosis licence. Panellists also explored how new research and development initiatives could be instrumental in encouraging the development of TB regimens that could potentially treat all forms of the disease.

"The World Health Organization welcomes the new licensing agreement between the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) and Johns Hopkins University to facilitate the clinical development of the TB drug candidate sutezolid. The MPP-Johns Hopkins University agreement is an extraordinary step as it seeks to jump-start currently stalled development on a compound that showed promise in early stage trials."

Mario Raviglione, Director of the Global TB Programme at the World Health Organization.

"This open licence [for Johns Hopkins University's sutezolid] is both the first for the MPP in the field of TB, as well as the first of its kind for TB. It marks a significant step in public health-oriented licensing and the collaborative approach needed to develop new and more effective drugs against TB and particularly its drug-resistant strains such as multidrug-resistant (MDR-TB) and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB)."

International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease.