Enabling a China Without TB

Johnson & Johnson Global Public Health and Janssen China are collaborating with the Chinese Government and other organizations to end tuberculosis (TB) and combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the country.

THE CHALLENGE

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there were about 823,000 cases of TB in China in 2021, which is the 4th highest TB burden in the world after India, Russia and Pakistan.1 Growing resistance to commonly-used TB medicines is compounding this challenge. In 2021, there were about 33,000 new cases of multidrug-resistant/ rifampicin-resistant TB (MDR/RR-TB) in China. However, only about 16,100 (49%) of these MDR/RR-TB cases were diagnosed and 12,877 were enrolled in treatment in 2021.1

To build a TB-free China, it will be essential to accelerate the development and delivery of new innovations from the lab to the last mile of health to reach more patients.

ACTION TO END TB

Johnson & Johnson has been a committed partner in China’s fight against MDR-TB since 2011, supporting TB prevention and control efforts as part of the country’s twelfth and thirteenth Five-Year Plans, as well as the four-year Action Plan to End Tuberculosis.

In 2016, Janssen China received approval for its MDR-TB medicine – the first TB drug to be approved in more than 40 years. Since 2019, the drug has become a core component of the updated MDR-TB treatment guidelines in China. To scale patient access, in collaboration with the Government of China, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Clinical Center on TB of the China Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC), we launched a program in 2018 called the New Drug Introduction & Protection Program (NDIP) to ensure appropriate use of the new treatment by designating at least one MDR-TB hospital in each of China’s 31 provinces to prescribe it during its first year alone. Johnson & Johnson also provided our MDR-TB medicine through a four-year donation program in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), including China, in 2018-2020. Today our medicine is available in China to patients in need through reimbursement and patient assistance programs.

Additionally, Johnson & Johnson is pursuing its commitment to end TB in China by working closely with its collaborators in the country. This includes working with the International Health Exchange and Cooperation Center of the National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China and the China CDC to encourage health-seeking behavior and improve early diagnosis, in addition to raising awareness through public awareness campaigns on World TB Day featuring government leaders, experts and celebrities.

These efforts are part of a comprehensive 10-year TB initiative launched by Johnson & Johnson in September 2018 focused on enabling access to treatment regimens, finding the “missing millions” and accelerating the development of next-generation TB treatments.

GLOBAL PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

First novel medicine for TB in more than 40 years, approved in 72 countries

600K+ courses of treatment delivered to MDR-TB patients in 158 countries, including all 30 high-burden countries

Donating 105K courses of treatment to eligible countries through a four-year donation program from 2015-2019 with USAID and JSC Pharmstandard, implemented through the Stop TB Partnership’s Global Drug Facility

COLLABORATING AT EVERY LEVEL IN CHINA

Johnson & Johnson is taking a holistic approach to ending TB by improving case detection, training healthcare professionals to better manage TB and MDR-TB, raising awareness of TB and reducing stigma among the general public, as well as collaborating to accelerate affordable access to treatment.

ACCESS
Provided our MDR-TB treatment free-of-charge to patients in China through a donation program (2018-2020); since 2020, the medicine is partially reimbursed for patients in China through the Government Procurement Program and also provided through a patient assistance program to the poorest areas of Tibet, Xinjiang, Qinghai, Gansu, Yunnan and Sichuan autonomous regions and provinces, covering in total nearly three-quarters of the MDR-TB patient population in China.

APPROPRIATE USE
Partnering with the National TB Program via the NDIP to educate HCPs about the appropriate use of our medicine to ensure its long-term effectiveness.
In early 2020 at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, established a digital-driven innovative HCP engagement program called the TB e-Communication Platform, which attracted and engaged over 2,300 HCPs from 1,080 hospitals in 31 provinces.
In 2022, provided 800 education training sessions on standardized MDR-TB diagnosis and treatment, which have reached over 9,000 HCPs.

PATIENT MANAGEMENT
Set up a patient support program called ‘To Be Safe’ with the China Primary Health Care Foundation to manage and support MDR-TB patients via online nurse follow-ups and TB physician consultations. Since 2020, ‘To Be Safe’ has published 187 disease articles and carried out more than 360 patient education sessions, covering more than 11,500 viewers and attracting more than 2,700 followers on social media.

PATIENT FINDING
Partnered with the National Health Commission and China CDC via a Strategic Partnership Program to improve TB/RR-TB case detection in 22 counties of 3 western provinces, covering 10 million people, from 2018-2021.
From 2021-2022, collaborated with the National Center for Infectious Diseases to establish an Infectious Disease Ecosystem Program across 60 counties to improve MDR-TB case detection and referral rates in collaboration with diagnostics companies.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS
Since 2017, have leveraged World TB Day to conduct awareness campaigns on MDR-TB; in 2022, collaborated with important stakeholders on a World TB Day campaign, including Mrs. Peng Liyuan, Goodwill Ambassador of WHO for TB and AIDS Prevention and Control, which generated 388 million media impressions across more than 1,000 articles focused on MDR-TB prevention and treatment within a 24-hour period.

ABOUT J&J GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH
Through a dedicated global public health (GPH) organization that combines R&D, global access strategies and programs, and local operations, Johnson & Johnson is putting the world’s most vulnerable and underserved at the heart of everything we do—measuring our success in lives improved. As a team of innovators, we are committed to pioneering and sustainably delivering meaningful and transformational products.
Upholding the rich heritage of Johnson & Johnson, we are taking on the toughest challenges, and, ultimately, we hope to do our part to close the gap of inequity and pave the way to a healthier, more equitable future.

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