

# Focus On: Tuberculosis (TB)

## Enabling a world free from the burden of TB

Johnson & Johnson Global Public Health is supporting global efforts to end tuberculosis and combat antimicrobial resistance by expanding treatment access, improving patient diagnosis and accelerating R&D.



### THE CHALLENGE

There are 1.7 billion people infected with the TB bacteria worldwide and approximately 10 million new cases of active TB each year.<sup>1</sup> Despite being preventable and curable, TB was the world's deadliest infectious disease in 2019, killing 1.4 million people. Now, as COVID-19 disrupts already-fragile systems for TB treatment and care around the world, modeling studies estimate that the pandemic could lead to an additional 6.3 million TB cases and 1.4 million TB deaths by 2025.<sup>2</sup> Underserved communities bear the largest burden, with more than 95% of TB-related deaths occurring in low- and middle-income countries.<sup>3</sup>

The continued rise of drug resistance is compounding this challenge. In 2019, there were nearly half a million estimated new cases of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB),<sup>1</sup> and drug-resistant TB now accounts for nearly one-third of all deaths from antimicrobial resistance (AMR).<sup>4</sup> Almost half of the world's MDR-TB cases occur in three countries: India, China and the Russian Federation.<sup>1</sup>

### OUR RESPONSE

In 2012, Johnson & Johnson received accelerated U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for the first medicine with a novel mechanism of action against TB in more than 40 years.

Since then, we have worked with partners to ensure that our MDR-TB medicine is available, affordable and accessible to patients in need. We are supporting high-burden countries to raise awareness around TB, improve diagnostic capacity, train health workers, and ensure appropriate use of our medicine to help prevent resistance from developing. Additionally, we are forging partnerships to improve identification and treatment of children living with TB.

We are also advancing TB R&D. In May 2020, we received FDA approval for the pediatric formulation of our MDR-TB medicine. Further, we are collaborating to develop shorter, safer and more effective drugs and treatment regimens that will be needed to reach the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of ending TB by 2030.

In 2018, Johnson & Johnson announced a comprehensive 10-year TB initiative focused on treatment access, patient finding and R&D. In October 2019, we committed \$500 million over four years to spur the development and delivery of TB and HIV innovations. Together, these pledges signify our continued commitment to tackling TB for years to come.

### BY THE NUMBERS

Our progress on scaling up access to our MDR-TB medicine:



Courses of MDR-TB medication delivered



Free courses through 4-year donation program



Countries accessing our medicine, including the 30 highest-burden countries



Countries in which our new medicine has been approved

1. WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2020. Available here: [https://www.who.int/tb/publications/global\\_report/en/](https://www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report/en/). Last accessed 14 October 2020.  
 2. Stop TB Partnership Report: The Potential Impact of the COVID-19 Response on Tuberculosis in High Burden Countries: A Modeling Analysis. Available here: [http://www.stoptb.org/assets/documents/news/Modeling%20Report\\_1%20May%202020\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.stoptb.org/assets/documents/news/Modeling%20Report_1%20May%202020_FINAL.pdf). Last accessed 29 September 2020. 3. WHO Fact Sheet: Tuberculosis. Available here: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tuberculosis>. Last accessed 22 September 2020. 4. Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Report: It's Time to End Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis The case for action. 2019 Available here: <https://www.eiu.com/graphics/marketing/pdfs/time-to-end-drug-resistant-tuberculosis-tui-report.pdf>. Last accessed 22 September 2020.

## 10-YEAR COMMITMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Johnson & Johnson is working closely with governments and local partners in high-burden countries such as India, China, South Africa, Ukraine and Indonesia to end TB. Examples of our efforts include:



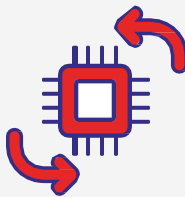
### DISCOVERY & DEVELOPMENT

Invested significantly in the clinical development of our MDR-TB medicine, working both internally and with partners around the world to develop new treatments and regimens.



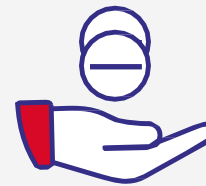
### AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Increasing community awareness of MDR-TB through a documentary series, a campaign with MTV Staying Alive Foundation in India and public service announcements.



### DETECTION

Supporting countries to enhance early TB diagnosis and ensure that patients are connected with proper treatment.



### ACCESS

Facilitating access to treatment for hundreds of thousands of people with MDR-TB by offering our medicine at a not-for-profit price via the Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility.



### APPROPRIATE USE

Collaborating with national TB programs to ensure our treatment is used appropriately to reduce the risk of resistance developing.



### MEDICAL EDUCATION

Training of more than 20,000 healthcare providers on the appropriate treatment of care of people with MDR-TB.

## How We Partner

Working alongside more than 50 partners, Johnson & Johnson helps convene people affected by TB, governments, multilaterals, global health institutions, donors, the private sector and civil society in the fight against TB. These collaborations range from bilateral projects to larger multi-sectoral coalitions – and we always put people living with the disease at the center of everything we do.

## OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Johnson & Johnson is engaged in a wide range of TB partnerships. Below are a few examples of how we are collaborating to make an impact.

### Delivering Our Medicines

Since 2015, Johnson & Johnson has worked with the Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility (GDF) to deliver our MDR-TB medicine to those in need, starting with a 4-year donation program in collaboration with USAID and JSC Pharmstandard. Today, our medicine is available at a not-for-profit price to more than 135 countries through GDF.

### Raising Awareness in India

Johnson & Johnson worked with the [MTV Staying Alive Foundation](#) to support a youth-focused "edutainment" campaign – including a radio program and 13-part TV drama series – to raise awareness and reduce stigma around TB among young people in India.

### Ending Workplace TB

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, the Stop TB Partnership, World Economic Forum and the private sector have [come together](#) to leverage the untapped potential of businesses in high-burden countries and roll out awareness, detection and treatment programs to reach workers, their families and communities.

### Reaching the Most Underserved

Johnson & Johnson has established partnerships with organizations – like PATH in Vietnam and Aquity Innovations in South Africa – to identify and treat children and adolescents living with TB, who are among the most vulnerable populations in this global epidemic.

### Connecting with Cities

Johnson & Johnson works closely with Harvard Medical School to partner with cities across China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Thailand, creating comprehensive local TB programs and building a new global alliance – Zero TB Cities – for DR-TB elimination.



# The Future of TB Care

## Transforming the fight against TB

Achieving the global goal of ending TB will require innovation in both treatment and delivery of care. We have made significant progress, but must continue striving for more universal, shorter and simpler treatment options and work to bring quality TB care closer to patients' homes, especially as COVID-19 disrupts continuity of care globally.

As an industry leader, Johnson & Johnson is both spearheading global R&D partnerships and supporting community-based, patient-centered approaches to chart a new way forward for TB care during the pandemic and beyond.

### Innovating in the Lab

In addition to a research programme in our own labs to discover and develop innovative new treatments for TB, we are driving R&D through collaborations with leading global health organizations.

#### INNOVATIVE MEDICINES INITIATIVE (IMI)

In a series of initiatives which are part of the EU's IMI AMR Drug Accelerator, we are both leading and actively supporting several consortia of academic institutions, public research organizations and pharmaceutical companies to discover and develop new compounds to treat TB, from early discovery to late stage clinical trials.

#### PROJECT TO ACCELERATE NEW TREATMENTS FOR TUBERCULOSIS (PAN-TB)

As a founding member of a consortium of non-profit, philanthropic and private sector organizations, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Johnson & Johnson is accelerating the research and development of novel, universal, short-duration TB drug regimens to be ready for phase 3 development.

### Innovating to Meet New Challenges

COVID-19 has seriously disrupted and weakened already-fragile systems of delivering care to people living with TB, illustrating a clear need for innovation to help ensure continuity of care both during the pandemic and beyond.

To address this, Johnson & Johnson and JLABS launched the **DR-TB Lifeline QuickFire Challenge**, issuing a global call for community-based, patient-centered solutions for ensuring continuity of care. Five awardees were selected, with solutions which will help bring care into the homes of people with DR-TB in high-burden countries like India, Kenya, the Philippines and Ukraine.

## 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 transformation 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 future for the world's most vulnerable and underserved populations.