Working Together Toward a TB-Free India

Johnson & Johnson is collaborating with the Government of India and other partners to comprehensively address the challenge of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in India.

THE CHALLENGE

In 2019, there were an estimated 2.64 million cases of tuberculosis (TB) in India.1 India has the highest burden of TB in the world, accounting for more than a quarter of all cases worldwide.1 Growing resistance to commonly-used TB medicines is compounding this challenge. India now experiences approximately 124,000 new cases of drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) every year,1 more than any other country. Unfortunately, only 66,255 patients were diagnosed,1 and 56,569 patients started on treatment in 2019.1 To make TB history in India and around the world, it will be essential to accelerate the development and delivery of new innovations and creative solutions to help reach more patients.

ACTION TO END TB

The Government of India has a bold vision for a TB-free India by 2025, as outlined in its National Strategic Plan for TB Elimination. At Johnson & Johnson, we are fully committed to partnering with the government to combat DR-TB at all levels.

In 2015, Johnson & Johnson introduced our antibiotic for pulmonary multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB), in India. It was the first TB medicine with a novel mechanism of action to be introduced in the country in more than 40 years. To support the government’s efforts to build capacity for its introduction, we donated more than 22,000 courses of the medicine through a global donation program operated in partnership with USAID. Now our medicine is available to nearly 140 countries including India at a not-for-profit price through Stop TB Partnership’s Global Drug Facility.

Additionally, Johnson & Johnson has supported efforts to strengthen healthcare delivery systems, by training health workers, improving diagnostic capacity, and supporting efforts to raise awareness and reduce stigma around TB at the community level. Beyond this, we are accelerating TB research and development (R&D) to discover innovative next-generation treatments and other tools that will be needed to reach the global goal of ending TB.

These efforts are part of a comprehensive 10-year TB initiative launched by Johnson & Johnson in September 2018. With a focus on treatment access, patient finding and R&D, the Company aims to help save 1.8 million lives and prevent 12 million infections globally over the next decade.

GLOBAL PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- First novel medicine for TB in more than 40 years; approved in 67 countries
- Over 388K courses of treatment delivered for MDR-TB patients in 145 countries, including the 30 highest-burden countries (as of May 2021)
- Donating 105K courses of treatment to eligible countries through a four-year donation program with USAID and JSC Pharmstandard, implemented through the Stop TB Partnership’s Global Drug Facility

COLLABORATING AT EVERY LEVEL

J&J is working with the Government of India and other partners to take a holistic approach to ending TB by accelerating affordable access to treatment, supporting health systems strengthening efforts, raising awareness and reducing stigma around TB among the general public, and driving cutting-edge research and development.

ACCESS
Committed to provide more than 22,000 courses of our medicine free-of-charge for Indian patients seeking treatment in the 148 specialized DR-TB centres and 428 district-level DR-TB centres.

APPROPRIATE USE
Partnering with the Revised National TB Control Program (RNTCP) to ensure safe and appropriate use of our medicine, which is critical to help prevent the emergence of antibiotic resistance (AMR).

INNOVATION
Launched the DR-TB Lifeline Quickfire Challenge to identify and fund innovative solutions for continuity of DR-TB care during COVID-19. Two of the five awardees were Indian NGOs.

DETECTION & TESTING
Funding state governments and NGOs to provide nearly 50,000 X-ray tests, approx. 32,000 molecular tests, and 4,600 pre-evaluation tests and to build the capacity of six culture and drug sensitivity testing labs—w ith the goal of enabling early diagnosis.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS
Supported community awareness campaigns that have involved the display of TB related messages on 24,000 auto-rickshaws, 21,000 buses, 200 taxis, 53 trains, 6 radio stations, 112 theatre screens and through 590 street plays.

MASS MEDIA CAMPAIGN
Supported a youth-focused edutainment campaign, in partnership with The MTV Staying Alive Foundation, that leveraged TV, radio and digital platforms to raise awareness and reduce stigma around TB. 10 million people reached through TV.

MAKE IN INDIA
Partnering with Recipharm & Dishman India to locally manufacture our MDR-TB medicine for use in India and globally.

MEDICAL EDUCATION
Supported the training of more than 15,000 healthcare professionals, to date, in clinical management of TB and MDR-TB across ten high-burden states.

NUTRITION
Provided nutritional support to approx. 6,000 TB and MDR-TB patients to improve treatment outcomes (2016–2019).

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.

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