

# Working Together Toward a TB-Free South Africa

Johnson & Johnson is working with the Government of South Africa and other partners to comprehensively address the challenge of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis



## THE CHALLENGE

Despite being preventable and curable, in 2018 tuberculosis (TB) was the world's deadliest infectious disease, claiming 1.5 million lives.<sup>1</sup> Growing resistance to the most commonly-used TB medicines is compounding this challenge.

South Africa is one of the countries hardest hit by the TB epidemic. There were approximately 300,000 new cases of TB in 2018, more than half of which are among people living with HIV/AIDS – which compromises the immune system and increases a person's risk of developing active TB, once infected with the bacteria. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 11,000 people in South Africa developed drug-resistant TB in 2018 – around 85% of which started on second-line treatment.<sup>1</sup>

## ACTION TO END TB

The South African government has shown tremendous commitment to combatting drug-resistant TB. They have set ambitious targets for diagnosing and treating patients, backed by concrete action. Moreover, in June 2018, they became the first country in the world to recommend an all-oral treatment regimen for all MDR-TB patients, unless contraindicated – replacing injectables that are known to cause toxic side effects, such as hearing loss.

Johnson & Johnson is a committed partner in South Africa's efforts to tackle TB. In 2012, we received accelerated approval for the first novel TB medicine in more than 40 years. Since then, we have worked closely with the South African government and other partners to accelerate its introduction, with a focus on capacity building. Our efforts to date have focused on training health workers, improving diagnostic capacity and patient data collection, and raising awareness at the community level.

## GLOBAL PROGRAM AT A GLANCE



First novel medicine for TB in more than **40 years**; approved in **67 countries**



More than **388K courses of treatment** delivered to MDR-TB patients in 145 countries, including all 30 high-burden countries (as of May 2021)



Working closely with governments and partners to **build capacity to tackle MDR-TB** in high-burden countries, including South Africa

 [jnj.com/TB](https://www.jnj.com/TB)

1. WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2019. Available here: [https://www.who.int/tb/publications/global\\_report/en/](https://www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report/en/). Last accessed 10 September 2020.

## COLLABORATING AT EVERY LEVEL

J&J is working with the Government of South Africa 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 among the general public.



### ACCESS

Providing access to our MDR-TB medicine at a not-for-profit price to enable access for patients in need; to date over 45,000 patients in South Africa have received our medicine



### APPROPRIATE USE

Working closely with the government and other partners to ensure appropriate stewardship of our medicine to help prevent resistance from developing, including through strong surveillance programs



### PATIENT FINDING

Partnering with various stakeholders to increase social awareness in communities and health care facilities to encourage individuals to seek testing and treatment



### MEDICAL EDUCATION

Training over 2,000 healthcare professionals on the clinical management of TB and MDR-TB; providing ECG machines and ototoxicity testing to support appropriate treatment



### DATA GENERATION

Collecting safety, efficacy and drug resistance data of our MDR-TB medicine to monitor treatment outcomes; real-world evidence generated in South Africa helped inform new WHO guidelines for MDR-TB treatment



### AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Leveraging World TB Day and other milestones and platforms to increase public awareness of MDR-TB (e.g., THIBA docuseries in partnership with USAID and South African Broadcasting Corporation; airport activations with USAID and Mango Airlines)



### PATIENT SUPPORT

Providing support to families of paediatric patients with hearing loss and equipping patients with infection control packages to prevent household transmission.

## 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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