



Notes to editors

Local market quotes

VIETNAM

Associate Professor Nguyen Viet Nhung, Director of the National Lung Hospital and Manager of the National Tuberculosis Program in Vietnam, said, “Vietnam’s TB burden remains high. TB treatment coverage was only at 58% in 2020, driven by barriers such as missing TB cases and inadequate TB prevention. We welcome the partnership from a global healthcare leader like Johnson & Johnson, alongside our work with local authorities, agencies and civil organisations to accelerate the progression to end TB in Vietnam, and ensure that no one is left behind.”

THAILAND

Dr. Phalin Kamolwat, Director of the Department of Disease Control's Bureau of Tuberculosis and Manager of the National Tuberculosis Program in Thailand, said, “Thailand recently transitioned out of the list of high-burden countries for drug resistant TB¹. However, it is still in the top 30 highest TB burden countries, as gaps remain in case notification for TB during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, there were 105,000 TB incidences in Thailand, but only 85,837 of these cases were detected.² Thailand plans to recover its case notification efforts by increasing capacity, facilitate greater collaboration, and leveraging existing resources from ongoing COVID-19 efforts, and we welcome the partnership from a global healthcare leader like Johnson & Johnson in our fight to end TB in Thailand.”

INDONESIA

Dr. Tiffany Tiara Pakasi, Manager of the National Tuberculosis Program in Indonesia (Ministry of Health of The Republic of Indonesia), said, “While Indonesia has made great progress over the last few years in terms of improving access to care for those affected by TB, we still rank third for the incidence of TB globally. We welcome the partnership from a global healthcare leader and partner like Johnson & Johnson, which will support the ongoing efforts urgently needed to end TB in Indonesia.”

PHILIPPINES

Dr. Anna Marie Celina Garfin, Manager of the National Tuberculosis Program in the Philippines, said, “As a nation, we aspire for a TB-free Philippines. The Philippines is still one of the top 30 highest TB burden countries, as gaps remain in case notification for TB nationally. Notably, case notification rate decreased by 37% in 2020. Guided by our Philippine Strategic TB Elimination Plan (PhilSTEP) for 2020 – 2023, we will continue to innovate actions, adopt new technologies, and collaborate with local and international partners including Johnson & Johnson, to show unity in the global efforts to end this long-standing pandemic. I strongly believe that through collaborative and unified efforts, we have a better chance to end the devastating effects of TB.”

About TB

TB is a respiratory disease that claimed 1.5 million lives in 2020, more than any other infectious disease prior to the emergence of COVID-19. It is also the 13th leading cause of death worldwide. Incidence and deaths due to TB have been declining steadily over the last several years as a result of intensified activities by high-burden countries to find people with TB early and provide appropriate treatment. However, for the first time in over a decade, [TB deaths have increased](#) because of reduced access to TB diagnosis and treatment in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹ World Health Organization (2021). [Significant Milestone of Ending TB: WHO announces Thailand is no longer listed in high-burden countries for drug resistant TB.](#)

² Global TB Report 2021, WHO / DTB, DDC, MoPH-Thailand.



About Multidrug-Resistant TB (MDR-TB)

Annually, [close to half a million people worldwide developed drug-resistant TB \(DR-TB\)](#). Growing resistance to the most commonly used drugs is compounding the public health challenge posed by TB. Multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) – a form of TB that does not respond to at least isoniazid and rifampicin, the two most powerful anti-TB drugs – remains a public health crisis and a health security threat. Globally in 2020, 71% of people diagnosed with bacteriologically confirmed pulmonary TB were tested for rifampicin resistance, up from 61% in 2019. Improvements in diagnosis and treatment rates are needed to help control the DR-TB epidemic. In 2020, only about one in three people with drug resistant TB accessed treatment.

Johnson & Johnson's Commitment to TB

Johnson & Johnson has been a committed partner in the global fight against TB for more than two decades. In 2012, Johnson & Johnson introduced the first novel TB medicine in nearly half a century, which is now helping to transform treatment for multidrug-resistant TB. To date, Johnson & Johnson has provided more than nearly 450,000 courses of treatment to 148 countries, including the 30 countries with the highest burden of MDR-TB.

In September 2018, Johnson & Johnson announced a [comprehensive 10-year initiative](#) in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal target of ending the TB pandemic by 2030. The initiative aims to improve the global detection of undiagnosed TB cases, broaden access to treatment for MDR-TB and accelerate R&D to develop new tools that will be needed to end TB. Building on these efforts, in October 2019, the Company announced its commitment to invest [USD \\$500 million](#) to help end the TB and HIV epidemics.

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About Johnson & Johnson

At Johnson & Johnson, we believe good health is the foundation of vibrant lives, thriving communities and forward progress. That's why for more than 130 years, we have aimed to keep people well at every age and every stage of life. Today, as the world's largest and most broadly-based healthcare company, we are committed to using our reach and size for good. We strive to improve access and affordability, create healthier communities, and put a healthy mind, body and environment within reach of everyone, everywhere. We are blending our heart, science and ingenuity to profoundly change the trajectory of health for humanity. Learn more at www.jnj.com/tb, and follow us at [@jnjglobalhealth](https://twitter.com/jnjglobalhealth).

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