

# Devastating effect of COVID-19 on tuberculosis management and care

The World Health Organization (WHO) Global Tuberculosis Report 2021 revealed worsening case notification and increased tuberculosis mortality due to pandemic-associated-service disruptions. As of December 31, 2021, about 8% and 76% of the people in low-income and high-income countries received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, respectively. Approximately, 18% decrease of the estimated tuberculosis cases from 2019, particularly China, India, Indonesia, and the Philippines with healthcare service disruptions and major COVID-19 outbreak was demonstrated. Negative COVID-19-pandemic-associated effects included 15% decrease in number of drug-resistant-tuberculosis cases, 21% reduction in number of tuberculosis-preventive-treatment cases, and around 1.5 million tuberculosis death worldwide in 2020, contributing to off-tracking of the United Nations (UN) high-level meeting on 2022-tuberculosis-target establishment. By driving and ongoing COVID-19 surges in low- and middle-income countries, decrease in tuberculosis incidence dramatically have slowed.<sup>1</sup> By failure in targeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)'s tuberculosis mortality in 2030 would lead to vast economic and health losses.<sup>2</sup>

In conclusion, tuberculosis-field-working people should support the WHO plans and the Group of 20 Rome leaders' declaration of both COVID-19 (70% of the world populations vaccinated by mid-2022) and tuberculosis. Tuberculosis programs should learn the real-time COVID-19 dashboards that are widely available.

## References

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