

INDONESIA TB RECOVERY PLAN TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has had far-reaching effects on the global tuberculosis (TB) response, threatening to erase years of progress. In Indonesia, there was a **42 percent decline**¹ in TB case notifications and a **13 percent decline**² in drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) case notifications in 2020, compared to 2019. To address these concerning declines, USAID developed this TB Recovery Plan³ in support of the National TB Program’s (NTP) larger efforts to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on the country’s TB response. Table 1 below provides detail on the interventions that USAID will support to address TB setbacks and make progress towards the United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB (UNHLM) targets. USAID is dedicating **\$5,400,000** in assistance towards the recovery plan activities described below.⁴ This is expected to contribute to an estimated 380,000 TB case notifications and an estimated 7,700 DR-TB case notifications in 2021.⁵ These activities were planned in coordination with and are complementary to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria’s recovery efforts.

Table 1: Snapshot of USAID-supported TB activities to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.

TB activities most affected by COVID-19	USAID-supported Key Interventions
Deprioritization of TB activities within the health system	High-level and community advocacy at the Ministry of Health (MoH), parliamentarian, and Head of State level on the importance of prioritizing TB and achieving Indonesia’s UNHLM targets.
Decreased access to TB healthcare services	Accelerate efforts to ensure that national messaging on the availability and safety of TB services are properly disseminated.
	Scale-up community-based campaigns to increase healthcare seeking behaviors and remind healthcare providers of the importance of continuing to provide TB care and service delivery during COVID-19.
	Build the capacity of pharmacists to recognize TB symptoms by: scaling up activities to raise TB awareness among private and public sector pharmacists using existing platforms (e.g. SwipeRx); and expanding an e-referral model for patients presenting at pharmacies with TB symptoms.

¹ Based on data collected by the World Health Organization.

² Based on data collected by the World Health Organization and National TB Program.

³ This TB Recovery Plan is implemented over a nine-month period from March to December 2021.

⁴ No additional funding was provided to USAID for implementation of this TB Recovery Plan. While there are other interventions that also require attention and resources, USAID prioritized support for key interventions that could produce the greatest impact on recovery efforts within existing, limited budget levels.

⁵ Given the uncertain trajectory of the COVID-19 epidemic, these plans are made with the assumption that the COVID-19 containment measures are successful in 2021.

TB activities most affected by COVID-19	USAID-supported Key Interventions
Decreased collection and/or processing of sputum samples for TB testing due to lack of personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers	Advocate for including additional PPE in operational costs and provide technical assistance (TA) to improve the PPE supply chain for TB healthcare workers including by working with other donors to ensure coordination.
	Implement biosafety assessments in TB laboratories to protect staff including sensitization and training on properly handling of potential TB and COVID-19 samples.
Decreased sputum transport services due to disruptions and challenges with the postal service	Provide TA to conduct spatial analyses to improve access to TB diagnostic services in priority districts, and to improve options for sputum transport systems including monitoring, financing, and training.
Absence of policy and adoption of standard procedures for simultaneous screening of TB and COVID-19	Advocate and provide TA (as necessary) to formalize, disseminate, and implement simultaneous TB and COVID-19 diagnostic algorithms.
	Scale up and improve existing simultaneous TB and COVID-19 screening activities in USAID supported healthcare facilities including by providing training to increase awareness among healthcare providers.
Decreased TB case notification	Establish a call center to assist health facilities in uploading data to the national TB Information system (SITB).
	Ensure timely data entry by providing TA, promoting systematic data validation, monthly meetings to discuss/check data submissions, etc.
	Expand interconnectivity of hospital information systems with SITB by building on existing platforms.
Reduced active case finding (ACF) and contact investigations	Introduce and scale up, as appropriate, virtual TB and DR-TB contact investigation using SOBAT TB app.
	Scale up community-based mobile clinics for TB screening by procuring portable Chest X-Ray (CXR) machines and providing TA on mobile laboratory models for targeted TB and COVID-19 screening.
	Advocate to District Health Office (DHO) for prioritization of intensified ACF activities including contact investigation.