

Communities underserved by the health system

Impact of COVID-19 on Hep B and TB Services

Pervaiz Tufail
TB and HepB Survivor

2021 Hep B United / TB Elimination Alliance



Context;

1. Approximately 72% of total detected global cases occurred in the first six months of 2021 alone;
2. Rising poverty, stark increases in gender-based violence (GBV), human rights abuses are few among the hallmarks of the current COVID-19 crisis;
3. This placed an extraordinary strain on health systems, especially where mobility and other government restrictions have interrupted essential health services;
4. Vaccines and treatments have been developed and approved for emergency use at an extraordinary rate, but excluding China, Brazil, and India;



Access to vaccines approved, authorized, or listed by a stringent regulatory body; vaccine confidence; and misinformation remain significant concerns.

Impact

Many people with TB, HIV, HCV and HBV left behind without access to diagnosis and proper care, and diversion of resources created problems;

- **TB targets will not be met:** TB progress is slowed almost to a halt, and this trend will be much worse in 2021 and 2022;
- **For the first time in over a decade,** TB deaths have *increased* because of reduced access to TB care during the pandemic; and it ***Reversed Years of Progress Made In The Fight to End TB;***
- **Number of missing people with TB Increased:** COVID disrupted health services for HIV, HVC, HVB and other diseases; and number of missing people with TB has significantly gone up;
- **Only 47 (36%) of all 132** respondents reported that people were able to access viral hepatitis testing, 46% reported being closure of testing facilities, and 34% on treatment for hepatitis were unable to access their medications;
- **Investments have fallen;** resources for TB have moved to COVID and 2022 is the year of the UN High-level meeting and will be falling short of many targets;

Following 3 months of COVID-19 quarantine and a 10-month restoration of services:

additional
TB cases between
2020 and 2025

6.3
MILLION

additional
TB deaths between
2020 and 2025

1.4
MILLION

Healio

A major disruption in TB case detection could result in an additional 400 000 lives lost.



1.49 MILLION
DEATHS, 2018
WORLDWIDE



1.85 MILLION
ESTIMATED
DEATHS, 2020
WORLDWIDE

Exposed Healthcare system capacity lacks and instability of basic health services

Impact Cont.....

Key Populations, Vulnerable communities suffered with limited or denied social, behavioral and economic indicators

- **Negligence of TB diagnosis under COVID cover;**
- **Covid Denied and Widened Gender Equality Gap; Women and Girls are the Verge of Suffering**
- **Immediate shocks of mobility and the seize of economy limit diagnosis, treatment and care;**
- **Delays in Vaccine Access will cost Lives and Money**
- **Political Upheaval has had similarly detrimental effects on the COVID-19 response**

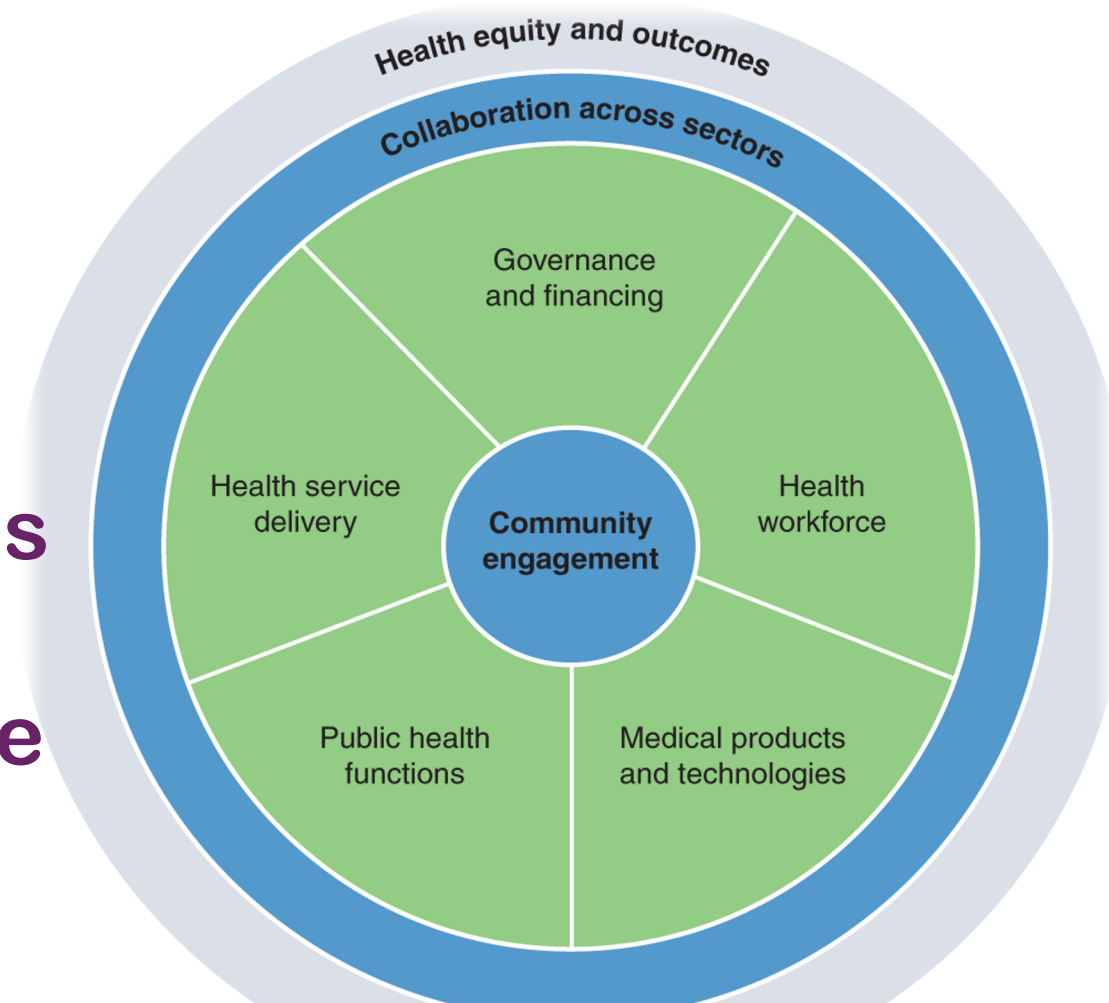


MOST IMPORTANTLY: Cancellation of GeneExpert Omni Commercialization

Innovative Approach

Innovative Ways

1. Community Engagement
2. Innovative Use of Science, Technologies and Innovations
3. TB33% Campaign
4. Wider Dissemination of Proven Scientific Knowledge - IEC



Don't Give Us Fish – Teach How to Catch Fish

1. Community Engagement & Empowerment

Community Engagement, Empowerment and Peer to Peer Approach

“The pandemic has however acutely shone a light on the importance of community engagement in public health.

- **Reachout to recovered** Covid, TB, HCV, HBV and HIV survivors community activists and engaging them in knowledge dissemination, contact tracing, and access to services by bridging communication, travel, services gap.
- **Organizations and service providers can promote** “Cash for Linkages Building, Cash for Referral, and Cash for Health Service Delivery” system lead by communities.



Empowered community will lessen the burden on healthcare system and professionals.

Global Community Engagement

Africa

Europe

Asia

South
America

North
America

Australia

ANTARCTICA



- 1. Global Community Task*
- 2. STBP Coordination Board – Community Representatives*
- 3. Community Delegation*
- 4. Community Focal Person*

- 1. TB, HBV Survivor Leadership Development*
- 2. Educating TB, HBV Survivors to Become Activists, Advocates and Champions for Transformative Change*

NOTHING US – WITHOU US!

2. Innovative Use of Technologies

COVID – 19 taught us innovations. Because of lock-downs, tremendous advances have been made in the area of tele-health, remote service provision, use of call centers, e-pharmacies, use of digital adherence technologies and home delivery medicines etc. In the short term, to restore TB, HIV, HCV, HBV services, we must invest more resources in technologies to leverage Covid-19 technologies and systems that can be effectively used to tackle healthcare and get it back on track. Thanks to the pandemic, great use of the expanded molecular testing capacity now exists in all countries. All of these can and should be leveraged for TB, HIV, HBV and HCV at a larger scale than what is currently happening. *GeneExpert Omni instrument is a great source that can give access to diagnosis and proper care to many people with TB, HIV, HCV, and COVID-19 in no time.*

Key Technologies and Links



- ✓ **WHO compendium of 24 innovative health technologies or low-resource settings**
- ✓ **Covid – 19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP)**
- ✓ **UN Innovation Network**
- ✓ **COVID-19 Innovation Hub**
- ✓ **GeneExpert Omni Instrument**
- ✓ **Virtual Communication and Conferencing Tools - TeleHealth – Zoom, Google-Fi and many**

How to Achieve Covid Free World?

Science, technology and innovation (STI) plays a critical role in building a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive future.

Many approaches use a combination of digital technologies and may rely on telecommunications infrastructure and internet availability. Machine learning is shown as a separate branch for clarity, although it also underpins many of the other technologies. Much of the data generated from these technologies feeds into data dashboards. SMS, short message service.



GeneExpert Omni Instrument

UN Innovation Network

The UN Innovation Network (UNIN) is an informal, collaborative community of UN innovators interested in sharing their expertise and experience with others to promote and advance innovation within the UN System. UNIN is open to innovators from all UN Entities as well as external partners and to date, 3,000 colleagues from 70+ UN Entities in over 140 countries have joined the Network.



INNOVATIONS TO ADDRESS COVID

Ultimately, COVID is not just a global health crisis—it is also an economic, governance, humanitarian, and development crisis. Global partnership—spanning countries and the public sector, private sector, and civil society—can stem the tide of this crisis. This is true not just for the production and distribution of vaccines, but also for confronting the pandemic’s wide-ranging effects. Healthcare system and sustainable response to COVID-19 is only through multi-sectoral collaborations that address the personal, societal and health system level of care.



COVID-19 Innovation Hub

What is it?

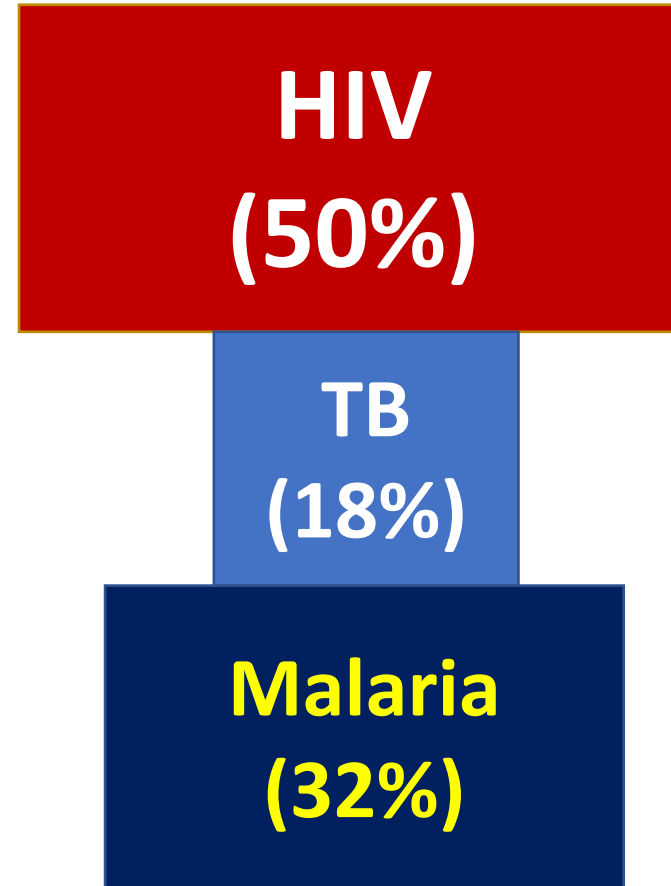
- To browse innovations identified for their COVID-19 efforts, or view all potentially relevant COVID-19 innovations from across the globe.

Why is it?

- To celebrate, source, and supply innovations across [12 COVID-19 categories](#) (i.e. response areas).
- The growing list of [750+ featured innovations](#) includes those that are ready to deploy, plus innovations that could be adapted for COVID-19 responses, or inspire new, much-needed solutions. A smaller list is identified as [COVID-19 Recognized Innovations](#) for their response efforts so others can more easily find and use them. We are also actively [sourcing new innovations](#) designed in response to COVID-19. We hope you find it valuable as we come together to address this global challenge, and would welcome your [support](#) so we can continue to help use innovation in tackling future crises yet to come.

3. TB33% Campaign

The Global Disease Split determines the overall split of resources across components in the Allocation Methodology



People with TB demand TB33%

4. Proven and Scientific Knowledge Spread

Misinformation regarding COVID-19, vaccines, and other related issues is rampant throughout the world and frequently directed by state actors. Across these disparate effects, women and marginalized communities among those affected face disproportionate economic hardship.



What Communities says

WE, THE COMMUNITY WITH TB ARE CONCERNED BECAUSE, “We lost years of progress, which took us billions of dollars, billions of person-hours to achieve but the world doesn't give a damn. TB is ancient, distant, boring, not profitable and not killing people in the West, so TB is not all over the news! After engaging number of healthcare workers and spending trillions on Covid-19, we are still struggling to control COVID. Interestingly, most of these healthcare workers and trillions are reallocated from TB funds.

What Communities says;

WE, THE COMMUNITY WITH TB ARE CONCERNED BECAUSE, “We lost years of progress, which took us billions of dollars, billions of person-hours to achieve but the world doesn't give a damn. TB is ancient, distant, boring, not profitable and not killing people in the West, so TB is not all over the news! After engaging number of healthcare workers and spending trillions on Covid-19, we are still struggling to control COVID. Interestingly, most of these healthcare workers and trillions are reallocated from TB funds.

Our Hopes are;

Last month, President Joe Biden convened heads of state and leaders from diverse organizations for the Global COVID-19 Summit.

A key target announced was to vaccinate at least 70% of the world's population by this time next year. Meeting this target must be a priority for all countries. Vaccinating the world is the best hope for ending this global crisis, and for recovering TB and other health services including HCV, HCB and HIV.

***EVERY BREATH COUNTS, EVERY PENNY COUNTS, EVERY PERSON COUNTS - AND ESPECIALLY TACKLING TB, HVB AMIDS
COVID IS DEMANDING ACTION AND ACTION NOW***



Thank you!

For more info contact

pervaiz22@yahoo.ca