

The Global Fund COVID -19 response mechanisms

Suggested list of interventions for TB and COVID response

1. PPE and infection control

- For all staff and in all facilities settings - testing patients for presumptive TB and/or COVID-19.
- Support development updating of infection control plans covering the Covid needs as well. (along the lines of the WHO TB infection control guidelines)
- Respirator masks, goggles, gloves for Covid as well as for use in TB
- Training and capacity building on IPC and lab biosafety
- Consider additional human resource needs for testing during the COVID-19 crisis.

2. Medication:

- Drugs for changing to injection free treatment for all TB patients.
- TB medications: DS-/DR-TB & TPT for all ages; symptomatic treatment

3. Diagnostics support:

- Support country-choice of Covid testing platform
- Support purchase additional GeneXpert/Tru-nat) units and consumables to cater for TB testing wherever Covid testing is taking place (Xpert machines bought should be new 10-color optics instrument as these allow tests for resistance to isoniazid, fluoroquinolones & aminoglycosides)
- Specimen containers with appropriate packaging and transportation for both COVID and TB specimens.
- Invest in digital X-rays for both TB and COVID.



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4. Virtual care and Digital Technologies:

- Software: data capture from mobile phones for contact tracing, case management; dashboarding for indicators of performance; medication adherence support; eLearning for HCW and other caregivers; lab data management, stock management/quantification & logistics, community networking and feedback apps.
- Digital monitoring systems- national level real time data systems should be established for TB including for contact tracing treatment monitoring and preventive treatment. Covid experience is great for real time data and contact tracing systems- need to be used for TB everywhere.
- Invest in systems for Virtual meetings and trainings.
- Support operational research on A.I. digital X-Ray machines for TB and Covid

5. Invest to improve community health systems for TB

- Community support for people on treatment

6. Contact Investigation:

- COVID as well as active TB case finding and finding people to give TPT, use of digital technology: eg Prevent TB app

7. Immediate post lockdown

- Activities to re-establish diagnostic facilities, including review of HR situation, additional hiring if required etc- expect some health worker shortage during continued Covid pandemic.

