

To:

Dr. Joshi, DDG, Central TB Division, MoHFW, Gol

CC:

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India-hfm@gov.in

Shri. Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary (H&FW), secyhfw@nic.in

Smt Arti Ahuja, Addl. Secy (Health), ash-mohfw@nic.in

Dr. Raghuram Rao, Joint Director(TB), raor@rntcp.org

Sub: Stop of use and distribution of Kanamycin injectable for treating Drug Resistant TB

Dear Sir,

Greetings!

We, people living with Tuberculosis (TB), TB survivors, representatives of the TB affected communities, and civil society members, write to you with grave concerns. In a recent letter, [T-18018/06/2020-TB \(pt-1\)](#) dated 24th of January 2022, the Central TB Division called on states for using the unused stock of anti-TB drugs in public health facilities. In the list of unused drugs, 54.19 lakh vials of Kanamycin have also been listed. We strongly urge you to cease the use of the injectable Kanamycin for treating Drug Resistant-TB (DR-TB)/Multi-Drug Resistant-TB (MDR-TB).

The Indian government has on various platforms and forums committed to an all-oral regimen for the treatment of drug-resistant TB. Yet the use of injectables continues unabated. The injectable drug – kanamycin - is associated with the most adverse side-effects, i.e. irreversible hearing loss and kidney impairment. Some of the signatories of this letter have suffered irreversible hearing impairment due to this pernicious drug. This second-line injectable was previously difficult to replace due to the lack of effective antibiotics for DR-TB. But that has changed and kanamycin is no longer recommended to treat MDR-TB and has been proven to have high toxicity and poor efficacy against TB. The WHO Consolidated Guidelines on Tuberculosis, Module 4: Treatment - Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis Treatment, no longer recommends using kanamycin and instead calls for a scale up of the two new oral drugs- bedaquiline and delamanid. They are safer options to replace kanamycin for rifampicin resistant and MDR-TB.

TB, as it is, has severe consequences on the quality of life for both patients and families. Without a comprehensive continuum of care for patients with TB, we cannot afford to have irreversible disabilities due to medications. Giving these medicines to people with MDR-TB exposes them to long term unnecessary pain and risk of disability.

In light of this evidence, we call on the CTD to:

1. Stop the use of toxic drug kanamycin with immediate effect.
2. Kanamycin be removed from the list of drugs for donation to medical colleges, hospitals under the state government, central funded hospitals, AIIMS, Railways, and Defence hospitals.
3. A clear directive with updated regimen should be issued to these institutions to stop use of Kanamycin in treatment of DR/MDR-TB.
4. Ensure and enhance access to bedaquiline and delamanid for DR/MDR-TB patients particularly those who are at the risk of developing Extensively Drug Resistant-TB (XDR-TB) or have pre-XDR-TB.
5. Kanamycin stocks could be redirected for non-TB use.

This will not only avert the medical crisis and lifelong detrimental effects on the health of people but will also be a right step towards the Gol's commitment of a people centred TB response.

We urge you to act now. This can avert a crisis and save lives and enable India to move towards its commitments of TB elimination. **We request you to send us your response by Tuesday, 8th February, 2022.**

Sincerely,

Abdul Monaf	
Abdul Qadir	
Abhijit Gadewar	
Abishek Rai	Touched by TB, Sikkim
Ajinkya	
Akshada Bharude	
Amish Bishwakarma	Touched by TB, Sikkim
Amita Pitre	Vidhayak Trust
Amitranjan Basu	Shaheed Hospital, Chhattisgarh
Ananja van der Westhuizen	TB Proof
Andrew Marbaniang	Touched by TB, Meghalya
Anil Gurung	Touched by TB, Sikkim
Anita Padale	Sahara Aalhad
Anjali Salvi	.
Anshu	Stop
Anup Singh	TB Champion
Anusha Subba	Reach, Touched by TB, Sikkim
Arbaaz Khan	Medical Student
Archana Oinam	Global Coalition of TB Advocates
Arshi	
Arsilian Gympad	Bethany Hospital
Arti	
Asha Kilaru	BBN
Ashish Bhartilak	
Ashwani Rajan	AIIMS New Delhi
Bhakta Bihari Mishra	NIHIDA

Bharti	NTEP
Bharti & Kavita Dhankhad	
Bijayalaxmi Biswal	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Bijayalaxmi Rautaray	Voice of Patient
Blessina Kumar	The GCTA
Bushra Khan	
Bushra Shaikh	Medical Student
Busisiwe Beko	TB PROOF and MSF
C.Lalrinchhana	Mizoram State Network of Positive People
Carolina Moran	Peru
Chandni Kumari	
Chaudhry Yasmeen	MSF
Chuden Sherpa	
Chukit Lepcha	Touched by TB (Sikkim)
Deepika Rai	Touched by TB, Sikkim
Dinesh Kumar	TB Champion
Diptendu Bhattacharya	Survivors Against TB
Dolly	
Dr Aquinas Edassery	Swasthya Swaraj Society
Dr Ilsa Haeusler	TB Proof
Dr Raghavan Gopa Kumar	Touched by TB
Dr Ramya Murgesh	Swasthya Swaraj NGO Kalahandi
Dr Shrinidhi Datar	
Dr. Shakeel	The Polyclinic
Dr. Venice Mairya David	People College of Nursing and Research Centre, Bhopal
Dr. Daisy Dharmaraj	TEST

Dr.Sipal Chhabra	
Eden Tamang	Touched by TB Sikkim
Eldred Tellis	Sankalp Rehabilitation Trust
Elizabeth Selhore	Sahara CFRCAR
Fahim Shaikh	
Faiz Anwar	TB Activist
Feli	Mizoram State Network of Positive People
Ganesh Acharya	TB survivor and TB Activist, Mumbai TB collective
Gargeya Telakapalli	Jan Swasthya Abhiyan
Gulshana	Babu Jagjeevan hospital
Hari Thapa	
Hruaimawia	
laibakynmaw Tariang	Bethany Hospital Shillong
Indira C	Public Health Researcher
Indranil	JSA Delhi
Ingrid Schoeman	TB Proof
Jagdish Patel	Peoples Training & Research Centre
Jayesh Saha	
Jyotsna Singh	Journalist
Ketholelie Angami	ARK Foundation
Khageshwar Kumar	TEJ Network Jharkhand
Khushboo	
Kunal Rashmikant Thakkar	Pre XDR-Tuberculosis Patient (On-treatment)
Lapyntngen Swer	Touched by TB, Meghalaya
Levy Gurung	Touched by TB Sikkim
Lindsay McKenna	Treatment Action Group

Madhukar Pai	McGill International TB Centre
Mansuri Mohammad Irfan	
Meera Yadav	MSF, TB Champion
Meraj Khan	Medical Student
Mimi.L.Fanai Kharmawphlanh	Bethany Hospital
Minal Madankar	Jan Swasthya Sahayog
Muralidharan, General Secretary	National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled
Nandita Venkatesan	University of Oxford, Two-time TB Survivor
Nidhin Joseph	In Individual Capacity
Nikhil Kumar Singh	Reach
Nikhil Matalia	
Niraj Gupta	
Nisreen Ebrahim	Rangoonwala Foundation (India) Trust
Nivedita Saksena	Independent Public Health Researcher
Nongthombam Kalpana	TISS
Pempa Doma Sherpa	Touched by TB, Sikkim
Phumeza Tisile	TB PROOF
Pooja	TB Survivor
Pooja Yadav	MSF
Prabha Mahesh	Touched by TB
Prakash Gurung	Touched by TB Sikkim
Priyam Cherian	Lawyer
Priyanka Aiyer	Global Coalition of TB Advocates
Punolmit Lepcha	
Rachel Mbuyamba	TB Proof
Randall Sequeira	In Individual Capacity

Ratna bdr Chettri	Touched by TB
Ravikant Singh	Doctors For You
Ribait Lyngdoh	Home Care
Rosa Herrera	Global TBCAB
Rosaline Malngiang	Bethany Hospital
Roshan Gurung	Touched by TB Sikkim
Saba	Reach
Sadhana S.	
Samjana Limboo	Touched by TB, Sikkim
Santosh	Kolkata Rista
Santosh	IAPH
Sasi Kumar	In Individual Capacity
Sawaka Dkhar	Bethany Hospital Shillong
Shaban Shab	Doctor
Shabana	Allis
Shahazad Ahmad	Happy To Help Foundation
Shaifali	TB Survivor, Living with 40% hearing loss because of Kanamycin
Shekh Mohammad Imran	Jai Institute of Nursing & Research Gwalior [17167]
Shiwani Nailwal	WION
Shmeesti Subba	Touched by TB, Sikkim
Shriyuta Abhishek	Jan Swasthya Abhiyan Chhattisgarh
Shyamala	SIAAP
Silsila Tamang	Touched by TB, Sikkim
Smart Nayak	Community DOTS Provider
Sohail Behlim	

Sudeshwar Kumar	TB MUKT VAHINI
Sumit Arya	Reach Foundation
Tshering Samdup Bhutia	Touched By TB, Sikkim
Tanuja Singh	
Vikas	
Vinayak Manoj Wadgule	
Vishal Shah	Brother of Pre-XDR TB patient
Vitthal	Independent Doctor
Wieda Human	TB Proof
Wim Vandavelde	GNP+
Yusuf Patel	
Yusuf shaikh	
Zahid Shaikh	
Jan Swasthya Abhiyaan	