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# The impact of COVID-19 and the restoration of tuberculosis services in the Western Pacific Region

Chen-Yuan Chiang<sup>1</sup>, Tauhid Islam<sup>2</sup>, Caihong Xu<sup>3</sup>, Thilaka Chinnayah<sup>4</sup>, Anna Marie Celina Garfin<sup>5</sup>, Kalpeshsinh Rahevar<sup>2</sup> and Mario Raviglione<sup>6</sup>

**Affiliations:** <sup>1</sup>International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, Paris, France. <sup>2</sup>End TB and Leprosy Unit, Division of Programmes for Disease Control, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Manila, Philippines. <sup>3</sup>National Center for Tuberculosis Control and Prevention, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Beijing, China. <sup>4</sup>Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Sector, Disease Control Division, Ministry of Health, Putrajaya, Malaysia. <sup>5</sup>Department of Health, Disease Prevention and Control Bureau, Manila, Philippines. <sup>6</sup>Centre for Multidisciplinary Research in Health Science (MACH), University of Milan, Milan, Italy.

**Correspondence:** Chen-Yuan Chiang, 68, Boulevard Saint-Michel, 75006 Paris, France. E-mail: [cychiang@theunion.org](mailto:cychiang@theunion.org)

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**While COVID-19 has imposed great challenges to national tuberculosis programmes, it has also created opportunities to develop innovative strategies to ensure continuity of TB services and ultimately to strengthen TB care, prevention and control** <https://bit.ly/3bHDQx0>

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## To the Editor:

We read with great interest the papers by *Stochino et al.* [1], *Tadolini et al.* [2] and *Ong et al.* [3], which reported issues related to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and tuberculosis (TB). The response to COVID-19, especially the lockdown of entire society, is likely to cause severe disruption of TB programmes [4–7]. Reduced TB case notifications have been reported from the top three high TB burden countries worldwide, raising concerns of un-interrupted TB transmission and increased TB mortality, thus posing the threat of derailing achievements made so far [4–7]. Furthermore, the process of post-lockdown restoration of TB services is important [7]. A slow restoration course may continue decreasing TB case finding as compared to a more rapid restoration time.