

Project Work: Access to TB treatment in Egypt

Egypt is a middle income country and a member of the World Trade Organisation. MDR TB is an increasing concern in Egypt. Newer TB treatments can be shorter and simpler for the government to roll out. However, the government has yet to procure and rollout these newer treatments. Egypt has now passed a Universal Health Insurance Law and health groups in Egypt are asking the government to provide the newer treatments for MDR TB. Egypt has been receiving funds from the Global Fund for its TB programme but will be transitioning from the Global Fund. Now, Johnson and Johnson that has launched one of the newer treatments has approached the government offering to donate its newer TB treatment free of cost for the next two years.

1. Prepare a memo for the Minister of Health detailing the following:
 - a. An overview of TB and MDR TB in Egypt
 - b. Key steps to be taken by the government if it transitions out of the Global Fund
 - c. Identify the newer TB medicines, their availability and costs and if there are any barriers to accessing generic versions of these newer medicines.
 - d. Outline the key options for the Ministry of Health to procure and rollout the newer TB treatments and, in particular, advise the Ministry of Health on whether or not to accept the donations of the newer TB treatment.
2. Write a 1000-word opinion piece for a leading newspaper in Egypt detailing why Egypt should reject J&J's offer and what alternatives are available for Egypt to access the newer TB treatments.