Cancer and COVID-19 in LMICs: CGH and partner activities and opportunities

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Presented to: NCAB Global Cancer Research Sub-Committee

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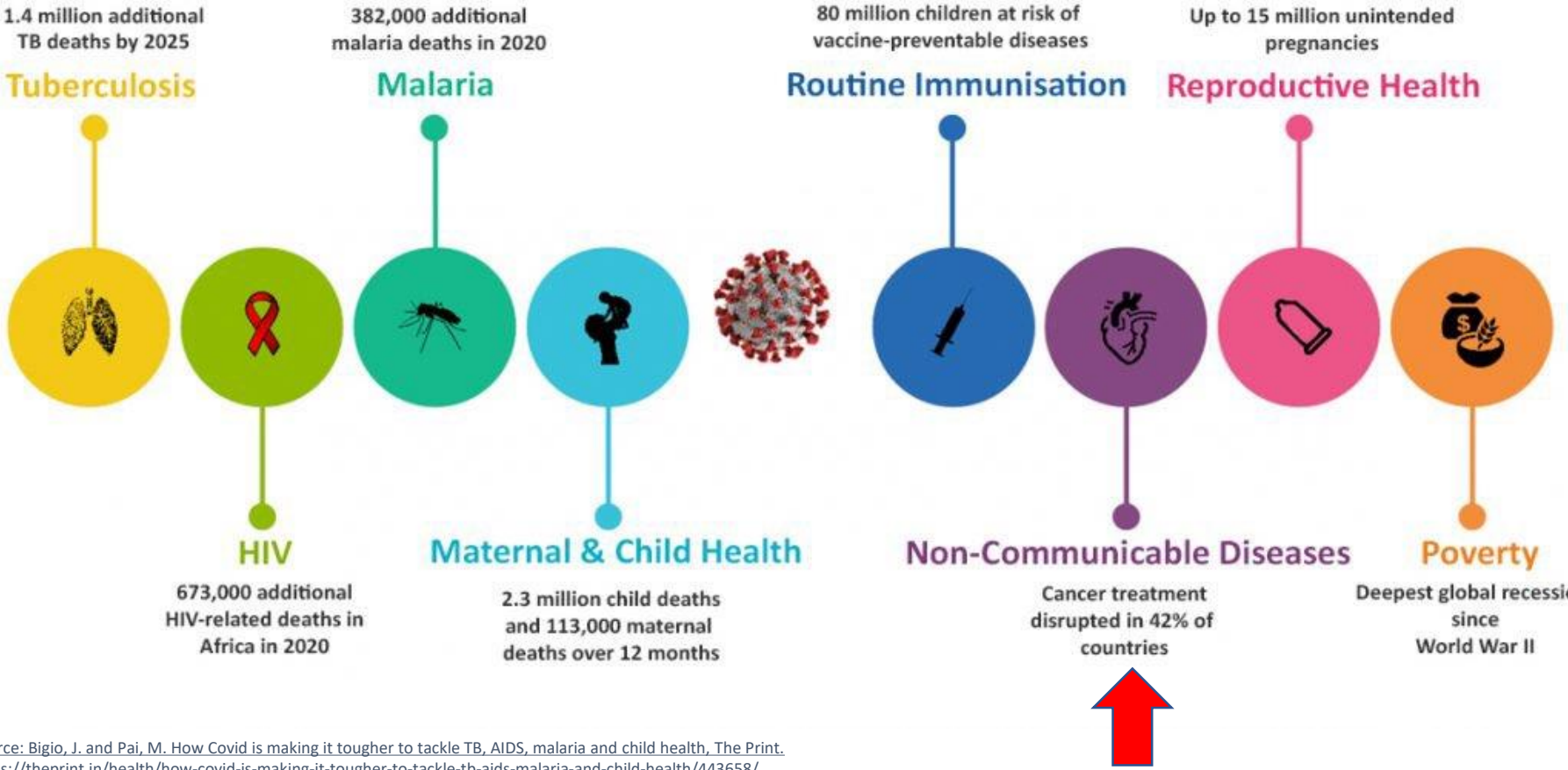
NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

Center for Global Health

WIDER IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON GLOBAL HEALTH



Source: Bigio, J. and Pai, M. How Covid is making it tougher to tackle TB, AIDS, malaria and child health, The Print. https://theprint.in/health/how-covid-is-making-it-tougher-to-tackle-tb-aids-malaria-and-child-health/443658/

CGH Response to COVID-19: Research Activities

- Existing Affordable Cancer Technologies (ACTs) investigators are leveraging platforms from their projects to detect SARS-CoV-2 *(Paul Pearlman)*
  - Includes potentially enabling devices for POC PCR and LAMP based DNA amplification, antigen detection, and antibody detection

- CGH is supporting the International Cancer Screening Network to understand COVID-19 related screening impacts worldwide *(Doug Perin)*
  - Survey launched in May; 113 responses from 40 countries
  - Cancer screening services were suspended after the emergence of the COVID-19 in 88% of respondent settings

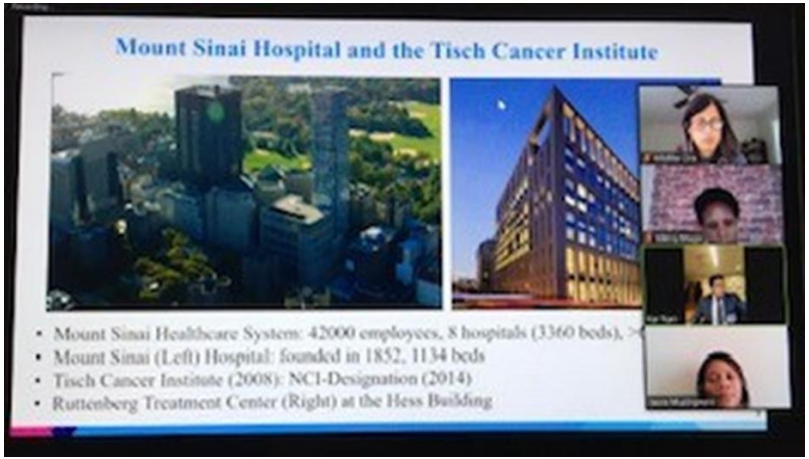
CGH Response to COVID-19: Research Activities

- Two papers in a special issue of *Biopreservation and Biobanking (Marianne Henderson)*
  - Discuss research biobanking opportunities and risks in COVID-19 era
  - Forthcoming in December 2020

- CGH encouraged global oncology–focused applications to the NCI COVID-19 NOSI (NOT-CA-20-042)
  - Emphasis notes from CGH Program Directors
  - CGH COVID-19 webinar in May 2020

CGH Response to COVID-19: Partnership and Dissemination

- Africa Project ECHO COVID-19 Series (*Mishka Cira*)
  - *Undertaking Research in COVID-19*
  - *Palliative Care and COVID-19*
  - *Effects of COVID-19 on Cancer Patients in Relation to Stigma*



- Project ECHO Institute COVID-19 Global Conversations Series
  - September 21, 10-11:30AM EDT
  - Dr. Satish Gopal, Dr. C.S. Pramesh, Dr. Sharon Kapambwe

*Screenshot: April 30 Session on **impact of COVID-19 on cancer prevention and participation in research;** Presenters: Dr. Laura Muzingwani, I-TECH Namibia; Dr. Che-Kai Tsao, Tisch Cancer Institute*

CGH Response to COVID-19: Partnership and Dissemination

- International Cancer Control Partnership
  - Position statement on importance of evidence-based National Cancer Control Plans in the COVID-19 era
  - COVID-19 resource library
  - Coordination with the International COVID-19 and Cancer Global Task Force
- Interview with Government CIO Healthcast

In this episode, NCI's Center for Global Health Director Dr. Satish Gopal discusses how the agency is leading cancer control research, innovative technology efforts and collaborative networks to ensure cancer services are accessible, effective and affordable.

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health | health data | COVID-19 | coronavirus | National Cancer Institute

Access at: https://governmentciomedia.com/listen-covid-19-data-and-global-cancer-control-ncis-satish-gopal

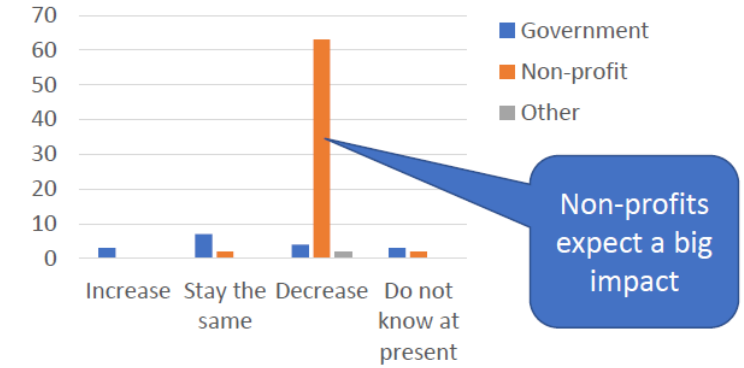
Partnership: International Cancer Research Partnership

Covid-19: effect on income

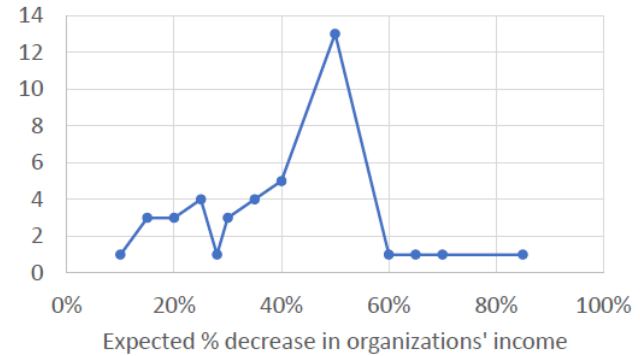
Headline figures

- 69 organizations (80% of respondents) expect **income to decrease this year**
- 3 organizations reported an expected increase (government relief): these were all health research funders (unknown at this point what % increase would go to cancer research)
- 41 respondents were able to estimate a loss in income of between 10% and 85% in this year
  The majority of these **expect income to decrease by 35-50%**
- Several commented that decreased income is also likely to continue into next year and the **full impact isn't yet known**

Predicted effect of Covid-19 on organizations' income (n=86)



Anticipated % decrease in income (n=41)



Source: Lynne Davies, Director, ICRP

Research opportunities

- CGH can help generate evidence necessary to mitigate the effects of this and future pandemics on persons with cancer (or pre-cancer), undergoing treatment for cancer, or in remission. Opportunities include:
- **Implementation Science**
  - Studies focused on innovations in care delivery for cancer patients developed as a result of the pandemic in low-resource settings with a potential for global impact (i.e., so called 'frugal innovations');
  - Studies concerning the feasibility and acceptability, as well as barriers to implementation, of telemedicine and mobile health applications for facilitating provider interactions for cancer patients;
- **Health Systems Research**
  - Studies seeking to understand the impact of COVID-19 on cancer detection, diagnosis, and treatment in LMICs, including research focused on generating evidence on how to mitigate the negative impacts of future health emergencies;
  - Novel approaches to task-sharing, supply chain innovations, patient triage, surveillance.

Research opportunities

- **Data Science and Engineering/Physical Sciences in Oncology**
  - Adaptations of technologies developed for detection, diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of cancer at the point-of-care/need to detect markers relevant for COVID-19 diagnostics or antibody detection;
  - The generation of evidence-based decision tools/models to inform decisions on the most efficient utilization of existing and emerging technologies and strategies for the control of cancer;
- **Behavioral and Social Science Research**
  - Behavioral and social science research to understand COVID-19's influence on care seeking pathways for cancer primary and secondary prevention as well as treatment;
  - Studies seeking to understand the psycho-social impacts of COVID-19 on health seeking behavior for groups suffering from or at high-risk for cancer, including issues around disease-related stigmatization.

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