

US\$17.5 trillion. Meeting the SDG target would change this outlook dramatically, saving 23.8 million lives and averting US\$13.1 trillion in economic losses, according to the study.

Investing in TB elimination would help prepare the world to deal with future pandemics. In this way, it is an investment in stronger public health systems and capacity. The diagnostic, surveillance, treatment, and public health systems strengthened through TB action can be leveraged to combat emerging and evolving infections, diseases, and pandemics. Indeed, many of the systems, strategies and expertise used during the COVID-19 pandemic were built through previous TB capacity-building efforts. Investing in TB is not a one-disease vertical strategy; rather, it helps strengthen pandemic preparedness and overall health security.

Lessons learned and technologies and techniques developed during the COVID-19 pandemic can be used to address TB more effectively. A lesson learned from COVID-19 is that a safe and effective, widely available vaccine need not take decades to develop. Several vaccines for COVID-19 were developed and deployed rapidly where investment met intention. A TB vaccine using mRNA technology showed promise as long ago as 2004, but the funding and will to develop and produce it were lacking and served

