

## Romania

Total population (millions): 21.5  
High TB priority country

### Epidemiological profile 2010\*\*

Estimates of TB burden	Number (thousands)	Rate (per 100 000)	MDR-TB burden	Number	%
Mortality	1.5 (1.5-1.5)	7.0 (7.0-7.0)	Estimates among notified TB cases:		
Prevalence	34 (12-59)	159 (58-275)	MDR-TB among new cases	370 (240-550)	2.8 (1.8-4.2)
Incidence	25 (20-30)	116 (95-138)	MDR-TB among previously treated cases	560 (410-750)	11 (8.0-14.6)
Case detection rate	74 (62-90)%		Notified MDR-TB cases on treatment	502	100

Estimated prevalence of HIV among TB (number, percentage); 530 (310- 810); 2.1 (1.3-3.3)%.

Treatment outcome 2009	Successfully treated (%)	Died (%)	Failed (%)	Lost to follow up* (%)
New laboratory confirmed cases	85.4	4.4	3.9	6.4
New laboratory unconfirmed/extrapulmonary cases	88.3	7.0	0.3	4.3
Previously treated cases	57.4	10.5	12.3	19.8
MDR-TB cohort 2008	16.4	18.7	32.7	32.3

\*Includes those cases that defaulted from treatment, those that were transferred out and those that were not evaluated.

\*\*Data provided here are based on the latest WHO global TB database accessed on 9 December 2011. Extended epidemiological profiles can be found at: <http://www.who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en/index.html>

### Major challenges

Political commitment in Romania is limited and needs to be strengthened in order to ensure proper support for the National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP). Laboratory capacity is suboptimal because of the weak laboratory network structure and limited availability of culture on liquid media and rapid tests for anti-tuberculosis (TB) drug resistance. Drug susceptibility test results are available for only 50% of reported TB cases. Challenges with regard to treatment/follow-up of TB patients and anti-TB drug management include inadequate treatment regimens for multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB patients; decentralized drug procurement for first- and second-line anti-TB drugs, which is dependent on the local availability of each anti-TB drug; weak provision of directly observed therapy (DOT); and the absence of social support. The recording and reporting system is outdated and needs to be improved to include all necessary MDR variables. The NTP has a central management team that lacks a clear mandate, does not supervise the lower levels adequately, and is not involved in drug procurement. Furthermore, infection control measures in TB service facilities are inadequate.

### Achievements in collaboration with WHO

- Support for the development of the National MDR-TB Strategic Plan, 2011–2015, which was submitted for approval to the Ministry of Health in September 2011.
- Technical assistance with the development of two other strategic documents: the mid-term National TB Strategy and the Infection Control Strategic Plan.
- A Green Light Committee (GLC)/Europe monitoring visit was carried out in June 2011.
- A monitoring mission by the WHO Regional Office for Europe was carried out in December 2011.
- Assistance with a new application to Transitional Funding Mechanism (TFM) of the Global Fund.

**Planned WHO activities**

- Finalization of the National M/XDR-TB Response Plan in line with the Regional M/XDR-TB Action Plan.
- Support to the implementation of the Global Fund project.
- WHO expert mission on infection control, focusing on laboratories.
- High-level WHO/ECDC joint mission to increase awareness and commitment for TB control.

**Main partners of WHO**

- Ministry of Health
- National Public Health Institute
- National Health Insurance House
- National Institute for Lung Diseases "Marius Nasta" where the NTP is located
- Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (The Global Fund)
- Centre for Health Policies and Services: a nongovernmental organization (NGO) active in public health and implementing Global Fund projects
- Romanian Angel Appeal (NGO), the principal recipient of the Global Fund
- Salvati Copiii (Save the Children Romania): an NGO active in children's rights and implementing Global Fund projects
- Romanian Red Cross, implementing Global Fund projects
- Association of TB patients
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).