

## WHO/Europe TB and M/XDR-TB quarterly newsletter – November 2013

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### FEATURES

#### Launch of best practices in M/XDR-TB prevention, control and care in European Region

The compendium of "Best practices in M/XDR-TB prevention, control and care in the European Region" was launched last month at the 63rd WHO Regional Committee meeting in Izmir, Turkey. The compendium was developed as a resource for the continued implementation of the Consolidated Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Multidrug- and Extensively Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis in the WHO European Region, 2011–2015. Its aim is to improve the transfer of knowledge on practices that have been successful in addressing the targets of the Action Plan. The collection of best practices is an on-going initiative, and WHO/Europe's TB and M/XDR-TB (TBM) programme enthusiastically welcomes the continued submission of successful projects or initiatives that may be applicable in other countries or settings in the European Region.

*More information*

[Best practices in M/XDR-TB prevention, control and care in the European Region](#)

[Call for best practices](#)

To submit a best practice or questions about the initiative, please contact TBM at [tuberculosis@euro.who.int](mailto:tuberculosis@euro.who.int)

### NEWS

[New anti-TB drugs for Belarus](#)

18 September 2013

Forty years after the introduction of the last anti-TB drug, the first of a new line of anti-TB drugs, "bedaquiline", will be included in the "compassionate use" programme for TB patients with severe forms of drug resistance in Belarus.

[Regional TBTEAM workshop strengthens national TB programmes](#)

3 July 2013

A regional workshop organized and facilitated by WHO on 27–28 May 2013 in the Hague, Netherlands, addressed the complexities of technical assistance and financial planning for national TB programmes.

[WHO/Europe and European Respiratory Society launch an electronic consilium](#)

1 July 2013

The new e-consilium focuses on the provision of scientifically sound and evidence-based clinical advice through internet on the management of MDR-TB and other difficult-to-treat TB cases, including TB/HIV and paediatric cases.

### COUNTRY IN FOCUS: TAJIKISTAN

Tajikistan is among the 27 high burden multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) countries in the world and also among the WHO European Region 18 TB High Priority Countries. The country has the highest estimated number of incident TB cases (all forms) in the WHO European Region with 193 (range 159-230) per 100,000 population. According to the latest drug resistance survey in 2011, the prevalence of MDR is 13% among new and 54% among previously treated TB cases. Since the previous Programme Review, Tajikistan has made a significant progress in following and addressing previous recommendations. In 2012 NTP reported MDR treatment coverage among diagnosed patients of 70% (489 laboratory confirmed MDR-TB cases were enrolled into MDR treatment out of 694 detected), showing improvement compared to 2011, when MDR-TB treatment coverage was 63% (380/604). Besides, governance and management of NTP have been further elaborated, as both horizontal and vertical governance elements have been improved, but additional capacity strengthening is required to translate some of the most important policy priorities into actions and improved performance. Importantly, open sale of first line TB drugs (FLDs) have been prohibited by the Government, helping to prevent development of TB drug resistant strains. Additionally the TB laboratory network and management of drug-resistant TB have been strengthened, and diagnosis and treatment of TB are according to WHO recommendations.

Major challenges which still have to be addressed are the fact that the TB control programme is heavily dependant on international donors including the Global Fund Current funding level for the TB Programme is not sufficient to fully scale up MDR-TB prevention and control activities and achieve full MDR-TB country coverage. Diagnostic capacity for drug resistant TB is still limited and needs further expansion efforts.

Key next steps in order to further strengthen TB prevention, care and control in Tajikistan are to revise and update the national strategic plan for TB Prevention and Control, to accelerate expansion of ambulatory treatment for patients, home-based care and day-care treatment including all eligible patients and to develop and implement guidelines and implementation plan for palliative care.

#### [WHO reviews the national TB control programme in Tajikistan](#)

31 September 2013

WHO/Europe and the WHO Country Office in Tajikistan conducted a comprehensive review of TB prevention and control in Tajikistan, to make recommendations for improvement in accordance with up-to-date WHO policies.

#### [TB country work summary: Tajikistan](#)

## **RECENTLY PUBLISHED**

#### [Global tuberculosis report 2013](#)

WHO, Geneva, 2013

The new data provided by Member States and compiled in this report confirm that the world is on track to meet the 2015 United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target of reversing TB incidence, along with the target of a 50% reduction in the TB mortality rate by 2015 (compared to 1990).

#### [Management of tuberculosis and HIV coinfection](#)

WHO/Europe, 2013

The revised clinical protocol is intended for all health care workers involved in preventing, diagnosing, treating and caring for people living with TB and HIV in the specific settings of the WHO European Region. The document is available in both English and Russian.

#### [Mission report: tuberculosis in Latvia, 22–26 October 2012](#)

WHO/Europe 2013

ECDC and WHO/Europe conducted a joint country visit on 22–26 October 2012, with the objective of providing a comprehensive overview of tuberculosis prevention, control and care in Latvia.

[Review of tuberculosis prevention, control and care in Azerbaijan](#)

WHO/Europe, 2013

Findings and recommendations of a review of the National Tuberculosis Programme of Azerbaijan conducted 11–17 April 2012.

[Causal Factors of multidrug resistant and extensively drug resistant tuberculosis: Regional and National Response in the WHO European Region](#)

In: *Treatment Strategies - Respiratory, Volume 4 Issue 1*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

[Meeting of the Regional Collaborating Committee on Tuberculosis Control and Care](#)

11 November 2013, Copenhagen, Denmark

[Eighth Meeting of European Technical Advisory Group on Tuberculosis Control \(TAG-TB\)](#)

12 November 2013, Copenhagen, Denmark

[Consultation for the development of a Global Fund TB strategy in eastern Europe and central Asia](#)

13 November 2013, Copenhagen, Denmark

[Regional workshop on results-based management for TB control](#)

14–15 November 2013, Copenhagen, Denmark

[Interregional workshop for analysis of data from anti-tuberculosis drug resistance surveys](#)

10–12 December 2013, Copenhagen, Denmark

[Review of the National TB Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

11–22 November 2013, organized by WHO/Europe with participation of 4 international experts and national experts

## RECENT EVENTS

[Wolfheze Workshops 2013](#)

29–31 May 2013, The Hague, Netherlands

Jointly organized by WHO/Europe, ECDC and KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation more than 200 participants from 54 countries gathered to share experiences, review and discuss progress and plans for strengthening TB control in the European Region.

[European Green Light Committee boosts combat against drug-resistant TB in European Region](#)

3–4 September 2013, Copenhagen, Denmark

WHO/Europe organized and facilitated a face-to-face meeting of the regional Green Light Committee for Europe to discuss ways to further improve the scale-up of programmatic management of drug-resistant TB in the WHO European Region.

[Second meeting of the European Tuberculosis Laboratory Initiative \(ELI\)](#)

7–8 October 2013, Copenhagen, Denmark

Key outcomes of this meeting included:

- a general overview of progress in developing and implementing TB laboratory development plans in the Region and the exchange of experiences between countries;
- identification of challenges in the scale up of rapid M/XDR-TB detection and suggestions for the way forward to address them;
- initial work on the development of standard algorithms for modern laboratory diagnosis of TB in high and low-burden countries of the Region.

[Workshop on anti-TB drug resistance](#)

9–10 October 2013, Copenhagen, Denmark

Countries identified the major gaps/challenges in their M/XDR-TB surveillance and developed action plans to strengthen their laboratory network to detect M/XDR-TB and improve recording and reporting of M/XDR-TB.

#### [Regional workshop on ethics and human right for prevention and care of M/XDR-TB](#)

16 October 2013, Copenhagen, Denmark

The workshop raised ethical, human rights and legal issues in relation to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of multidrug resistant and extensively drug resistant tuberculosis.

#### [Regional workshop on models of care of TB and M/XDR-TB](#)

17 October 2013, Copenhagen, Denmark

The regional workshop addressed adequate counselling and patient support through innovative and diverse models of care of TB and MDR-TB.

#### [Workshop addresses MDR-TB challenges in newly independent states and the Russian Federation](#)

31 October 2013, Paris, France

WHO/Europe convened a workshop on "Health systems in transition: TB control in the countries of the former Soviet Union (FSU)" during the 44th UNION World Conference on Lung Health.

### **QUICK FACT**

WHO estimates that 450 000 people fell ill with MDR-TB in 2012. China, India and the Russian Federation have the highest burden of MDR-TB followed by 24 other countries.

Source: [WHO Global tuberculosis report 2013](#)

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### **CONTACT US**

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