
Regional Committee for Europe
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Resolution

Multidrug- and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis in the WHO European Region

The Regional Committee,

Having considered the Consolidated Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Multidrug- and Extensively Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis in the WHO European Region, 2011–2015¹ and the comprehensive version of the Action Plan;²

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA58.14 on sustainable financing for tuberculosis prevention and control and WHA62.15 on prevention and control of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis, the Berlin Declaration on Tuberculosis adopted by the WHO European Ministerial Forum and the Beijing “Call for action” on tuberculosis control and patient care;

Noting with concern that multidrug- and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (M/XDR-TB) has emerged as an increasing threat to public health and health security in the WHO European Region, with 20% of the global burden of MDR-TB in the WHO European Region and the vast majority of the countries in the Region reporting extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB);

Noting further that of an estimated 81 000 MDR-TB patients in the Region each year, only about one third are notified (owing to the low availability of bacteriological culture and

¹ Document EUR/RC61/15

² Document EUR/RC61/Inf.Doc./3

drug susceptibility testing) and less than half are reported to receive appropriate and adequate treatment,

1. ADOPTS the Consolidated Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Multidrug- and Extensively Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis in the WHO European Region, 2011–2015 and its targets of diagnosing at least 85% of estimated MDR-TB patients and successfully treating at least 75% of them by 2015;

2. URGES Member States³:

- (a) to harmonize as appropriate, their national health strategies and/or national M/XDR-TB response with the Consolidated Action Plan;
- (b) to identify and address the social determinants and health system challenges related to the prevention and control of M/XDR-TB, and in particular to adopt sustainable financial mechanisms, involve primary health care services and provide psychosocial support as appropriate;
- (c) to scale up access to early diagnosis and effective treatment for all drug-resistant TB patients, and to achieve universal access by 2015;
- (d) to scale up TB infection control and strengthen surveillance of drug-resistant TB and monitoring of treatment outcomes;
- (e) to expand their national capacity to scale up the management of drug-resistant TB, involving civil society organizations and other partners and sectors;
- (f) to address the needs of specific populations through the introduction of patient-centred initiatives and mechanisms and the provision of psychosocial support to patients as appropriate;
- (g) to closely monitor and evaluate implementation of the actions outlined in the Consolidated Action Plan;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to actively support implementation of the Consolidated Action Plan by providing leadership, strategic direction and technical support to Member States;

³ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations

- (b) to facilitate the exchange of experiences and know-how between Member States by establishing and strengthening knowledge hubs, centres of excellence and WHO collaborating centres;
- (c) to make national and international partners more aware that TB and M/XDR-TB is a priority issue in the Region;
- (d) to establish a European StopTB partnership platform and/or related mechanisms to strengthen the involvement of national and international partners, including civil society organizations, in the prevention and control of TB and M/XDR-TB;
- (e) in collaboration with national and international partners, to establish adequate mechanisms, involving civil society organizations, communities and the private sector, among others, to assess progress in the prevention and control of M/XDR-TB at regional level every other year, starting from 2013, and to report back to the Regional Committee accordingly;

4. URGES civil society organizations, national and international partners and development agencies, and in particular the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the European Commission, to fully support implementation of the Consolidated Action Plan.