

Epidemiological burden and response monitoring¹

Main impact indicators	Number	Rate per 100 000
TB burden estimates		
Incidence (including HIV+TB)	1 700	41.0
Mortality (including HIV+TB)	90	3.51
Incidence (HIV+TB only)	0	3.7
Mortality (HIV+TB only)	0	0.46
Incidence (RR/MDR-TB ^a only)	100	8.9

MDR-TB detection and care	Number	%
RR/MDR-TB estimates among new TB		3.3
RR/MDR-TB estimates (previously treated TB)		25.0
RR/MDR-TB estimates (notified pulmonary TB)	80	
Tested for RR/MDR-TB	0	0.0
Detected with RR/MDR-TB from estimates	–	–
RR/MDR-TB started SLD ^b treatment	–	–
Successfully treated (RR/MDR-TB only)	12	44.4

^a RR/MDR = rifampicin-resistant multidrug-resistant TB.

^b SLD = second-line drug.

TB detection and care	Number	%
Total TB new and relapses detected	1 619	95.2
Pulmonary TB	1 195	73.8
Bacteriologically confirmed	772	62.5
TB detected with rapid diagnostics	10	0.6
Successfully treated	1 503	85.5

HIV/TB detection and care	Number	%
TB cases tested for HIV status	–	–
HIV/TB cases detected from estimates	–	–
HIV/TB cases on ARV ^c	–	–
Successfully treated (HIV/TB only)	1	33.3
HIV diagnosis and care		
Newly diagnosed HIV cases	114	
HIV cases started IPT ^d	12	10.5

^c ARV = antiretroviral treatment.

^d IPT = isoniazid preventive therapy.

Major challenges

Bulgaria is among the 18 high-priority countries to fight tuberculosis (TB) in the WHO European Region. TB incidence and mortality have been steadily decreasing during recent years and the treatment success rate among new and relapse TB cases is 86%. There is universal access to rapid diagnosis of multidrug and extensively drug-resistant TB (M/XDR-TB) and treatment with new drugs. More effective people-centred TB services at community and primary health-care levels are being established. The success was achieved with support of the international community, including the Global Fund. However, in September 2018 the Global Fund TB grant will end in September 2018 and Bulgaria will take over a number of important activities, such as the procurement of some drugs and laboratory consumables, laboratory quality assurance, interventions for vulnerable groups and central management of the national TB programme. The country should implement appropriate mechanisms to ensure smooth transition of activities and sustainable control over TB.

Achievements

Achievements in collaboration with WHO are:

- a Green Light Committee (GLC) mission to follow up previous recommendations and provide new ones on the programmatic management of drug-resistant TB;
- appointment by the Ministry of Health of a working group on ambulatory TB care in July 2016; and
- a roadmap for developing a new person-centred model of delivering and financing TB services for piloting.

WHO activities

Planned WHO activities are to provide:

- technical assistance for the pilot implementation of the new model of delivery and financing of TB services
- monitoring of the programmatic management of drug-resistant TB through the GLC
- capacity-building through TB-related international conferences and training courses.

¹ European TB surveillance and monitoring report in Europe 2017. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2017 (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/communicable-diseases/tuberculosis/publications/2017/tuberculosis-surveillance-and-monitoring-in-europe-2017>).

Main partners

WHO's main partners are:

- Ministry of Health
- National Centre for Infectious and Parasitic Diseases
- Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.