



TB Europe Coalition Annual Report 2021



BRINGING CIVIL SOCIETY TOGETHER
TO END THE TUBERCULOSIS EPIDEMIC
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Executive Summary

Over the last year, TBEC has continued to and developed into an important leader on TB advocacy in the region. Although, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted the ability to carry out planned activities, TBEC has successfully overcome these challenges and adapted, carrying out a number of successful projects.

TBEC has accomplished a lot over the last year, including the development of Standardized Package of community-based support services to improve TB outcomes for civil society, the creation of an online course on civil society engagement in the TB response, and running several coaching and needs assessment visits in Moldova, Georgia, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. TBEC continues to work. On engaging civil society in the implementation, the Multisectoral Accountability Framework (MAF-TB) to accelerate progress to end Tuberculosis, and developed a pilot mentoring program for community-based organizations in the EECA region.

We have also strengthened our strategic presence in the region through collaboration with national and region organizations. This includes becoming members of the EU Antimicrobial Resistance Stakeholders Network, and signing MoU's with regional organisations. Additionally, TBEC continues to be a key provider of technical assistant for CSOs in the region on the Global Fund.

The Secretariat was working on eight different grants that are in operation, at least two of which will continue into 2022. 2021 also marks the end of the EU Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency grant, which was hosted by RESULTS UK. Under this grant TBEC carried out a series of webinars, and high-level events, including with the MEP Lung Health Group. TBEC also carried out a variety of communications activities, including a successful campaign to highlight the voices of TB survivors who are migrants in the run up to World TB Day.

TBEC also welcomed some new faces onto the Board during the election of a new Board, who will be in place until 2024. The new Board's first item of business this year was to approve TBEC's 3-year strategy, which was finalized in June.

TBEC would not exist without its members and we are extremely grateful to all of you! We hope that despite the ongoing strain COVID-19 has placed on our work, we can continue to work together to end TB!

Tuberculosis Regional Eastern European and Central Asian Project (TB-REP) 2.0

Standardized Package of Community-Based Support Services to Improve TB Outcomes

The Standardized Package of community-based support services to improve TB outcomes and its Costing methodology was developed, in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Europe and PAS Center. It was presented at a high-level online event with the participation of 9 countries of EECA region.

The Standardized Package aims to provide recommendations to EECA countries regarding essential nonmedical services for TB for further adaptation to the national context, as well as the needs of people with TB and the populations at risk. It provides national policy makers and community representatives with tools to set up support services for local communities and to cost those services for implementation purposes.

Technical assistance was provided to 5 countries (Ukraine, Belarus, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan) for country-level adaptation of the Standardized Package of community-based support services to improve TB outcomes with National TB Program (NTP) and civil society organizations (CSO) involvement. Belarus, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan approved the adapted packages at the national level through the policy documents of the Ministries of Health.

EECA Regional Policy Document: Transition to People-centered Model of TB Care: Role of Civil Society and Affected Communities

TBEC developed the EECA Regional Policy Document: *Transition to People-centered Model of TB Care: Role of Civil Society and Affected Communities*, which was presented at the webinar and published on TBEC website. The document summarizes the results of technical assistance provided by TBEC and the outcomes of the national dialogues from the prisms of regional and global approaches to advance the people-centered model of TB care. It identifies challenges faced by countries when switching to a people-centered model of care, and the challenges and opportunities for CSOs and community groups for active engagement in this process. It also includes suggested actions for strengthening the role of civil society in transitioning to a people-centered model of care in EECA countries.

Results of the National Dialogues in Five Countries: Challenges, Learnings, Successes

TBEC also carried out a case study based on National dialogues in 5 countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Tajikistan and Ukraine) and the results were presented during the Final TB-REP 2.0 conference in December, 2021 and published on TBEC website.

The case study report “Results of the National Dialogues in Five Countries: Challenges, Learnings, Successes” summarizes the progress in implementing recommendations of the National Dialogues conducted in 2019-2020 to support the national TB response in selected EECA countries. Linked to synergistic TB-REP 2.0 activities, the document builds also upon 10 key priority actions for TB communities and community leaders in the region, actions identified by TBEC in the EECA Regional Policy Document «Transition to People-centered Model of TB Care: Role of Civil Society and Affected Communities» published in early 2021.

The case study on the results of the National dialogues in 5 countries shows that multiple respondents, both from government and non-government sectors, highlighted the role of the National Dialogue as paramount in rethinking and revising the national TB strategies. In all countries the recommendations of the National dialogue were included in the newly developed (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus) or revised NSPs or state programmes (Tajikistan, Ukraine).

Communication campaign «Award for Partnership to End TB»

TBEC conducted a communication campaign «Award for Partnership to End TB» to strengthen partnerships between civil society and decision-makers to further enhance the meaningful participation of CSOs and TB-affected communities in the TB response. As part of the campaign, 24 laureates, who were nominated by representatives of civil society and communities affected by TB from 10 countries in the EECA region, were awarded during the Final TB-REP 2.0 project conference in December, 2021. Also, a brochure was developed and published with detailed information about their contribution to the joint fight against TB and with the presentation of good practices of civil society and TB-affected communities to end TB. It contains illustrative and compelling examples of the meaningful engagement of CSOs and TB communities in different aspects of TB control, from direct service delivery to people with TB to national advocacy interventions.

Online course “Change is possible: civil society and community tools for the TB response”

TBEC developed and conducted an online course civil society and community tools for engaging in the TB response, which was held on the TeachMeTB Platform. The course includes presentation of 5 modules:

- People-centered model of care
- National dialogue: Roles and Expectations of Civil Society and the Public Sector
- Standardized package of community-based Supportive TB services
- Budget advocacy
- Social Contracting: Opportunities for Civil Society

For further use of the online course, an on-demand format is offered, which assumes a free start of training and access to course materials for participants at a convenient time for them.

This course was followed by the online discussion "How to create an online course: the secrets of success and pitfalls" in a Zoom webinar format, and its recording was posted on TBEC FB page.

Needs assessment (coaching) visits

4 needs assessment (coaching) visits to Moldova, Georgia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were conducted.

The aim of these visits was to strengthen the interaction of civil society representatives and patient communities with state and international partners in the framework of promoting the concept of provision of people-centered supportive TB services, as well as to strengthen the capacity of the civil society project partners in the context of achieving the goals and objectives specified in the TB-REP 2.0 national CSO small project implementation plan.

Stop TB Partnership Challenge Facility for Civil Society (CFCS)

TBEC provided technical support to 5 EECA countries on the Baseline Assessment using Annex 2 of the Multisectoral Accountability Framework (MAF-TB) to accelerate progress to end Tuberculosis.

Within Challenge Facility for Civil Society (CFCS) Round 9 grant, in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Europe, TBEC supported the MAF-TB Baseline assessment and worked with civil society organizations (CSOs), and TB affected communities in the 5 pilot countries (Belarus, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine) to support them in implementing the MAF-TB/Annex 2 and in using additional data collection methods (in-depth, semi-structured interviews, focus groups with 3 types of participants and survey).

The MAF-TB/Annex 2 assessment resulted in the country-specific reports and a regional summary with major findings and recommendations which have been translated into an action-oriented framework to enable CSOs and communities' engagement.

An informational campaign was also implemented in pilot countries which raised awareness among decision-makers on the need to implement multisectoral collaboration and accountability mechanisms, as well as their active participation in accountability processes for implementing the commitments of the Political Declaration in pilot countries.

Additionally, guidance to develop analytical reports and to conduct in-country assessments with the use of the MAF-TB/Annex 2 were developed. Two capacity-building online workshops for CSOs and TB affected communities were conducted. As a result, countries, CSOs and TB affected communities received the necessary tools and instruments to carry out the MAF-TB activities independently or possibly with a little external technical support.

TBEC also signed Memorandums of Understanding with 10 regional networks with the aim of further cooperation, joint advocacy, priority messaging and integrated TB response.

TBEC pilot mentoring program: "3C to End TB: Competence, Confidence, Change"

TBEC developed a pilot mentoring program: "3C to End TB: Competence, Confidence, Change" handbook and provided three months on-going mentoring support for three leaders of the civil society and community-based organizations from Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Uzbekistan in harnessing and enhancing organizational and interpersonal skills, leadership, communication, conflict management and problem-solving.

It's time to strengthen cooperation and coordination

Two policy briefs were developed which aimed to increase meaningful engagement of civil society organizations and TB affected communities on TB response in the EECA region, and on collaborative activities that address the interface of tuberculosis, HIV and viral hepatitis were developed and presented.

Community Rights and Gender Strategic Initiative (CRG-SI of the Global Fund)

TBEC, in collaboration with WHO Euro, organized online capacity-building event: *“Exploring practical opportunities for civil society (CS) and TB-affected community through WHO National TB Program (NTP) reviews to improve collaboration and accountability”*, which was held on April 22, 2021. National partners shared their practical experience of participating in National TB Program (NTP) reviews, including lessons learned and recommendations for the future participants. Representatives from CSOs and TB community also took part, including participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine.

TBEC is also developing the methodology for data collection reporting on four WHO Europe indicators related to community systems and civil society engagement of the new Monitoring Framework of the WHO European Region Tuberculosis Action Plan 2021–2030.

Eurasian Harm Reduction Network

“Unpacking Multisectoral Collaboration and Accountability in the End TB response” reference guide

TBEC developed and disseminated a reference guide for civil society and TB affected communities which covered the background, essentials and key actions of the *“Unpacking Multisectoral Collaboration and Accountability in the End TB response”*.

The MAF-TB/Annex 2 Baseline Assessment reports are produced.

TBEC produced Country-reports on the implementation of Annex 2 of the Multisectoral Accountability Framework for Tuberculosis (MAF-TB) Baseline Assessment for pilot countries in the EECA region. This included the involvement of CSOs and was based on using complementary mixed methods of data collection to complete Annex 2 of the MAF-TB Baseline Assessment.

Capacity-building on data analysis

TBEC organized a regional online meeting for CSOs on approaches to qualitative data analysis using Annex 2 of the MAF-TB Baseline Assessment, with a focus on meaningful participation of CSOs and TB-affected communities in ending TB.

As a result of the regional online meeting, participants:

1. Learnt about the findings of the MAF-TB/Annex 2 baseline assessment in the 5 pilotcountries of the EECA region.
2. Learnt about the data collection approach, success and lessons learnt on launching the assessments.
3. Learnt about principles and methods of analyzing research evidence and approaches to transfer findings into actionable recommendations.
4. Contributed to the formation of the priority recommendations for the regional statement on the meaningful engagement of civil society and TB affected communities in multisectoral collaboration and accountability to end TB (activity 1.3).



Statement on meaningful engagement of CSOs linked to the third anniversary of the UN HLM on TB

TBEC developed a statement on the meaningful engagement of CSOs in TB policy decisions, on the third anniversary of the UN High-Level Meeting on TB. This aimed to ensure the provision of a supportive environment for CSOs and communities to participate in TB decision-making processes, particularly for community, rights, and gender. It also aimed to ensure sustainability of funding for regional initiatives especially now, during COVID-19 epidemic.

Global Fund's COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM)

TBEC provided technical support to 4 EECA countries under the preparation process for the Global Fund's COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM). These countries were: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.

The main objective of this technical support was to ensure the inclusive and transparent meaningful engagement of TB civil society during the C19RM Full Funding Request development process and in the preparation of applications. TBEC also supported the submission of recommendations from TB communities and civil society to the CCM. These recommendations were to be included into the C19RM Full Funding Request, following the list of eligible interventions and suggestions.

Under this funding, the GF technical guidelines on financing C19RM were translated, and widely distributed through representatives of civil society organizations via TBEC's listserv and social media. TBEC also organized country-specific webinars (4 webinars – more than 80 participants from CSOs and TB community) for representatives of CSOs and TB affected community, where TBEC described the specifics of writing an application and areas/activities which can be supported.

The results of this technical assistance was the first time TB community in these countries received meaningful funding support through C19RM.

Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism - Kazakhstan

TBEC provided technical assistance to Kazakhstan under the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) Evolution.

TBEC provided engagement support for the Member elections of the CCM in Kazakhstan. The main goal was to engage key affected populations in CCM election. TBEC was able to ensure the key affected TB populations actively participated in the preparation and conduct of elections. The eight selected members of the CCM represent different key affected groups and were selected by their own communities.

Migrants access to healthcare

TB Europe Coalition together with the Regional Expert Group on Migration and Health in ECA (REG) in partnership with the HIV Policy Lab (Georgetown University) implemented activities for Migrants access to healthcare.

December 17, 2021 the Regional roundtable “Migrants access to healthcare in Eastern Europe and Central Asia shaping interventions grounded in research evidence” was conducted and discussed policy recommendations grounded in research evidence and shape directions for future research on the nexus of migration and access to HIV and TB care among international migrants.

Based on the 3 operational studies that attempt to explore migrants’ access to HIV service in Armenia, Russian Federation, and Uzbekistan were developed policy briefs in English and Russian. They would be useful as advocacy tools for further work with decision-makers and raising migrants’ agenda on the regional and national levels.

Also, the recommendations of the country roundtables based on presentations of the operational studies arises important questions and direction of further work. The recommendations were sent to the relevant authorities. The results of such kind communication Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia nominated the Director of the Department of International Projects to the REG working group.

EU Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFEA) Grant

2021 marks the final year of the EU CHAFEA operational grant: *Strengthening the capacity and capability of civil society to drive the TB response in Europe*. This grant has made a huge contribution to TBEC’s growth over the last four years including supporting the development of a new website, organizing a study visit to London, as well as multiple in-country capacity building events, and supporting TBEC’s governance.

Over the last year, under this grant, TBEC coordinated a range of different online events, including two events with the MEP Lung Health Group; to launch the Breath Vision 2030, and to mark World TB Day. TBEC engaged in work around migrant health advocacy which comprised of a 3-part webinar series looking at TB and migrant health in the WHO Europe region, and a campaign to highlight the voices of TB survivors who are also migrants. In collaboration with Treatment Action Group, TBEC also coordinated a webinar to launch TAG’s activist guides.

TBEC produced a policy brief on research and investments in TB prevention to mark the 100th anniversary of the BCG vaccine. TBEC also produced a policy brief on Meaningful Engagement of Civil Society Organisations and TB Affected Communities and the value of their role in TB Response.

TBEC has updated its website and increased search and traffic on the website. We were able to produce 4 blogs every month, send regular monthly newsletters and quarterly advocacy updates. TBEC participated in different campaigns which included European Testing Week and Mental Health Week. TBEC has also gained followers on different social media platforms and is well recognised among the TB community. TBEC is part of TB VAX ARM and has been involved in an advocacy campaign by signing a letter calling on world leaders to fulfil their commitments to end TB by 2030 and also participated in a social media campaign.



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TBEC continues to engage in global and EU advocacy through different forums; TBEC was re-elected to be on the coordinating committee of the Civil Society Forum on HIV, TB and viral hepatitis, and was accepted as a member of the EU AMR stakeholder's network. Additionally, TBEC organised 4 sessions as part of the 52nd Union World Conference on Lung Health.

TBEC also elected a new Board, who had their first meeting on 27th April where they elected the Executive Committee and input into TBEC's strategy for 2021-2024. The strategy was finalised and adopted in June and reinforced TBEC's commitment to ensuring civil society are driving the TB response in the WHO Europe Region.