



# Annual Report

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# 2025



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## Summary

In 2025, the TB Europe Coalition (TBEC) continued to strengthen the voice of civil society and communities in the fight to end tuberculosis (TB) and other socially significant diseases, despite unprecedented financial constraints and global institutional changes. The coalition's ambitious goals were not hindered by the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the region or by the nearly four-year full-scale war in Ukraine, the country where the TBEC Secretariat is based. TBEC successfully implemented its core strategic objectives and initiatives at regional, global, and country levels, reaffirming its status as a reliable advocacy partner for governmental, non-governmental, and international organizations.

The TBEC team, together with partners, actively engaged in advocacy and communications efforts aimed at safeguarding equitable funding for the TB response, including support for community- and civil society-led activities. In addition to these efforts, through its Secretariat and Board members, TBEC organized a regional webinar entitled "[Adapting to Change: Strategies for Alternative TB Funding](#)", which brought together more than 100 representatives of CSOs and communities from across the WHO European Region to explore new funding opportunities and resource mobilization options in times of crisis.

In 2025, the TBEC Secretariat implemented five grants, two of which continued activities initiated in 2024. Among the new projects launched in 2025 was the large-scale three-year interregional COMBAT DR-TB project, funded by Unitaid, under which TBEC coordinates activities in three countries of the EECA region. Within this and other projects, the coalition continued its long-standing efforts to support the implementation of the WHO Multisectoral Accountability Framework to End TB (MAF-TB) at the country level. Building on the capacity-strengthening work initiated in 2024 through global webinars on various aspects of MAF-TB, the World Health Organization, in collaboration with TBEC, delivered a series of three #EndTB webinars on MAF-TB for representatives of ministries, National TB Programs, WHO country offices, CSOs, and communities worldwide.

In addition, through its "ABC for a TB Activist" webinar series and the publication of methodological materials, TBEC continued its systematic work to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations and TB-affected communities across the WHO European Region. All webinar recordings are available on [TBEC's YouTube channel](#), and brochures and information materials are published in the [Resources section](#) of the TBEC website.

TBEC remains one of the leading regional organizations providing technical assistance under the Global Fund's strategic initiatives, particularly in engaging civil society in the work of Country Coordinating Mechanisms and in strengthening the long-term capacity of community networks and organizations working in the field of TB.

We also continued to strengthen TBEC's strategic presence in countries across the region through cooperation with national and regional organizations. To amplify the voice of civil society and communities in ending TB, TBEC Secretariat staff and Board members remained actively engaged in more than a dozen global, regional, and country-level working groups and partnerships. TBEC's Executive Director continued serving as a member of the WHO Civil Society Task Force on TB, further reinforcing the position of civil society from our region and elevating TB-related issues to the highest levels of global dialogue.

TBEC staff also actively participated in key regional and international strategic events in the field of TB. In particular, representatives of the Secretariat and Board members [traditionally joined The Union World Conference on Lung Health as speakers and session chairs](#), including organizing two sessions within the Community Connect platform.

In continuing efforts to advance access to medicines in EU countries and to unite civil society in Western Europe, TBEC initiated the establishment of a working group comprising more than 20 representatives of non-governmental organizations. In addition to exchanging up-to-date information on the registration of new anti-TB medicines in European Union countries and reviewing best practices in collaboration between public and non-governmental sectors to improve access to medicines, working group members coordinate their advocacy efforts to accelerate and simplify medicine registration processes and improve patient access.

Further details on these and other important TBEC initiatives and activities can be found in our [monthly newsletters](#) for 2025.

We are grateful to coalition members and partners for their substantial contributions and active engagement in efforts to end TB, as well as for their support of civil society and community advocacy initiatives at country, regional, and global levels. Only through joint efforts can we achieve meaningful change and defeat TB.

We will continue our joint fight for a world free of TB.



study employed a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative analysis with qualitative data obtained through desk reviews and in-depth country-level interviews.



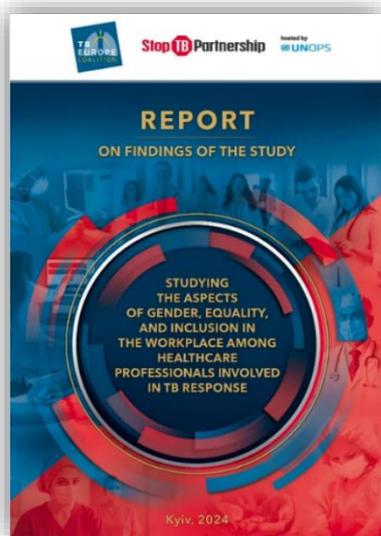
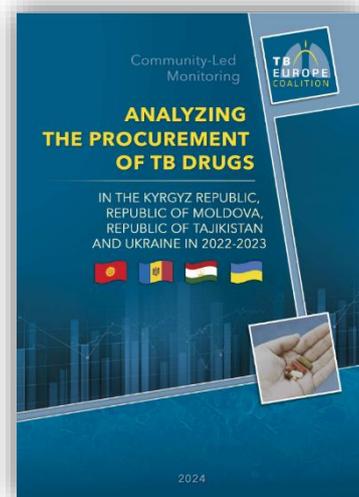
The publication documents key achievements, challenges, and implementation gaps identified through the CLM process. Based on these findings, the study offers a set of practical, evidence-based recommendations aimed at strengthening community-level responses. These recommendations were presented to National TB Programs and other stakeholders to support policy dialogue, programmatic adjustments, and strategic planning. Furthermore, publication in a peer-reviewed international journal ensured broad global visibility of the methodology and findings, increasing international awareness of the EECA countries' experience in delivering TB services at the community level.

### Publication of Results from Community-Led Assessments and Monitoring

In 2025, TBEC published and widely disseminated the results of assessments and monitoring activities conducted under community leadership in 2024.

#### “Analyzing the Procurement of TB Drugs in the Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Tajikistan, and Ukraine in 2022–2023”.

This work synthesized findings from community-led monitoring (CLM) to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the procurement of short-course TB treatment regimens. The objective was to assess the current situation and identify existing gaps in order to formulate conclusions regarding the structure and direction of interventions in the procurement of TB medicines.



#### Report on the study conducted in Ukraine: “Studying the aspects of Gender, Equality, and Inclusion in the Workplace among Healthcare Professionals Involved in TB Response”.

The study aimed to assess the extent to which gender equality principles are implemented among healthcare workers providing TB diagnostic and treatment services, as well as to identify barriers preventing women and men from fully exercising their right to gender equality.

**Consolidated Report: “Implementation of the Standardized package of community-based support services to improve TB Outcomes”.** This document presents the results of an assessment of current progress and the collection of best practices in implementing the standardized package in six ECA countries (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, and Ukraine), using community-led monitoring (CLM) tools. The report includes the rationale for the analysis, a description of the methodology, key findings, and recommendations that were discussed at country level with key stakeholders, including managers of National TB Programs. The full report is available in [Russian](#).



## Capacity Building and Raising Awareness on the Implementation of the WHO Multisectoral Accountability Framework to End TB (World Health Organization)

From October to December 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with TBEC, delivered a series of three global #EndTB webinars focused on multisectoral engagement and the implementation of the Multisectoral Accountability Framework to End TB (MAF-TB):

- **“Operationalizing MAF-TB: From planning to progress”**, 9 October 2025
- **“Multisectoral Engagement to address the social determinants and key drivers of the TB epidemic”**, 11 November 2025
- **“Collaborating across sectors for migrants and refugees’ people-centered TB care”**, 9 December 2025



During these sessions, leading experts from around the world shared best practices on adapting and implementing MAF-TB. Participants had the opportunity to raise questions and exchange their own

experiences in implementing the framework. To ensure maximum accessibility, all webinars were conducted in an interactive format and offered in three regional languages (English, French, and Russian).

Each webinar brought together between 140 and 200 representatives of ministries, National TB and HIV Programs, civil society organizations, communities, WHO regional and country offices, UN agencies, and other stakeholders from various regions.

## Component 2 of the Global Fund Strategic Initiative “Community Engagement” (2024–2026): Long-Term Capacity Strengthening of TB Community Networks and Organizations

Under the project aimed at developing and strengthening the engagement of civil society and communities in efforts to end TB, both country-specific and joint regional activities were implemented in 2025 in three EECA countries—Azerbaijan, Moldova, and Ukraine.

### ***Regional Training: “Key Principles and Approaches to Developing a National Strategic Plan for TB”***



In May 2025, TBEC conducted a regional training in Chisinau (Moldova) aimed at strengthening country capacity in the development and revision of National Strategic Plans (NSPs) for TB. The event brought together representatives of National TB Programs (NTPs), civil society organizations, and communities from Azerbaijan, Moldova, and Ukraine, creating a platform for professional exchange, discussion of current challenges, and review of progress in implementing existing strategies.

Funded by the Global Fund, the training was organized with the support of the Moldovan NTP, highlighting the importance of partnership between governmental institutions and civil society in strategic planning and decision-making processes. It was particularly valuable for participants to be in Moldova at a time when the country was finalizing the development of its new NSP, allowing Moldovan colleagues to share recent experience, successful approaches, and lessons learned.

Participants gained in-depth knowledge on service cascade analysis, the use of epidemiological data in planning, and the integration of human rights, gender equality, and stigma reduction considerations into NSPs. Special attention was given to models for engaging CSOs and communities, social contracting mechanisms, and the practical development of roadmaps aligned with NSP preparation timelines. Thanks to the openness of Moldovan partners, participants also

visited the National Reference Laboratory and the non-governmental organization AFI to learn about best practices implemented in the country.

Following the training - an important step toward strengthening multisectoral collaboration and promoting a sustainable approach to strategic planning in the region - TBEC organized a regional bilingual webinar in September 2025 entitled “[Strengthening Community Knowledge and Engagement in NSP Development](#)”, which brought together more than 60 representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations.



### ***Assessment of Activities and Development of Recommendations for the TB Community in Ukraine***

A comprehensive evaluation of TBPeopleUkraine’s five-year activities, conducted in 2025, allowed for the systematic documentation and description of the organization’s key interventions. These include support for people with TB, community engagement, stigma reduction initiatives, legal and psychosocial assistance, as well as efforts to promote human rights and improve access to quality services. The assessment documented achievements, identified strengths, innovative approaches, and practices that could be scaled up at the national level.

Based on the evaluation, a visual portfolio is planned, featuring infographics, examples of successful cases, and the organization’s key achievements. This format will enable the materials to be used for further resource mobilization, including applications for new funding. Additionally, it will help strengthen the case for expanding support for community activities and ensure visibility of TBPeopleUkraine’s contribution to the national TB response.

### ***Conducting a Comprehensive Stigma Assessment in Moldova***

The [TB-related stigma assessment](#) conducted in Moldova became a key analytical tool for identifying barriers to service access, discriminatory practices, and factors related to human rights violations and gender inequality. The study, carried out by SMIT in partnership with the PAS Center as part of technical assistance from the TBEC and funded by the Global Fund, examined how stigma affects the lives of people with TB, their families, communities, and healthcare personnel.



The research was conducted nationwide, providing a comprehensive picture of the social and psychological barriers associated with the disease. The assessment enabled a structured understanding of how stigma impacts TB diagnosis and treatment, including treatment adherence, and highlighted weaknesses in existing complaint mechanisms and the lack of adequate patient protection safeguards.

Based on the findings, clear recommendations were developed to strengthen human rights work, enhance healthcare worker sensitivity, and integrate stigma-related issues into the service

delivery system. The results directly informed the development of the new National Tuberculosis Program, where one of the key priorities became the reinforcement of a rights-based and people-centered approach.

### ***Development of Recommendations for the National Guide on TB Service Delivery Regarding Engagement of NGOs and Communities in Azerbaijan***

Based on an analysis of the country’s legislation conducted last year within the project framework, key gaps were identified in the engagement of civil society and communities in TB service provision. These gaps, along with recommendations for addressing them, were discussed in a working group established on the initiative of the “Saglamliga Khidmat” Public Union. The consolidated proposals of the working group on expanding the involvement of CSOs and communities in TB service delivery were submitted for consideration to the relevant government body - the Management Union of Medical Territorial Units of Azerbaijan (TƏBİB).

By the end of 2025, TƏBİB was in the process of finalizing the Guide on TB Service Organization, which will include a section dedicated to the role of non-governmental organizations. This section is expected to incorporate the recommendations and insights provided by the working group.

## **Interregional Project “COMBAT DR-TB” (Unitaid)**

In 2025, a major three-year project, “*Community-Led Approaches for Transformational Change in the Fight Against DR-TB*” (“COMBAT DR-TB”), was launched in three EECA countries and three African countries. The TBEC is responsible for coordinating the project in the EECA region (Moldova, Tajikistan, and Ukraine).

This year, both regional and country-level activities were implemented under the project. Among the key regional interventions aimed at strengthening the role of communities as meaningful participants in the TB response - not just as service recipients or providers - are:

- Conducting the Interregional Meeting to exchange experience and action planning within Multisectoral Accountability Framework to end TB.
- Organizing a series of regional webinars.
- Developing a standardized methodology for analyzing the TB service cascade in Moldova and Tajikistan. Using this methodology, an analysis of key gaps in the DR-TB care cascade was conducted, providing countries with a comprehensive overview and highlighting the most critical bottlenecks that require targeted advocacy efforts.





Three regional webinars were conducted jointly with partners and brought together over 200 representatives from NGOs and communities:

- **“The Future of TB Diagnostics: Next-Generation Sequencing”** (October 15, 2025) in partnership with ITPC EECA.

- **“Shorter All-Oral TB Treatment Regimens and Possible Side Effects”** (November 28, 2025) in partnership with SMIT (Moldova) and KNCV Tajikistan (Tajikistan).



- **“From Price to People: Access to Medicines and Advocacy for WHO-Recommended TB Treatment Regimens”** (December 5, 2025) in partnership with SMIT (Moldova) and KNCV Tajikistan (Tajikistan).



### ***Interregional Meeting to exchange experience and action planning within Multisectoral Accountability Framework to end TB***

An important milestone for strengthening the capacity and partnerships of key stakeholders at the country level was the Interregional Meeting to exchange experience and action planning within the Multisectoral Accountability Framework to end TB (MAF-TB), held in August 2025 in Mombasa, Kenya. The event, organized by the TBEC in partnership with the World Health Organization and the Kenya Legal & Ethical Issues Network on HIV and AIDS (KELIN), brought together representatives of national TB programs, multisectoral country coordination mechanisms, and civil society/community organizations from Zimbabwe, Kenya, Moldova, Nigeria, Tajikistan, and Ukraine.



The meeting provided an opportunity for representatives of participating countries not only to review and comprehensively discuss the key practical foundations of MAF-TB with a view to their further implementation at the national level, but also to share successful practices and lessons learned with colleagues from other countries and regions. This exchange enabled participants to jointly analyze barriers that had emerged or could potentially arise during the implementation of MAF-TB. Such an approach contributed to the development of the most effective solutions for further strengthening multisectoral TB responses in participating countries.

### ***Key Project Achievements in Ukraine (Partner – TBPeopleUkraine)***

In the context of implementing MAF-TB and expanding the multisectoral TB response, Ukraine made significant progress during 2025. In particular, the field phase of the repeated MAF-TB baseline assessment under Annex 2 (engagement of civil society and TB-affected communities) was completed:

- 30 NGOs participated in a structured survey;
- 7 individual interviews were conducted;
- 4 focus group discussions were organized (two with people affected by TB and two with representatives of CSOs from the regions).

These materials were complemented by desk research, and a final analytical report under Annex 2 was prepared. Under Annex 1 (engagement of relevant government bodies in the TB response) and Annex 3 (adaptation of WHO guidance documents), coordination with the National TB Program continued, with finalization planned for 2026.

In December 2025, under the auspices of the National Council on TB and HIV/AIDS (the country coordinating committee serving as the coordinating mechanism for MAF-TB), a multisectoral coordination meeting was held with the participation of a wide range of relevant organizations and government agencies. During the meeting, existing barriers were highlighted and further steps were agreed upon.



In addition, Ukraine continued to advance digital solutions to support people affected by TB. As part of the further development of the OnImpactUkraine platform, work began on the creation of an AI-based online assistant for people with TB, along with other highly requested features.

### ***Key Project Achievements in Moldova (Partner – National Association of TB Patients of the Republic of Moldova “SMIT”)***

In 2025, Moldova made progress in the institutionalization of MAF-TB, including the following achievements:

- A 10-step MAF-TB implementation algorithm was developed;
- MAF-TB was included in the work plan of the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), and the MAF-TB concept was presented at a meeting of the CCM TB Technical Working Group;
- An MAF-TB Indicator Matrix, adapted to the national context and aligned with the new National Strategic Plan (NSP), was developed.

In addition, two of the four WHO Regional Office for Europe indicators on CSO and community engagement have been incorporated into the national TB monitoring system. The possibility of integrating the remaining two indicators into routine monitoring is currently under discussion at the country level.

Moldova is also one of the two project countries where an analysis of key gaps in the DR-TB treatment cascade is being conducted. The results of this analysis will serve as an evidence base for targeted advocacy and planning. In 2025, the following steps were completed:

- research tools were adapted and translated;
- ethical approval was obtained;
- data collection was initiated (focus group discussions, surveys, and extraction of routine data);
- the analytical report structure was developed.

Finalization of the report and the corresponding recommendations is planned for early 2026.

### ***Key Project Achievements in Tajikistan (Partners – KNCV Tajikistan and the Stop TB Partnership, Tajikistan)***

As in other countries of the region, the institutionalization of MAF-TB became one of the important focus areas of the project in 2025. In this regard, the team of the Stop TB Partnership, Tajikistan conducted a MAF-TB baseline assessment, which created a favorable foundation for its further implementation. As part of the work on the MAF-TB Indicator Matrix, indicators were developed for several sectors outside the health sector, including justice, labor and migration, education, media, religious affairs, as well as the civil society sector and TB-affected communities.



Overall, advocacy efforts resulted in achieving a high level of political commitment. In particular, in October 2025, a high-level event was organized bringing together 70 participants, including representatives of the government, parliament, civil society, international partners, and public figures. As an outcome of the event, participants adopted a resolution committing to strengthening multisectoral collaboration and

accountability mechanisms, as well as the need to increase funding.

Following this, in December 2025, MAF-TB was officially presented and endorsed at a meeting of the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. The members of the NCC unanimously supported the implementation and further oversight of MAF-TB, thereby institutionalizing the mechanism's coordination and multisectoral review function at the national level.

In addition, the provisions of MAF-TB were integrated into the National Strategic Plan 2026-2030 (NSP). At the national level, particular attention has also been paid to the importance of implementing WHO-recommended indicators on the engagement of civil society and TB-affected communities in the TB response. These achievements reinforce the role of communities and civil society as active drivers of an equitable, human rights-based TB response aligned with national policies and governance structures.

In 2025, consultative work with medical networks was also carried out in Tajikistan. At the end of the year, at the initiative of KNCV Tajikistan, the annual meeting of healthcare worker networks was held, bringing together 40 participants, including representatives of the National TB Program (NTP), the Dushanbe Health Department, the Association of Phthisiologists, heads of primary health care (PHC) institutions, and civil society organizations. During the meeting, participants were presented with:



- an overview of the TB epidemiological situation, achievements, challenges, and possible solutions;
- the results of the implementation of the fluorography screening plan for vulnerable population groups in 2025 and the targeted development of such a plan for 2026;
- proposals for strengthening coordinated action on TB case detection and treatment monitoring.

Another important area of work led by the KNCV Tajikistan team was the analysis of key gaps in the DR-TB service cascade. Within this work, the following steps were completed:

- ethical approval was obtained;
- data collection was conducted;
- coordination was established to access routine data;
- the report structure was developed.

Based on the results of the analysis, national consultations will be organized, and the findings are expected to be translated into a practical roadmap for action.

## Baseline Assessment of Level of Awareness and Barriers Related to Short-Course TB Treatment in Ukraine (Treatment Action Group Mini-Grant)

In 2025, the TBEC, in partnership with TBPeopleUkraine, conducted an assessment in Ukraine to examine the level of awareness and health literacy among people undergoing short-course TB treatment.

The primary objective of the study was to identify key barriers faced by healthcare providers - including phthisiatricians and primary care physicians - and social workers when prescribing and counseling people with TB, including both drug-sensitive (DS-TB) and drug-resistant forms (DR-TB), as well as latent TB infection (LTBI), in the context of using short-course treatment regimens. At the same time, the study assessed the awareness and health literacy of people with TB to inform the design of future interventions aimed at supporting treatment adherence.

A mixed-methods approach was applied, combining quantitative and qualitative methodologies. In total, 303 respondents participated in an online survey; additionally, focus group discussions were conducted with 45 individuals with LTBI, and 30 in-depth interviews were carried out with healthcare and social service providers. The assessment covered five regions of Ukraine: Volyn, Zaporizhzhia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kyiv, and Odesa.

The assessment confirmed that, despite the clear advantages of short-course TB treatment regimens, their effective implementation in Ukraine is hindered by limited awareness among people with TB, inconsistent counseling practices, and structural barriers faced by healthcare and social workers. Gaps in health literacy - particularly regarding LTBI - combined with inconsistent recommendations and fragmented coordination between medical and social services, reduce the potential effectiveness of these regimens.

Based on the assessment, a set of recommendations was developed to address existing barriers and expand access to short-course TB treatment in the country. Some of these recommendations are planned for implementation in 2026.

*Let us continue our joint fight for a world free of TB!*

