

TB EUROPE COALITION ANNUAL REPORT

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Executive summary

During the past year, TB Europe Coalition (TBEC) continued expanding its activities and strengthening its leadership in TB advocacy in the region. Despite the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, full-scale war in Ukraine and the humanitarian crisis it caused, TBEC successfully completed the objectives set for the year and significantly increased the scale of its operations.

In 2022 TB Europe Coalition Secretariat was working on seven various grants; five of them will be carried over to 2023. TBEC is one of the active regional organizations delivering technical assistance under the Global Fund strategic initiatives, in particular, on civil sector engagement in the election to Country Coordination Mechanisms. We continued working on civil society engagement to the implementation of the Multisectoral Accountability Framework to advance progress towards elimination of TB (MAF-TB). We continued strengthening TBEC strategic presence in the region through collaboration with national and regional organizations. Traditionally, we were working on building capacity of civil society organizations and communities affected by TB, in offline and online training events.

It is important to note that being based in Ukraine, TBEC Secretariat could not stand aside the humanitarian crisis caused by the war. With the support of the donors, we implemented a number of important activities to support the civil population and the country's healthcare system.

We are grateful to the Coalition members for active participation in TB response and support of civil society advocacy initiatives at the country, regional and global levels. All the barriers we overcame this year and all the achievements resulted from our joint effort. We hope that the synergy of our efforts will further advance us towards the victory over tuberculosis, strengthening the voice of the civil society to ensure barrier-free access to TB services and respect of the TB people's rights.



The Global Fund Community, Rights and Gender Strategic Initiative (CRG SI)

Algorithm of data collection by four WHO Europe indicators to measure the systemic impact of communities and CSOs on TB programs, based on the new WHO TB Action Plan for the WHO European Region for 2023–2030

The TBEC team in cooperation with the WHO Regional Office for Europe developed the Algorithm of Data Collection by four new indicators aiming at activating community and civil society organizations engagement in implementation of the systematic data collection mechanism. The document contains detailed description of the proposed indicators and overall guidance on data collection and analysis, including the scale and criteria for their evaluation.

On December 2, 2022 at the regional online meeting the developed mechanism was presented to the representatives of CSOs and affected communities from the EECA countries for detailed discussion.

TBEC will launch a pilot project on data collection by four new indicators in three countries of the region (Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan) from December 2022 through the end of 2023. This will allow to finalize and optimize the Algorithm for its further roll-out in other countries.

Adaptation and adoption at the national level in Ukraine of the Standardized package of community-based support services to improve TB prevention and treatment outcomes and the costing methodology through meaningful engagement of TB-affected community in the policy-making process

Upon joint consultations with country NTP representatives, Center of Public Health of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and affected communities, TBEC finalized the costing methodology for the services included in the Standardized supportive service package and adapted it to the country context. The design of the costing methodology for medical and psychosocial support services provided to people with TB in Ukraine will allow revising the methodology later based on the changes in certain cost components.

Meaningful engagement of communities affected by TB, in Uzbekistan NTP review for practical application of knowledge received in implementation of project activities related to NTP review, and promotion of multisectoral approach

During NTP review in Uzbekistan a group of TBEC experts assessed civil society engagement in TB response (as a MAF-TB component), and engagement of communities affected by TB in TB response implementation (as a part of integrated people-centered TB care and prevention, and multidisciplinary and multisectoral approaches).

This activity included desk review of all relevant national policies, strategies, provisions and reports, along with country visit and 8 online meetings (interviews) with representatives of TB communities, CSOs, NTP, CCV and international partners for data collection and situational analysis. Based on the assessment results, the conclusions and recommendations section was prepared and presented to be included in the general mission report. Upon discussion with experts, it was finalized and presented to the national partners and the NTP.

Workshop “Strengthening the capacity of representatives of civil society and TB-affected communities for expert participation in the National TB Programmes Review”

On October 17-19, 2022 in Almaty TBEC conducted a workshop for communities affected by TB to strengthen their capacity for participation in NTP review. Twenty participants from Ukraine, Kazakhstan and

Kyrgyzstan attended the training. During the event, the participants became aware of the guiding principles and the key areas of WHO framework approach to NTP review; reviewed in details the terms of reference and discussed the successful cases of CSO and TB community experts involvement in NTP review; shared their experiences and generated new ideas about the role of CSO and TB communities' experts in all stages and processes of NTP review; considered options of NTP review in context of activation of MAF-TB processes in preparation to the UN High Level Meeting on TB in 2023.

Online workshop for representatives of TB communities of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to share experiences of using OnelImpact tool

Twenty-two participants of the online workshop held on August 4, 2022 discussed the issues of promoting OnelImpact tool, reaching out to the target group and the general population; expanding technical capabilities of OnelImpact; the practices to improve the applications; the approaches to reporting the barriers; design of the algorithm and interaction between the actors responsible for TB response implementation in the process of removing barriers on the patient's "cough to cure" path; perspectives and opportunities for community-led TB monitoring using OnelImpact tool.

Baseline assessment using Annex 2: Engagement of civil society and affected communities in the four components of MAF-TB at the country level in Kyrgyzstan

In 2022 baseline assessment was conducted in Kyrgyzstan to identify strength and possible gaps in multisectoral collaboration in efforts to eliminate TB, and possible ways to improve multisectoral collaboration and accountability mechanisms and practices to accelerate progress in TB response.

In the process of assessment civil society and TB communities' representatives, with the support of TBEC, filled in Annex 2 of MAF-TB Checklist. In addition, the assessment team conducted interviews with the leaders of the organizations working in the field of TB, three focus groups (program coordinators, NGO and CSO staff directly involved in service delivery, representatives of the community of people affected by TB) and a survey using the questionnaire based on the questions from MAF-TB Checklist Annex 2, sections "Actions", "Monitoring and reporting" and "Review".

Technical assistance under the Global Fund CRG SI: civil society engagement in election to the Country Coordinating Mechanisms in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

TBEC continues to actively provide technical assistance under the Global Fund "CCM Evolution" Project and CRG Strategic Initiative.

In 2022 TBEC supported election of civil society representatives to the Country Coordinating Mechanism in Kyrgyzstan. TBEC managed to ensure active participation of the key populations affected by TB, in preparation and conducting of CCM elections. These efforts resulted in total change of the CCM composition for the first time in 7 years. It included representatives of three new communities: former convicts, transgender people and youth / migrants.

TBEC provided technical support to ensure civil society engagement in the Global Fund CCM election in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in several steps. By the end of 2022, TBEC started the process of organization mapping in Tajikistan, and initiated discussions of future modifications of the CCM election procedure with

the affected communities in Uzbekistan. It is planned to complete technical assistance in these countries in 2023.

Stop TB Partnership Challenge Facility for Civil Society (CFCS) Grant

MAF-TB National Road Map development in Kazakhstan

In 2022, development of MAF-TB national road map for Kazakhstan was initiated to reinforce the processes of accountability for commitments to combat Tuberculosis, focusing on the UN Political Declaration on TB, and to promote the input of the civil society and TB community in the activities and reporting indicators related to TB response. The adoption of the Road Map developed in close cooperation with NTP and the country's civil society, is planned upon its finalization in light of the recommendations provided by the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

Preparation of publication upon results of MAF-TB Baseline Assessment using Annex 2 and its further publication in an academic journal

Highlighting the unique experience of conducting MAF-TB baseline assessment using MAF-TB Annex 2 in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Tajikistan, with further summarization of the main findings, in an academic journal article became a logical continuation of TBEC activities in this area.

The publication which is planned to appear in the "Lancet" Journal in Q2 2023, will focus on examining the value of "meaningful engagement" of civil society and communities affected by TB, in TB response. It will also present the guidance materials and lessons learnt in piloting MAF-TB baseline assessments using Annex 2 of the MAF-TB Checklist.

Development of the online training course on the Standardized Package of community-based support services to improve TB prevention and treatment outcomes in the EECA countries

TBEC with technical support of WHO Regional Office for Europe, is developing an online course on Standardized Package of community-based support services to improve TB prevention and treatment outcomes in the EECA countries.

It is expected that the course will be available from the WHO iLearn platform and will become compulsory for the employees of NGOs implementing social contracts for TB service delivery in the countries of the region.

The course consists of 13 modules, each covering theoretical material, presentation, at least two videos, module-based tests, lists of references and case studies. Upon the end of the training, the participants will receive the certificate of successful completion of an online course.

The course is planned to be launched in Q1 2023.

Guideline development "Communication in support of initiating and implementing MAF-TB at the country level" for civil society organizations and communities affected by TB

The guideline was developed to facilitate setting up and implementing effective communication from civil society organizations and communities affected by TB, reaching out to stakeholders at each stage of MAF-TB initiation and implementation at the national and local levels, in order to ensure political and

organization commitment in applying multisectoral accountability framework to eliminate TB in the EECA countries.

The draft of the document was agreed in consultations with representatives of countries where MAF-TB Baseline Assessment had been conducted. It was submitted to WHO Regional Office for Europe for review.

Humanitarian aid for civilians and healthcare institutions of Ukraine in response to their needs related to the large-scale war

In the first half of 2022 TBEC procured and supplied humanitarian aid civilians and healthcare institutions of Ukraine. The total amount of the humanitarian aid constituted 67 000 USD. It was procured in response to the needs related to the large-scale war in the country as well as bad medico-social crisis resulted by the war.

Among the goods supplied into different regions of Ukraine there were stretchers double foldable, bleeding control kits, quick clot gauze, tourniquets, thermal underwear, orthofix sterile devices and splints, paediatric kits.

“Supporting community-based child and mother healthcare services in child points and centers for internally displaced persons SPILNO (JOINTLY)” Project supported by UNICEF Ukraine

Throughout 2022, TBEC assisted the people and healthcare facilities of Ukraine in response to the continuing crisis caused by the full-scale war.

Under the UNICEF Project, TB Europe Coalition ensured essential healthcare service provision in 23 Spilno points located in 20 cities of Ukraine. Forty-eight healthcare professionals conducted screening for communicable diseases using brief questionnaires and check-ups, offered basic consultations by family doctor for children and their parents / trustees, prescribed medications if necessary, and referred them to healthcare facilities for specialized care and provision of health information (including vaccination certificates, online counseling, etc.). In Spilno points, doctors also conducted health education events for children and adults covering such topics as personal hygiene, vaccination, healthy nutrition, prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases, mental healthcare, pre-medical assistance in emergency situations, etc. In the course of project implementation, more than 100 000 children and 95 000 adults received access to basic healthcare services in “Spilno”.

In addition, in the framework of the UNICEF Ukraine project, TBEC together with partners provided humanitarian assistance under the medical voucher program for the Saint Zinaida Children Clinical Hospital in Sumy and Municipal Maternity functioning as level 2 Perinatal Center in Kkropyvnytsky, Public clinical maternity in Poltava; it also ensured emergency procurement and delivery of medications and supplies for the National Specialized Clinical Pediatric Hospital “Okhmadet”, Kyiv Oblast Clinical Pediatric Hospital, Luhansk Oblast Clinical Pediatric Hospital and other communal healthcare facilities. This partially satisfied the need for medical assistance to thousands of children and women, including internally displaced persons from the eastern and southern regions of the country.

These achievements for children and their families became possible thanks to generous support of the EU, the Government of Japan and UNICEF.

Accessibility of healthcare services for migrants

In 2022, TB Europe Coalition, in partnership with the Regional Expert Group on Migration and Health in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) and HIV Policy Lab (Georgetown University) continued implementation of their joint project on ensuring migrants access to healthcare services.

Reports “Situation and economic analysis of HIV services for international migrants in Kazakhstan”, “Best practice review in supporting international migrants and removing barriers in their access to HIV services by civil society and institutions” and publication “Female health and HIV in context of migration” were prepared, based on the findings of the research conducted by the Regional Expert Group. These documents presented to broad audience an up-to-date assessment of the status of migrants’ access to HIV services in the host countries of the region. They can serve as useful advocacy tools to bring up the issues of migrants’ access to medical and social services at the national and regional levels.

In the framework of the project in June 2022, TBEC conducted a technical visit to Georgia to participate in the meeting of Regional Expert Group and conduct a focus-group with refugees to assess the needs of migrants and refugees in terms of their access to healthcare services.

Enhancing the capacity and capability of European civil society to drive a person-centred TB response in Europe

This project aims at TBEC sustainable development, including support in fundraising strategy development opening new opportunities for preparing and submitting funding applications; development of the monitoring and evaluation system based on the TBEC Strategy for 2021-2024, which will later allow to evaluate the progress of Coalition’s performance; optimization of TBEC Website; establishment of an informational platform for data storage and exchange.

The project focused specifically on working with the Coalition members. This included updating their information and identifying cooperation gaps. Based on these findings, the action plan was developed to strengthen TBEC institutional capacity for 2023.

TBEC continuously participates in advocacy efforts at the global and European levels aimed to strengthen the role of the civil society and communities in TB response, being an active participant of various forums and task forces, as well as activities run by the Global Fund, “Stop TB” Partnership and WHO Regional Office for Europe.

TBEC actively carries out informational work aimed at raising awareness of Coalition’s members and partners on TB response (monthly newsletter, regular maintenance of social media pages (Facebook, Twitter), thematic mailing lists through Google and Mailchimp), and participates in international communication campaigns (World TB Day, European Testing Week, Global Fund replenishment, etc.). In 2022, TBEC traditionally participated in the International Lung Health Conference UNION, where it arranged two sessions.



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Support in TB procurement and market formation through expanding partnership, stakeholder engagement and coordination with financial support of “Stop TB” Partnership / UNOPS

This project aims at advocating for access to quality TB drugs for communities affected by TB. Under this project in 2023 it is planned to establish a working group consisting of civil society representatives from various countries to facilitate advocacy and support of TB procurements, stakeholder engagement and coordination by shaping evidence-based demand for measures addressing problems related to TB procurements and access / market formation.

For the purposes of establishing the working group, TBEC in consortium with O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University have already developed the terms of reference for the vice-chair and members of the group and short-listed 15 experts – potential working group members.