The impact of COVID-19 on TB services: TB maintaining during COVID 19 pandemic

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Overview of the progress towards Regional commitments

Regional TB Action Plan 2015-2020

WHO European Region

TB incidence rate

Target: 25% reduction 2015–2020

Number of TB deaths

Target: 35% reduction 2015–2020

Source: Roadmap to implement the tuberculosis action plan for the WHO European Region 2016–2020
Indicators included in the WHO/Europe data collection

1. TB diagnosis and detection:

Number of notified cases of all forms of TB (i.e. bacteriologically confirmed plus clinically diagnosed), new and relapse cases

2. Initiation of TB treatment:

Number of patients that began TB treatment

Number of cases with RR-TB and/or MDR-TB that began second-line treatment*

3. Retention in care:

Percentage of patients reported on TB treatment at the end of the reporting period

*Only 18 high priority countries were asked to report on RR/MDR-TB treatment initiation
Monthly TB notifications in WHO European Region

29 member states of the WHO European Region submitted monthly data
Comparison of quarterly notification of new and relapse TB cases in 2020 vs. 2019, WHO European Region

**Before COVID-19 pandemic**

An average annual decrease in TB notification of -5% has been observed in the Region since 2015.

**After COVID-19 pandemic**

An average -35.5% decrease in TB notification has been observed in Q2 2020 compared to the same period in 2019.
Monthly enrollment on RR/MDR-TB treatment in WHO European Region

14 member states of the WHO European Region submitted monthly data

- January: +2%
- February: 0%
- March: 0%
- April: -21%
- May: -45%
- June: -38%
Comparison of quarterly enrollment to RR/MDR-TB treatment in 2020 vs. 2019, WHO European Region (14 Member States reported data)

Before COVID-19 pandemic
On average, 45,000 RR/MDR-TB patients were enrolled to treatment annually, with no trend of annual decrease.

After COVID-19 pandemic
Enrollment to MDR-TB treatment decreased with -33.5% average decline reported in Q2 2020.
Measures implemented at a sub-national level or targeting a specific group of people (e.g. vulnerable populations) are reduced by 20.
COVID impact in Ukraine

COVID impact on 2020 TB case finding diagnosis¹
- Decrease in the country by 27.4% incidence of tuberculosis in the 1st half of 2020 (23 per 100 thousand population) compared to the same period in 2019 (31.7 per 100 thousand population)
- Reducing the availability of all types of medical care for patients through quarantine measures
- Reducing the availability of primary TB diagnosis (microbiological and radiological) at the all level of medical care due to quarantine measures

Delivery of medicines treatment
- Reduced accessibility of DOT for patients, monitoring of outpatient treatment due to transport restrictions at the level of cities, districts during quarantine measures
- Delay in international deliveries of anti-TB drugs and consumables for microbiological diagnosis of TB due to transport restrictions
- Restriction of redistribution of drugs between regions through quarantine measures

1 – Ukrainian Public Health Care data
Impact of COVID-19 on TB response

Modelling done by WHO

- Temporary decrease in TB case detection:
  - 25% over a period of 3 months → 13% increase in TB deaths
  - 50% over a period of 3 months → 26% increase in TB deaths

- 3,600 to 7,200 additional deaths in WHO European Region

- TB deaths could be back to 2016-2017 level (≈ 30 000 deaths)

Stop TB partnership modelling

- An additional 26 500 TB deaths could be registered in WHO European Region between 2020 and 2025 as a direct consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic (1.4 million deaths globally)

Towards ending TB in Europe

- Maintain TB services during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Allocate financial resources to ensure implementation and sustainability of national TB action plans and strengthen multisectoral coordination and accountability
- Transition to latest WHO guidance on TB prevention, systematic screening, diagnosis and treatment
- Optimize treatment regimens for TB and DR-TB, especially with transition to fully-oral regimens
- Scale up people-centered models of care and intensify the use of digital health solutions and tools to support patients throughout treatment
- Tailor interventions to vulnerable population groups, particularly prisoners, migrants, people living with HIV, diabetes and other health conditions
- Involve civil society in TB response
- Ensure robust surveillance and monitoring of the response to TB
COVID 19 challenges for Ukraine

- Availability of outpatient TB treatment
- Logistics of biological material for TB diagnosis and TB treatment monitoring
- Providing counseling and information services to patients during outpatient TB treatment
- Availability of social and legal support services, gender aspects during outpatient TB treatment
- Providing inpatient treatment for patients with TB / COVID and COVID
WHO Technical Assistance 2021 - 2022

➢ Activities in the framework of the lab component in the cooperation with the Supranational Reference Laboratory according to the approved working plan

➢ Improved TB diagnosis, TB treatment optimization across the cascade in the context of achieving national and international TB targets

➢ Standardized TB cascade data and performance indicators collected and analysed to identify challenges, support programmatic decision making and improve quality of services.

➢ TB treatment optimized

➢ Effectiveness of TB and drug resistant TB treatment monitored and improved

➢ TB service providers, regional and national TB programme manager and others trained

➢ TB epidemiological modeling supported

➢ TB inventory study completed

➢ Study on cost of TB services for patients conducted
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