Tuberculosis country brief

Romania

Total population (millions): 21.4
High TB priority country

Epidemiological profile 2011*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimates of TB burden</th>
<th>Number (thousands)</th>
<th>Rate (per 100 000)</th>
<th>MDR-TB burden</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mortality</td>
<td>1.3 (1.3–1.3)</td>
<td>6 (6–6)</td>
<td>MDR-TB among new cases</td>
<td>340 (220–500)</td>
<td>2.8 (1.8-4.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidence</td>
<td>22 (18–26)</td>
<td>103 (84–121)</td>
<td>Notified MDR-TB cases on treatment</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case detection rate</td>
<td>74 (65-94)%</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Estimated prevalence of HIV among TB (number, percentage): 350 (240-490), 1.6 (1.2-2.2)%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment outcome 2010</th>
<th>Successfully treated (%)</th>
<th>Died (%)</th>
<th>Failed (%)</th>
<th>Lost to follow up** (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New smear-positive pulmonary cases</td>
<td>83.8</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New smear-negative/extrapulmonary cases</td>
<td>84.8</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previously treated cases</td>
<td>54.6</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDR-TB cohort 2009</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>30.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Includes those cases that defaulted from treatment, those that were transferred out and those that were not evaluated.

Major challenges

Political commitment in Romania has been renewed recently to strengthen the National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP), but various bottlenecks need to be addressed in order to strengthen the capacity of the programme. Bottlenecks being addressed include: a weak laboratory network structure and limited availability of culture on liquid media and rapid tests for anti-tuberculosis (TB) drug resistance; performance of the drug susceptibility test for only 50% of reported TB cases; inadequate treatment regimens for multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB patients; inadequate infection control measures in TB facilities; decentralized drug procurement for first and second line anti-TB drugs; inadequate provision of directly observed therapy (DOT) and absence of social support; an outdated recording and reporting system; and an NTP central management team that lacks a clear mandate.

Achievements in collaboration with WHO

- Finalization and approval of the National MDR-TB Strategic Plan, 2011–2015.
- Technical assistance to the development of two other strategic documents: the mid-term National TB Strategy and the Infection Control Strategic Plan.
- A Green Light Committee (GLC)/Europe monitoring visit in April 2012.
- A high-level visit by the WHO/Europe Regional Director and the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, who met with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health on 4 October 2012.
- Assistance with the successful application to the Transitional Funding Mechanism (TFM) and the Bridge Funding Mechanism of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (The Global Fund).
- Assistance to the Ministry of Health with establishment and initiation of a centralised procurement system for key areas including procurement of medicines for TB and HIV programmes.
- Evaluation of the use of BCG vaccination which resulted in WHO’s support to the decision of the Ministry of Health to continue with BCG vaccination of newborns.
Planned WHO activities

- Organization of an expert mission on drug supply and management, NTP governance, national MDR-TB clinical guidelines, infection control, laboratory network, and monitoring and evaluation.
- Technical assistance to the finalization of two strategic documents: the mid-term National TB Strategy and the Infection Control Strategic Plan.
- Technical assistance to develop a protocol for a nationwide anti-TB drug resistance survey.
- Training on anti-TB drugs management.
- Continued technical support to implement The Global Fund project.

Main partners

- Ministry of Health
- National Public Health Institute
- National Health Insurance House
- National Institute for Lung Diseases “Marius Nasta” where the NTP is located
- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (The Global Fund)
- Centre for Health Policies and Services – a nongovernmental organization (NGO) active in public health and implementing The Global Fund supported projects
- Romanian Angel Appeal (NGO), the Principal Recipient for The Global Fund
- Salvati Copiile – NGO active in child rights and implementing The Global Fund supported projects
- Romanian Red Cross – implementing The Global Fund supported projects
- Association of TB patients
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.