

Scaling Up and Improving Access to Ambulatory and Paediatric TB Care In Central Asia & Eastern Europe

THE DUSHANBE DECLARATION

Ministry of Health representatives of Central Asian and East European countries, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and key partners in TB care met at the **Scaling Up and Improving Access to Ambulatory and Paediatric TB Care in Central Asia & Eastern Europe Symposium**, held in Dushanbe on 5/6 December 2013. Here delegates shared experiences and achievements in TB control and efforts towards elimination of the disease in the Region, but acknowledged more needs to be done.

Building on the commitments of the *Berlin Declaration*¹ and the recent WHO and partners *Roadmap for childhood tuberculosis*² stated goal of reaching zero TB deaths among children worldwide, delegates made three overarching calls for:

- 1. Rationalising of resources not to result in decreased budget, but to fill current gaps in TB funding.**
- 2. Accelerated scale up of the ambulatory care model for DS and DR-TB.**
- 3. Urgent improvement in the diagnosis and treatment of children with TB and particularly MDR-TB, through family based, patient-centred care.**

Furthermore, delegates outlined and agreed a set of specific requirements and actions to guide next steps and maintain the momentum towards scale up and delivery of comprehensive TB care for all - including children - and to find a shorter, more effective, less toxic regimen for patients in the region:

Political commitment

- Demonstrate political will and ambition to attain 'zero TB deaths' with a measurable government led program of investment in TB services, equipment and training.

Delivering comprehensive ambulatory services

¹ *The Berlin Declaration on Tuberculosis - All Against Tuberculosis* WHO European Ministerial Forum; Berlin, 22 October 2007.

² *Roadmap for childhood tuberculosis: towards zero deaths*. © World Health Organization 2013

- Improve linkages particularly with PHC and MCH to provide more opportunities for early detection, treatment and reduced risk of transmission.
- Social support is critical and provision must be made to support patients and insulate them from the downward spiral of poverty, default and failure.
- Anticipate, better understand and plan for addressing emerging relevant TB risk factors for the CA/EE region.
- Treat patients on an ambulatory basis from as early as possible, as appropriate for a patient-centred model.
- Strengthen cooperation between HIV & TB services to measurably arrest this growing co-morbidity.

Improving Paediatric TB care

- Provide psycho-social care and support for children and families to mitigate the impact of chronic disease on the longer-term development of the child.
- Region-wide development, adoption, dissemination and implementation of best practice Paediatric guidelines, including integration of these in practitioner training curricular.
- Develop an efficient screening tool/approach for high yield, provider initiated, active/Intensified case finding for paediatric cases.
- Establish nutritional support as an integral component of all paediatric TB programs.
- Continue to refine and explore alternatives to produce child-friendly, paediatric formulations that are patient and practitioner friendly, affordable and accessible.

New Drugs

- Increase policing of over the counter drugs and tighten drug regulation to minimize the risk of premature resistance to new drugs.
- Political commitment towards development of viable new regimens - where appropriate featuring new drugs - that are shorter, less toxic, ideally oral, simple and effective.
- Actively pursue compassionate use to provide expanded access to new drugs, particularly for XDR patients and children.

Community involvement

- Address socio-cultural barriers to beneficial health seeking behavior by TB patients by conducting varied and strategic health education campaigns and activity to reducing stigma.

With this declaration, Ministries of Health, MSF and partners demonstrate the determination to continue advances made over the past decade in TB care; to expand access, improve rapid diagnostic methods and enhance quality of treatment for all patients in the CA and EE region.