



YES!
WE CAN END TB

SITUATION REPORT

24 MARCH 2023

UNBREAKABLE AGAINST TB

On the eve of World TB Day we are reflecting on over a year of TB response during the war. Despite the challenges due to shelling, destruction, energy terror, migration of both general population and medical professionals Ukraine gives decisive TB response.

Coordinated efforts of government, civil society, international partners as well as financial support from the Global Fund and other donors during the war allow to keep TB epidemic under control. In some regions we were able to identify 2-3 times more TB cases than before the war, linking them to treatment. Timely delivery of TB drugs sometimes even by bicycles when it was no fuel, providing psychosocial and mental health support led to the most important results – over 80% of drug-resistant TB were cured.

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CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR FOR THE TB SYSTEM IN UKRAINE

1345 medical institutions were significantly damaged or completely destroyed

TB clinics in 9 regions were destroyed or damaged – in Kherson, Chernihiv, Kyiv, Sumy, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Luhansk, Kharkiv, and Mykolaiv regions.

106 civilian medics killed in their workplaces

Documented **torturing and killing of TB patients** Unfortunately, we have 7 confirmed victims among our clients. Out of them 2 were killed in Bucha.

ATTACKS ON TB SYSTEM AND PATIENTS

THE OFFICES OF OUR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS IN THE REGIONS HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY TARGETED BY ENEMY MISSILES



The office of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society in Kherson



Completely destroyed partners' office in Mariupol



IN SOME SETTLEMENTS, NOT ONLY WORKPLACES, BUT ALSO EMPLOYEES' HOMES WERE DAMAGED

And this is Tetiana, a social worker with the organisation, who works in the project for the active TB case finding. On the night her house was hit by a rocket, she was fortunately hiding in a bomb shelter, so she survived. Now she stays in the shelter every night and works on the streets during the day. She says she cannot leave the city because there will be no one to help people from vulnerable groups to detect TB.

DISPLACEMENT OF PATIENTS WITH TB/DR-TB DURING THE WAR

REGIONS WITH THE LARGEST SHARE OF OUT-MIGRATION:

Donetsk (18.2%),
 Kharkiv (11.8%),
 Luhansk (10.6%),
 Kyiv (9.1%),
 Kyiv city (7.6%)
 Kherson (6.3%),
 Mykolaiv (5.5%),
 Zaporizhzhia (5.1%)
 regions

REGIONS WITH THE HIGHEST SHARE OF NEWLY ARRIVED IDPS:

Lviv (15.2%),
 Dnipropetrovska (13.3%),
 Zakarpattia (10.3%),
 Kyiv (6.1%),
 Poltava (5.9%)
 Cherkasy (5.7%)
 regions



In total, during the period 24.02.22 end of 2022, 474 IDPs with active TB were registered (264 TB and 210 DR-TB)

According to the PHC

TB IN UKRAINE DURING THE WAR:

In 2022, **23676** people with susceptible TB and **8232** people with XDR-TB were treated in healthcare facilities, including **19131** people who were diagnosed with TB in 2022

3499 cases of MDR-TB were registered in 2022

TB in children aged 0-14 years - **453** cases

The average rate of missing TB cases in Ukraine is about **25%**.

The average total rate of TB and DR-TB cases lost to follow-up was **4.5%** (**852** people out of those enrolled for treatment in 2022)

CIVIL SOCIETY CONTINUES TO PROVIDE TB SERVICE WHEN CLINICS ARE DESTROYED



TB screening among key populations continued even under fire, and **coverage in 2022 increased 1.5 times compared to 2021.**

We are **working in bulletproof vests** in settlements with regular shelling.

We screen people for TB in **bomb shelters** and other crowded places.

We **deliver medicines on bicycles** and in thermal bags where public transport is not available due to active hostilities or destruction.

We deliver anti-TB drugs to the most remote areas of the affected regions, which are accessible by the **postal delivery.**

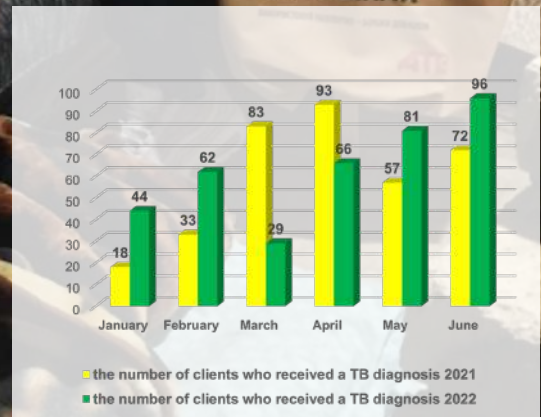


SUSTAINING TB RESPONSE

TB detection in the Western regions **has increased almost 3-fold** compared to the same period in 2021 and is associated with a wave of massive displacement of people from the East and South of Ukraine to the Western regions.

In 2022, the Alliance's active TB case finding among vulnerable populations projects covered **more than 85 thousands** KPs with TB screening; **more than 30 thousands** people received TB diagnostics services in HCF; and **1211** TB patients were identified and started treatment.

Latent TB infection was detected in **440 children** from families of key populations and all of them started preventive treatment.



HELP NOW hub

helpnow.aph.org.ua

HELPNow helps coordinating efforts for treatment abroad.

The activity is implemented in close cooperation with the Public Health Center, EATG and over a hundred of other partner organizations around the world (arranging appointments with doctors, getting prescriptions for medicines based on Ukrainian health records, and translation).

HELP NOW hub
POLAND

HELP NOW hub
GERMANY

HELP NOW hub
BALTIA

HELP NOW hub
MOLDOVA

TB CASE FINDING IN THE MILITARY



In 2022, the APH started active cooperation with the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine for TB case finding among personnel in active service. In the first months of the war, during the mass mobilization, military enlistment offices did not have the capacity to properly examine all the mobilized people for active pulmonary TB, which led to the spread of the disease among the servicemen. The APH equipped an ambulance with an X-ray unit and a section for sputum collection to find the cases of TB in military men and women. So far, we have signed a cooperation agreement with Vinnytsia Military hospital and started the work. We already have some first results: in less than a month, 6 TB cases were found in the military. All the persons in questions have started TB treatment.

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF CO-MORBIDITIES

The APH pays significant attention to combined treatment of socially dangerous diseases. E.g., in 2022, **91** patients started combined TB and viral hepatitis treatment; **27** more patients had started the treatment back in October 2021. Besides, **15** patients were receiving triple therapy in 2022: they were treated for HIV, TB and viral hepatitis.

UNBREAKABLE AGAINST TB



In **8 regions** of Ukraine, **5604** people with susceptible TB and 2819 people with drug-resistant TB were enrolled for medical and psychosocial support in 2022.

Thanks to our support, **84.2%** of people with susceptible TB were successfully cured of the disease (compared to the national average of 78.3%) and **81%** of people with drug-resistant TB (compared to the national average of 65.1%).

In the regions liberated from the occupation, unprecedented efforts are being made to track down patients with whom we have lost contact (out of **359** people with whom we lost contact, we have restored contact with **107** clients).

We continued to implement an innovative project (not only for Ukraine but also for the EECA region) to **support the mental health** of people with TB.



HUMANITARIAN AID PROVIDED TO PEOPLE WITH TB AND HEALTH CARE FACILITIES IN HOSTILITIES ZONES AND AREAS UNDER TEMPORARY OCCUPATIONS

Stop TB Partnership

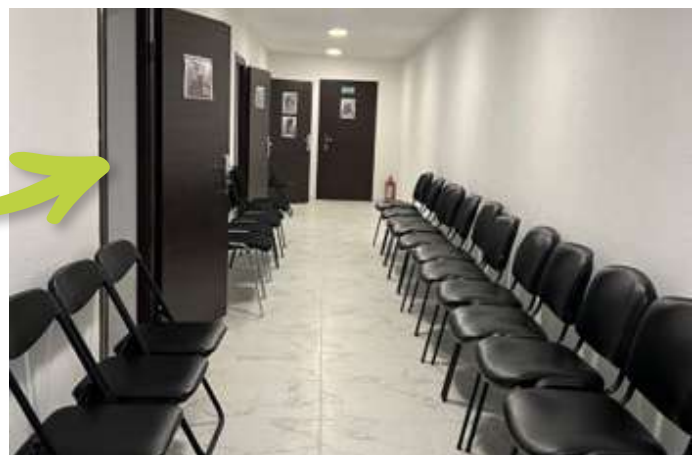
Another important line of work of the APH and its partners in 2022 that we would like to share with you on the eve of the World TB Day is provision of humanitarian aid to people with TB and health care facilities.

The war has exacerbated the needs and created new challenges, so the Public Health Center and the Stop TB Ukraine Partnership with the support from the APH have created TB Help Hub as an additional platform to meet the most urgent needs of health care facilities, NGOs or patients.

The Hub has been used to collect information about TB-related needs and search for sponsors to provide aid to TB facilities and people with TB. During 2022:

- More than **\$88 thousand** were collected,
- Urgent needs of people with TB at individual health facilities in **8 regions** of Ukraine were met,
- **220 kg** of general purpose medicines were procured for patients of TB facilities of Kherson oblast,
- **Bomb shelter** of Odesa Center for Socially Significant Diseases was repaired,
- OSB boards were procured and delivered to **cover blown-out windows** of Kherson TB dispensary.

Besides, in 8 regions of Ukraine, 1672 persons with TB and their families received targeted humanitarian aid — food or hygienic packages.



This activity was enabled by financial support from STOP TB Partnership and the work of our resilient national partners.



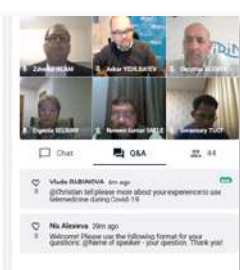
The APH supports coordination of activities of the civil society in Ukraine on preparing to the UN High Level Meeting on TB. Together with the Stop TB Ukraine Partnership and TBpeople Ukraine we intend to get fully involved in drafting effective key asks for the Political Declaration on TB and ensuring Ukraine's representation at the HLM by a strong multisectoral delegation including representatives of the civil society and TB-affected communities.

JOINING EFFORTS OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO PROMOTE INTEGRATED SERVICES UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP OF FRONTLINE AIDS

FRONTLINE AIDS

In 2022, the geographic outreach of Action 2 partners expanded from 4 to 7 countries around the world leading to the following results:

- Presentation of TB response activities in Ukraine at the UNION international conference where Action 2 partners from Uganda, Cambodia, India, Ukraine and Ecuador prepared several sessions on important issues of advocacy for integrated approach in country programs. There was also an interactive video and a session on CSO work during COVID-19. The APH also chaired the 'Political Environment for Community-Led Advocacy and Accountability' track and was an active facilitator of sessions of the main conference and Community Connect section.
- Joint achievements in coordinating and planning important further steps to achieve Action 2 goals at an offline meeting of the partners in Istanbul in December 2022.
- Continuing the work on policy brief 'To the People: Integrated Health Services Journey to Key Population' and an article on case finding in a scientific magazine.
- Submitting the article on case finding to a scientific magazine.



PATIENT STORIES

With the outbreak of full-scale war, Serhiy's (name changed) life changed forever. Being in the active combat zone and hiding in basements from regular shelling by the occupiers, the man no longer hoped to return to a quiet life. He admits: «At first, I did not want to leave my home. I hoped to the last that it was about to end. It was like a nightmare, but it didn't end with the morning. At some point, I realized that I was ready to leave the place where I grew up just to stay alive.» The dangerous living conditions took their toll - even then, the man felt that he was not healthy, but he blamed it on the horror that was happening around him. When Serhiy found shelter in Rivne region, he was referred to the regional healthcare facility. After undergoing the prescribed tests, the man learned that he had two disappointing

diagnoses at once - HIV and TB. It seemed that even in the absence of gunfire and explosions nearby, death had caught up with him. Thanks to the coordinated work of healthcare workers and specialists from the Rivne Regional Charitable Foundation «Our Future», which is implementing a Public Health Alliance project to detect TB in contact persons in the region, the disease was quickly diagnosed and the necessary treatment was prescribed. At the moment, the man is receiving TB treatment on an outpatient basis and is under medical and psychosocial support from the CO «100% Life Rivne». Today, Serhiy has no obstacles to receiving treatment and he sincerely believes that in the near future not only his health but also the situation in the country will change for the better

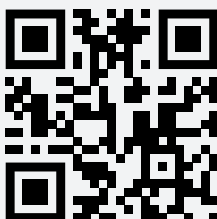


Mr Serhiy used to own a house in Chornomorsk, Odesa region, but one tragic day there was a fire in it, in which he miraculously survived. Having received very severe burns, he was admitted to a burn center for treatment, where his right leg had to be amputated. He was also examined there and diagnosed with tuberculosis, and Mr Serhiy was transferred to the inpatient department of the Odesa Regional Centre for Socially Significant Diseases for treatment. With the outbreak of full-scale war, the man was discharged from the hospital for outpatient treatment at home. He found himself in a very difficult situation - his documents were destroyed in a fire, he had no proper housing and no way to visit a medical facility in a timely manner. And all this under martial law. In these circumstances, Mr Serhiy was enrolled in the medical and psychosocial support of the Life Plus Self-Help Club, an NGO that is implementing a Public

Health Alliance project to support people with TB in Odesa Oblast. The project's case manager, Oksana, developed an individual plan of medical and social services for the man, which included assistance with housing, delivery of anti-TB drugs through a DOT provider, and assistance with monthly diagnostics. The project also helped Mr Serhiy to restore his passport and identification code and establish his disability, as well as provide him with food certificates and mobile phone top-ups. The assistance of the project case manager in all his immediate needs, her support and understanding, and constant motivation to undergo treatment have significantly improved Mr Serhiy's psycho-emotional state. He is currently continuing his treatment and looks forward to the future.



**TO SUPPORT OUR EMERGENCY EFFORTS,
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