



## UKRAINE TUBERCULOSIS ROADMAP OVERVIEW, FISCAL YEAR 2024

This is an overview of the USAID/Ukraine FY 2024 Tuberculosis (TB) Roadmap, implemented with the FY 2023 budget. The roadmap was developed in consultation with the National TB Program (NTP) and with the participation of national and international partners involved in TB prevention and care in the country.

The ongoing war on the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic has had a continuous negative impact on the country's health system and exacerbated existing weaknesses while exposing new and urgent public health challenges, such as increased risk for disease outbreaks and unmet health needs among displaced populations. Despite the challenges faced in 2022, the NTP, with the support of partners, undertook some active measures to mitigate the negative consequences of the pandemic, resulting in some positive trends in 2022 compared to 2021<sup>1</sup>, namely the following:

- A slight increase in new cases was detected, from 18,307 in 2021 to 18,567 in 2022, although TB incidence increased from 35,000 in 2021 to 36,000 in 2022.
- The percentage of people diagnosed with TB tested with rapid molecular diagnostics remained near 100 percent.
- Bacteriological coverage for new cases and relapses remained at 73 percent.
- The treatment success rate for multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) increased from 61 percent to 65 percent.

In 2019, Ukraine adopted a State Strategy for HIV/AIDS, TB, and Viral Hepatitis that runs through 2030. In this strategy, TB incidence and mortality reduction is a crucial goal; to achieve this, the Government of Ukraine plans to improve the organization and provision of TB care, ensure effective detection of new cases and prevention of resistant forms of tuberculosis, and improve the quality and effectiveness of TB treatment. In 2023, there is a Ministry of Health (MOH) decision to develop a new operational plan for 2024-2026, which is expected to be approved within the first six months of the year.

The proposed FY 2023 USAID TB budget for Ukraine is \$12 million. With this level of funding, USAID will support the following technical areas:

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<sup>1</sup> Data provided by NTP



## REACH

### *TB diagnosis*

USAID is supporting the scaling up of molecular-genetic testing, which continued despite the disruptions of war, prioritizing the use of GeneXpert for TB diagnostics. In 2022, Ukraine started programmatic use of extremely drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) cartridges across the country and will continue this practice. With FY 2023 funds, USAID will continue building the capacity of the National Reference Laboratory to implement whole genome sequencing and provide technical assistance to the NTP to improve the quality of TB diagnosis.

Considering low detection rates among children under five years old, USAID will continue scaling up detection among children by expanding stool testing using GeneXpert in new regions added after the full invasion and occupation of the South and East of Ukraine. In FY 2024, USAID will continue supporting portable and mobile diagnostic devices such as Fuji portable X-ray machines and computer-aided detection based on artificial intelligence software (AI). This approach will reduce diagnosis time and patient drop-out, enabling TB diagnosis and treatment services in areas with a shortage of expertise. As a part of the restoration and recovery strategy in FY 2023, USAID will focus on supporting repairs and providing new laboratory equipment to damaged TB facilities.

### *Engaging all care providers*

With FY 2023 funds, USAID will continue building on broader USAID health reform engagement at the national level to integrate TB while working with doctors and nurses to implement new diagnostic approaches by conducting virtual training and mentoring sessions. On-the-job training will be conducted in regions where the military situation allows. By integrating comprehensive TB diagnostics and case management at the primary healthcare level, USAID will address challenges and help seize opportunities opened by ongoing health reform to advance integrated services. Additionally, USAID will continue supporting active case-finding services in community settings and strengthen collaboration with pediatric hospitals to address low detection among children to ensure TB diagnosis algorithms are followed.

### *Community TB care delivery*

USAID will continue improving the capacity of non-government organizations to provide counseling and contact investigation in community settings through training and mentorship. USAID will support the Onelmpact digital platform to encourage people to use a self-screening tool and guide them to the closest available facility for TB diagnostics.

Stigma and discrimination against people with TB remain huge barriers that can prevent people from seeking diagnostics and treatment. USAID will continue supporting the implementation of the framework developed in 2022, “Policy on TB Stigma and Discrimination Prevention in Medical Facilities,” that assists healthcare managers in complying with conditions of the National Health Service of Ukraine.



In FY 2024, USAID will continue to support local non-government organizations in delivering an essential psychosocial care package for individuals with DR-TB and engaging intensively in active case finding through X-ray screening, screening of risk groups using digital X-ray equipment, and other activities.

## **CURE**

### *Drug-susceptible TB (DS-TB) treatment*

Due to the development of active hostilities, especially in the eastern and southern oblasts of the country, ensuring individuals had continuous access to TB drugs became critical. To better align national legal framework and practices with international guidelines, USAID continues supporting the adoption of national policies and providing assistance in revising and updating regional documents, helping ensure the continuity of TB services and government stewardship of the NTP during wartime.

USAID, in cooperation with local community organizations, established multi-discipline resource rooms in TB facilities in two regions. These spaces allow the provision of sessions on psychological support to children and adolescents undergoing in- or out-patient TB disease/infection treatment and their parents. In FY 2024, USAID plans to continue supporting the implementation of psychosocial support for children and their families.

### *MDR-TB treatment*

In FY 2022, USAID continued implementing operational research on BPaL treatment in four regions, complementing the NTP's treatment efforts. Better access to new TB drugs and short treatment regimens remains one of the strategic objectives of the National TB program. MOH rapidly adopted new WHO guidelines on implementing BPaL in a program setting, and to help achieve this objective, USAID will support scaling up program implementation of BPaL treatment regimen in four regional TB facilities with FY 2023 funding. In line with this, USAID will continue improving the quality of treatment safety monitoring through capacity building and SOP development. USAID will also continue clinical mentoring to ensure quality of care and speed up treatment initiation through the patient triage approach. To better align the national legal framework and practices with international guidelines, USAID will support adopting national policies and assist in revising and updating regional documents accordingly.

In FY 2024, USAID will continue supporting digital adherence technologies (DATs), building the capacity of healthcare providers to use these technologies, and analyzing their results. Despite the challenges of war, USAID continued providing psychosocial support services to individuals with DR-TB in targeted regions. The National Program of Medical Guarantees and the national budget of Ukraine will not be able to cover the costs of psychosocial support from 2023 and beyond. In FY 2024, USAID will scale up psychosocial support, ensuring all those in need receive care and adhere to TB treatment.



## **PREVENT**

### *Prevention*

National funding remains limited and will not be allocated to procuring Interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) testing. USAID and Global Fund will support the continuation and scaling up of IGRA testing followed by TPT prescription. In FY24, USAID will continue supporting the implementation of a whole prevention cascade: identifying individuals at the highest risk, testing for infection, excluding active TB, choosing the treatment option that is best suited to the individual, managing adverse events, and supporting medication adherence.

## **INNOVATE**

### *Research*

In FY 2024, USAID will support a qualitative study on BPaL adverse events and their influence on treatment outcomes from the perspectives of individuals with TB and healthcare workers. Data collected during the BPaL operational research will be analyzed, additional interviews with healthcare workers and individuals with TB will be conducted, and the study's conclusions will be shared with the NTP and used to improve the implementation of the BPaL treatment regimen.

### *Scale up of New Tools*

In FY 2024, USAID will continue developing the capacity of TB providers and government institutions. The support areas include refining screening algorithms at primary healthcare facilities, scaling up portable digital X-ray units for remote areas, ensuring comprehensive contact investigation, operationalizing LTBI clinical guidance, advancing laboratory diagnostics, augmenting treatment adherence with digital technologies, strengthening health systems for TB commodities management, engaging local communities for improved access to TB services, and piloting child-friendly TB care approaches.

## **SUSTAIN**

### *Commitment and Sustainability*

Given the disruption and infrastructure damage caused by Russia's ongoing full-scale invasion, USAID will continue supporting the implementation of the Government of Ukraine's recovery plan to restore HIV, TB, and Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) services. Many other international development partners, governments, non-government entities, and individuals plan to support the Government of Ukraine's broad recovery agenda while ensuring domestic and international investments in recovery align with the Ukraine Recovery Plan. USAID TB investments have also been complemented by other USG health development and humanitarian assistance provided to Ukraine to support the continuity of systems and services.

### *Capacity and functioning systems: Procurement and supply chain management (PSM)*

In FY 2024, USAID will continue providing technical assistance to expand access to high-quality TB medicines and pharmaceutical services through continuous analysis of TB medicines



procurement and strengthen Medical Procurement of Ukraine's competency in public procurement to transition these functions back during the post-war recovery. USAID will continue supporting the Center for Public Health in quantifying, costing, and forecasting TB medicines and lab commodities to alert stakeholders of anticipated stock-outs that would necessitate procurement of additional supplies to cover gaps and management of the emergency stocks as needed. In response to the war USAID will also support restoring the multifunctional transportation system for samples and drug transportation in the regions based on the infrastructural availability. To ensure continuity of treatment, USAID has increased funding to the central mechanism devoted to commodity procurement for the TB program, as needed, to complement the Global Fund's support of DR and DS-TB treatment that remains accessible and uninterrupted.

*Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and Health Management Information Systems (HMIS) [and implementation of the Performance-Based Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (PBMEF)]*

In FY 2024, USAID will continue seconding an M&E Advisor to the CPH to support data collection amid Russia's invasion and enhance M&E skills and capabilities nationally. USAID will also focus on improving routine electronic data collection systems for TB surveillance systems at national and regional levels in line with the country's ongoing healthcare reform and digital transformation. In support of treatment adherence, USAID supported the scaling up of smart pill boxes, providing healthcare workers with real-time data about treatment uptake and enabling quick response to disruptions. In FY 2024, USAID plans to continue expanding the use of this digital adherence technology in targeted regions.

*Human resources for health (HRH)*

In FY 2024, USAID will continue strengthening the technical knowledge and skills of TB service providers and primary healthcare workers by adapting the training curricula and addressing emerging needs in capacity building of the public health workforce, recognizing the new challenges caused by the war. USAID will also increase the capacity of the National Health Service of Ukraine to make evidence-based decisions on improving TB services both at primary and secondary levels of healthcare through financing packages under the state Program of Medical Guarantees.