TB DIAH

TUBERCULOSIS DATA, IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS HUB

Using a Virtual Center of Excellence (COE) Model to Strengthen TB Monitoring and Evaluation
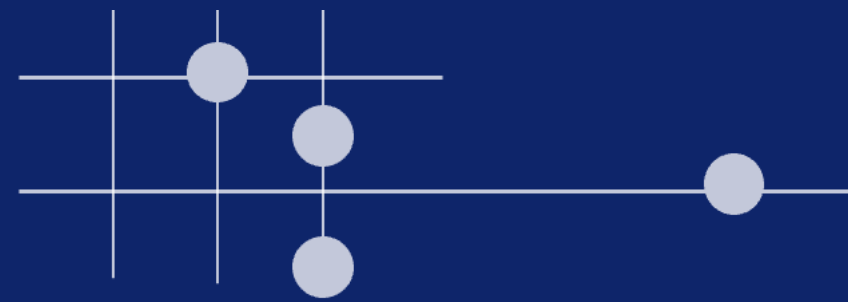
March 21, 2023

Agenda

- Importance of the COE

- How the COE complements WHO/Europe's regional platform activities

- Overview of TB DIAH and the project's work in the Eastern Europe and Eurasia (EEE region)

- COE strategy, country selection process, audience, and functions

- COE implementation in Georgia

- COE engagement in the region

- Long-term success and sustainability of the COE

- Question and answer and wrap-up

Webinar Panelists

- **Sevim Ahmedov**

  TB/HIV Prevention and M&E Team Lead, Bureau for Global Health, TB Division, USAID/Washington

- **Giorgi Kuchukhidze**

  Epidemiologist, TB Division, WHO Regional Office for Europe

- **Bridgit Adamou**

  Senior TB M&E Advisor, TB DIAH

- **Alexander Asatiani**

  Senior TB M&E Consultant for the Eastern Europe and Eurasia Region, TB DIAH

- **Maka Danelia**

  Global Fund TB Program Manager, Georgia National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC)

- **Marina Janjghava**

  Head of TB Management and Control Services, Georgia National Center for TB and Lung Disease (NCTLD)

- **Irma Khonelidze**

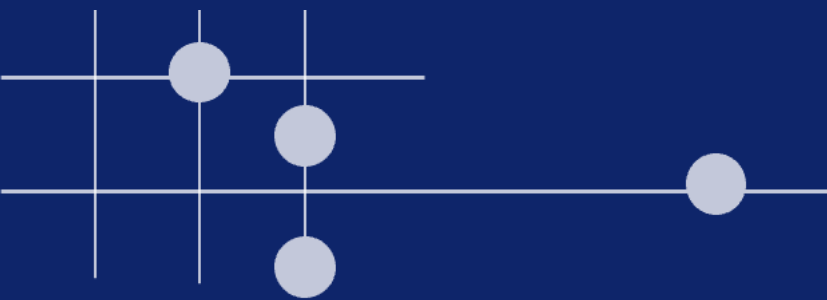 Deputy Director General, Director of the Global Fund Programs, NCDC

Sevim Ahmedov, USAID/Washington

COE's Importance

RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Measurements	Target
Impact	• Reduce TB incidence rate by 35% by 2030 • Reduce TB mortality rate by 52% by 2030
Outcome	• 90% of incident TB cases diagnosed and initiated on treatment • 90% of incident DR-TB cases diagnosed and initiated on treatment • 90% treatment success rate (TSR) for DS-TB and DR-TB • Provide TB preventive treatment (TPT) to 30,000,000
Process	• All priority countries rapidly introduce new TB tools and approaches • All priority countries have strong TB national networks and USAID partnerships inclusive of affected communities • All priority countries include appropriate TB interventions in pandemic preparedness plans • All priority countries have implemented plans to address socio-economic determinants and health-related risk factors that impact the TB epidemic

Giorgi Kuchukhidze, WHO/Europe

Overview of WHO/Europe's Regional Platform Activities and How the COE Compliments Them
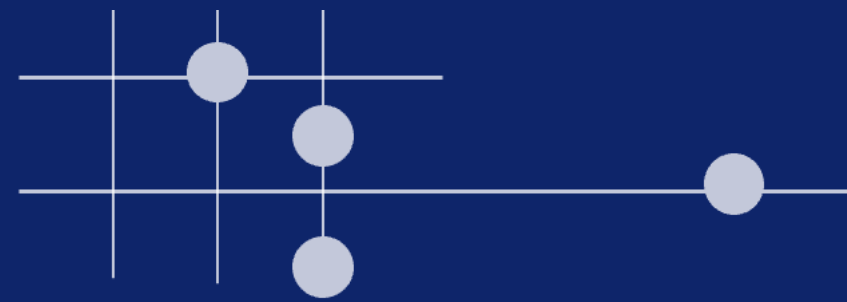
Bridgit Adamou, TB DIAH

Overview of TB DIAH and Our Work in the EEE Region

TB DIAH

TUBERCULOSIS DATA, IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS HUB
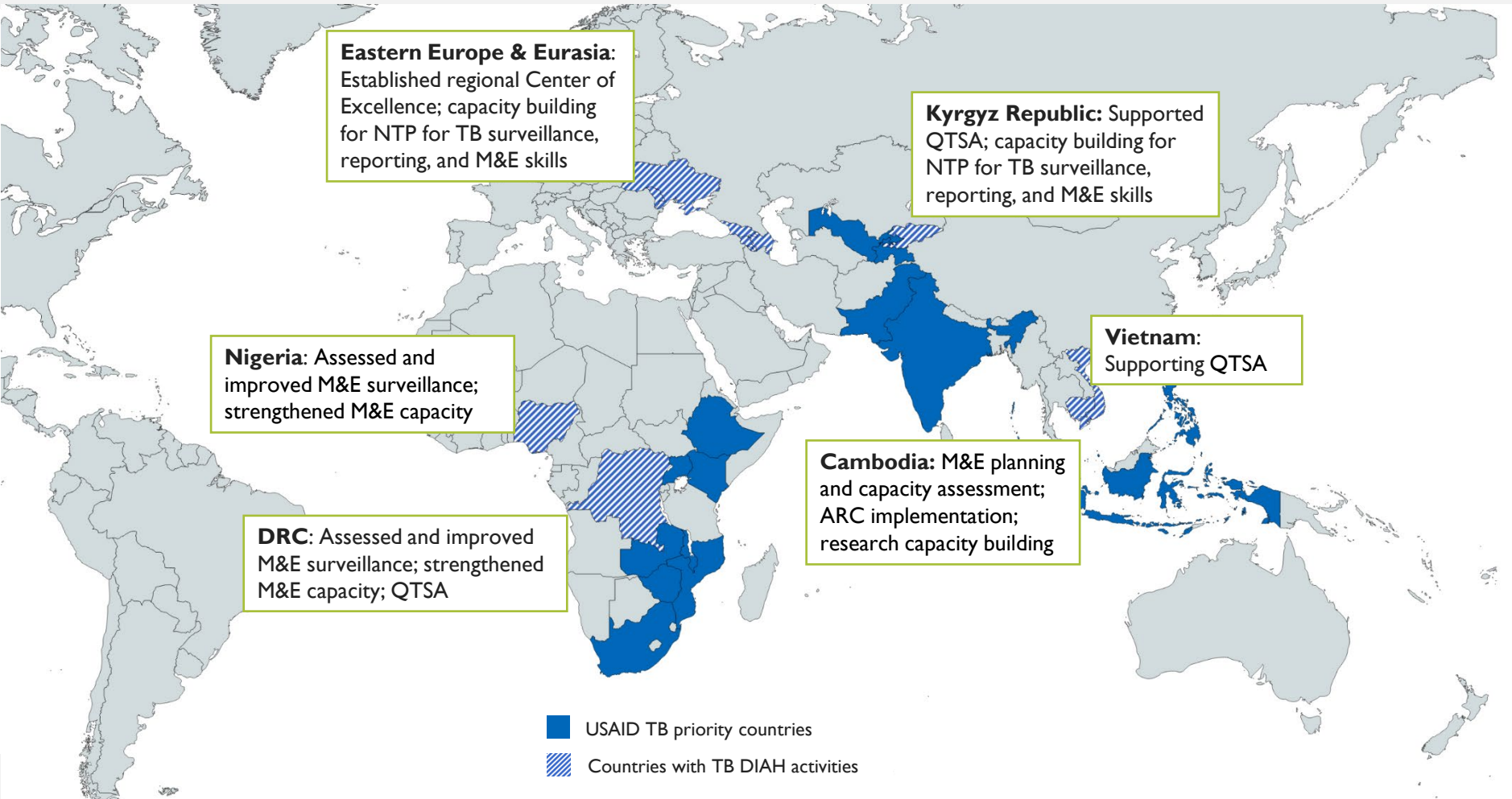
- Part of the USAID Global Accelerator to End TB

- Global, five-year associate award, $36M cooperative agreement

- Small team of M&E and TB experts using data to help USAID monitor its investments in its TB priority countries

- Helps countries use data to share their story

What Does TB DIAH Do?

Surveillance (Data)

Result 1: Strengthen the collection, analysis, and use of routine and surveillance TB data

1

Reporting (Information)

Result 2: Improve performance-based (M&E) frameworks and information gathering processes: tools, methods, and technical guidance to meet user needs

2

Communications (Knowledge)

Result 3: Strengthen reporting and communication to address knowledge gaps and share methods, tools, and approaches

3

Where Does TB DIAH Work?

Eastern Europe & Eurasia: Established regional Center of Excellence; capacity building for NTP for TB surveillance, reporting, and M&E skills

Kyrgyz Republic: Supported QTSA; capacity building for NTP for TB surveillance, reporting, and M&E skills

**Nigeria**: Assessed and improved M&E surveillance; strengthened M&E capacity

Vietnam: Supporting QTSA

DRC: Assessed and improved M&E surveillance; strengthened M&E capacity; QTSA

Cambodia: M&E planning and capacity assessment; ARC implementation; research capacity building

USAID TB priority countries

Countries with TB DIAH activities

Performance-based M&E Framework (PBMEF)

▪ Cornerstone of USAID's efforts to ensure effective accountability of investments in TB at global, regional, and country levels and accelerate progress to end the TB epidemic.

▪ The PBMEF provides:

  ✓ A set of standardized indicators to measure essential TB program outputs and outcomes

  ✓ Details on the performance of TB programs in specific technical areas (e.g., diagnosis, treatment, TB/HIV, private sector, etc.)

  ✓ Treatment cascades and patient pathways that are critical to understanding where gaps are and where efforts need to be strengthened.

Navigating Tuberculosis Indicators

A Guide for TB Programs
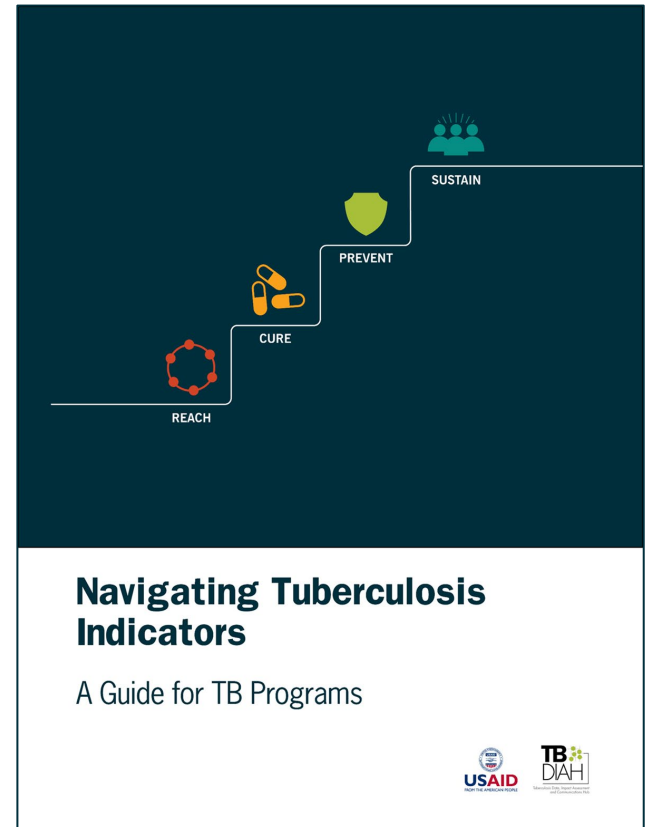
TB DIAH in Eastern Europe and Eurasia (EEE)

TB DIAH's approach in the EEE region builds upon the COE model as a means of providing technical assistance to five EEE priority countries that USAID provides bilateral and regional TB support to:

Armenia

Azerbaijan

Georgia

Moldova

Ukraine
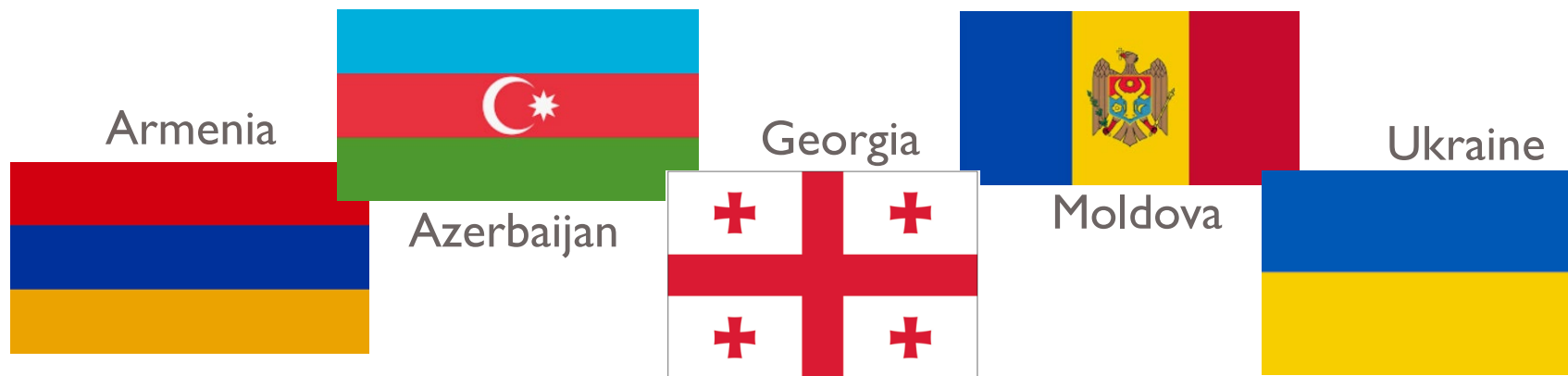
TB DIAH in Eastern Europe and Eurasia (EEE)

Workstreams:

1) Establish a regional TB M&E COE and support its implementation

2) Assess the TB M&E and surveillance systems in the EEE countries

3) Strengthen the TB M&E and surveillance systems

4) Improve data use

Expected Outcomes:

➢ **Fully operational COE** in the region for sharing experiences and building TB M&E capacity

➢ **Improved access to nationwide TB data**, across the public and private sectors

➢ **Improved use of TB M&E and surveillance data** for evidence-based decision-making

TB DIAH in Eastern Europe and Eurasia (EEE)

Key Workstream Activities:

- Facilitate implementation of the virtual COE platform

- Establish a regional M&E and surveillance task force under the COE

| Workstream 1 |

- Analyze the M&E and surveillance systems for the PBMEF

- Support use of the PBMEF Assessment of Data Collection, Reporting, and Analysis Capacity (ARC) tool

| Workstream 2 |

- Strengthen the TB M&E and surveillance capacity for NTPs

- Support implementation of the M&E framework of the WHO "Tuberculosis action plan for the WHO European Region 2023–2030" and promote global standards in TB reporting, M&E, and surveillance
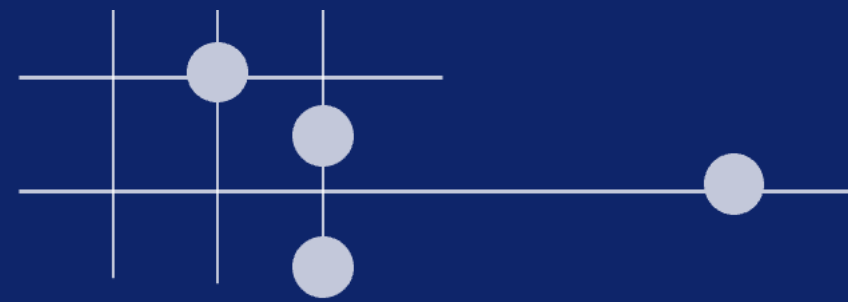
| Workstream 3 |

- Facilitate data review and use in the region

- Create language-specific public-facing EEE country dashboards in the TB Data Hub

| Workstream 4 |

Alexander Asatiani, TB DIAH

COE Strategy, Country Selection Process, Audience, and Functions

COE Concept

What is a COE?

- ✓ A team of dedicated TB M&E individuals managed from **a common central point**

- ✓ EEE COE established in Georgia, May 2022

- ✓ Leading the way in exploring and adopting new approaches, technologies, tools, techniques, or practices

What does the COE do?

- ✓ Provide thought leadership and coordination

- ✓ Establish and promote best practices

- ✓ Conduct research to provide appropriate recommendations

- ✓ Provide support and education

- ✓ Perform other similar functions in specific focus areas considered critical to the success of the overall organization or practice that the COE supports

COE Goal

To establish a COE in the EEE region to serve as a model for best practices in TB M&E and surveillance and to strengthen the TB M&E system in the COE host country to:

- ✓ document successful practices and experiences addressing identified areas for improvement

- ✓ promote inter-country collaboration

- ✓ foster cross-fertilization of knowledge

COE Guiding Principles

- Partnership

- Collaboration

- Networking

- Sharing

- Address cross-border issues

- Local ownership

- Sustainability

COE Functions

The COE team will:

- **Document best practices** with TB data collection, reporting, visualization, analysis, and use

- **Engage national TB programs (NTPs)** with necessary support and assistance

- **Develop tools and templates** as well as reports and publications

- **Organize regional workshops** for networking, experience sharing, and learning

- **Conduct trainings** on TB M&E and surveillance

- **Establish a COE virtual platform**

GLOBAL & NATIONAL STRATEGIES, POLICIES & GUIDANCE

Data Collection → Data Reporting → Data Visualization & Analysis → Data Use → Sharing & Learning

COE Audience

1. The **COE country**

   Georgia will be the primary stakeholder and partner in TB DIAH's support through technical assistance and related resources. This primarily includes the NCDC and NCTLD, but also the Ministry of Health and USAID mission.

2. The **other countries in the region** who will benefit from the best practices and lessons learned of the COE country

   These include other NTPs, ministries of health, USAID mission TB advisors, implementing partners working in TB in the respective regions, and TB researchers.

COE Selection Criteria

Major factors:

NTP has a well-functioning TB M&E system, preferably electronic

Strong data collection, analysis, use, and dissemination

Interest and commitment from the USAID Mission and NTP

Govt. commitment of resource allocation to ensure sustainability

Additional factors:

✓ geopolitical situation

✓ health system factors (e.g., reforms, stability of NTP, etc.)

COE Selection Process

- Use of available data

- Consultation with USAID missions

- Expert consultation

↓

Scoring matrix for decision making

↓

Georgia selected as the COE country

NCDC

NCTLD

COE Roles and Responsibilities

TB DIAH

- Establish a COE team – regional & national

- Develop the COE website

- Spearhead implementation
  - ✓ Coordination
 - ✓ Networking
  - ✓ Capacity building

USAID/Georgia Mission

- Review TB DIAH's annual work plan

- Facilitate communication and collaboration between TB DIAH and NTPs

- Conduct regular monitoring of activities

- Participate in some TB DIAH activities, as appropriate and when needed

NCDC and NCTLD

- Actively participate in work plan development for the COE
- Assign a focal person to help guide COE activities,
  - ✓ Planning, monitoring implementation, coordinating with key stakeholders, moderating discussions, facilitating, etc.
- Enable access to program information for planning, analysis, and dissemination
- House the TB DIAH field coordination team, as needed
- Provide technical leadership
- Support collaboration and experience sharing with other NTPs
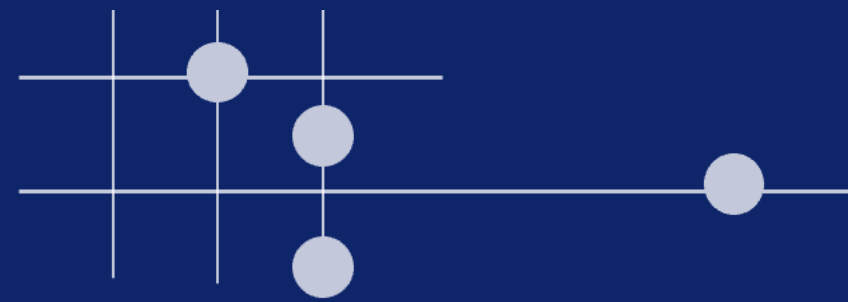
Maka Danelia, NCDC

COE Implementation in Georgia

Critical Partnership to Strengthen M&E and Surveillance Systems

This partnership leverages the TB M&E expertise of the NCTLD, surveillance capabilities of the NCDC, and technical guidance and funding support from TB DIAH and its donor (USAID) to help with the documentation of Georgia's current, successful TB M&E practices, as well as their experiences addressing identified areas for improvement.

Combining the NCDC and NCTLD's local knowledge and relationships with regional TB stakeholders and TB DIAH's expertise – both from a technical and a design perspective – will support the creation of a high-quality, virtual COE that will advance the TB M&E systems in Georgia and the region.

NCDC's Role

- ✓ **Principal ownership of the COE**

- ✓ Working in close collaboration with the TB DIAH team, NCTLD and consultants to actively contribute to **operational planning** of the COE implementation

- ✓ Providing **technical leadership** during implementation of planned activities like trainings, curriculum development, review meetings, operational research, etc.

- ✓ Supporting **collaboration and experience sharing** with other NTPs in the region by providing trainings and technical assistance

- ✓ Establishing and coordinating a country-level TB M&E technical working group(s).

- ✓ Enabling access to TB program information for planning, analysis, and dissemination

- ✓ Leading development of the **COE sustainability plan**

- ✓ Taking responsibility for the **continuity of COE activities** after the TB DIAH project ends, including hosting and maintaining the COE virtual platform

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GEORGIAN NATIONAL CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

NCTLD's Role

✓ Providing **technical assistance** during implementation of planned activities like trainings, curriculum development, review meetings, operational research, etc.

✓ Coordinating with the NCDC to **support collaboration and experience sharing** with other NTPs in the region by providing trainings and technical assistance

✓ Supporting and participating in a country-level TB M&E technical working group meetings

✓ Working in close collaboration with the TB DIAH team, NCDC and consultants to actively contribute to **operational planning** of the COE implementation

✓ Enabling access to TB program information for planning, analysis, and dissemination

✓ Working in collaboration with TB DIAH and the NCDC to develop a sustainability plan

TB DIAH's Role

✓ Taking a **leadership role during the COE start-up**, being an initial host of the COE platform, and supporting the transition to NCDC ownership of the website at the end of the TB DIAH project

✓ Working with the NCDC and NCTLD to **support the use of TB DIAH tools**

✓ Supporting and participating in a country-level TB M&E technical working group(s)

✓ **Writing and providing a strategy** document for the COE model and operational plan

✓ Developing a **prototype and design guide** for the virtual COE

✓ Leading the **development of a sustainability plan**

Founding Event

Critical Partnership with Tuberculosis Control Program in Georgia –TB DIAH

✔ TB M&E expertise of the NCTLD

✔ Surveillance capabilities of the NCDC

✔ Technical guidance and funding support from TB DIAH/USAID

Learn more:

Regional Consultative Meeting

Eastern Europe and Eurasia Region

Center of Excellence in TB Monitoring & Evaluation and Surveillance

Regional Consultative Meeting

28–29 July 2022
Tbilisi, Georgia
Radisson Blu Iveria

Meeting Report:

To catalyse country engagement in COE activities, TB DIAH organized a Regional Consultative Meeting in partnership with the NCDC and NCTLD in Tbilisi, Georgia, July 28-29, 2022. TB experts from Georgia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, and Armenia came together to hear about TB DIAH's activities and support in the region, learn about the COE approach and virtual platform, and discuss country-specific M&E and surveillance systems in each of the four countries.

The meeting aimed to kick-start work in two core directions of the COE:

Identifying common bottlenecks, categorizing and prioritizing areas requiring attention, and developing roadmaps for M&E and surveillance systems strengthening

Documenting current, successful practices, as well as experiences addressing identified areas for improvement.

National Consultative Meetings

🔴 Armenia   🔵 Azerbaijan   🔵 Moldova

The objectives of the National Consultative/Review meetings:

✓ Review the progress of the NTPs; discuss achievements, pressing needs, challenges and proposed plans to address them.

✓ Conduct in-depth review of the countries' TB data collection, M&E and surveillance, and quality assurance and supervision process; share best practices and lessons learned; discuss extensively areas for improvement.

✓ Share the COE's best practices in TB data collection, M&E and surveillance, quality assurance and supervision process.

✓ Discuss TB DIAH's EEE Regional Workplan and discuss alignment with country-specific needs.

Regional Training in TB M&E and Surveillance Capacity Strengthening

Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Training

TB Monitoring and Evaluation and Surveillance Capacity Strengthening for National TB Programs
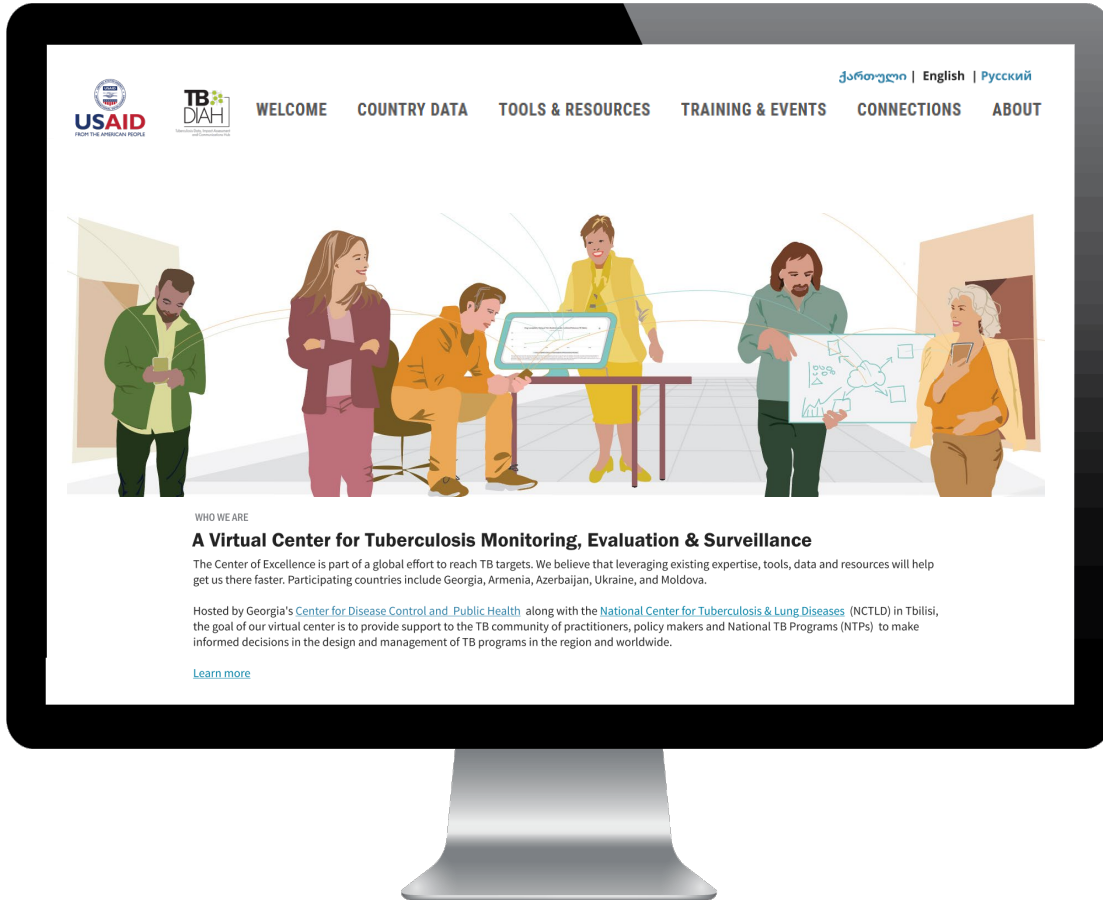
February 2023

Training Report:

Objective: To address the overarching need to strengthen the capacity of NTP staff to improve TB data collection, reporting, analysis, and use.

10 countries

- NTPs

- Civil society organizations

- USAID missions, and USAID-funded TB implementing partners

- WHO/Europe

- The Global Fund

Virtual COE

To maximize accessibility and the reach of the COE, it is considered to be a virtual hub, rather than a physical office or facility. While TB DIAH staff and consultants may meet in person with NTP or other in-country TB staff as part of the COE resource team, the COE and its activities are primarily virtual, employing virtual training, webinars, virtual meetings, and other online resources to engage those in the COE network.

✓ Draft COE virtual platform design guide

✓ User testing guidance

✓ An initial prototype of the COE

Reinventing the Virtual COE Platform

TB DIAH has engaged a national company to technically aid the process by developing Design Documentation, including **detailed functional and technical requirements** for the COE's virtual platform.

The virtual platform will be built in close **collaboration** with TB DIAH, NCDC, NCTLD, and national focal points and counterparts from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine.

A roadmap will be developed for TB DIAH and the COE to further develop the virtual platform capable of facilitating interaction with the target audience in the form of web-based training or classes, interactive dashboards, curated resource library, connections with field experts, etc.

Establishment of a robust virtual platform to disseminate and share knowledge and best practices in the field is an essential component of the COE model. The expected objectives of such a platform are to:

- Improve TB data reporting, communication, and sharing in TB-priority countries

- Engage NTPs with TB M&E support and assistance

- Serve as a repository of key TB M&E resources and best practices for the region

- Serve as a model for other countries globally in TB M&E

- Establish a foundation for inter-country collaboration and knowledge exchange

Regional M&E, and Surveillance Task Force

A regional M&E, and Surveillance Task Force (TF) will be established under the auspices of the COE. It will serve as a consultative body for implementation of the COE model and its activities. TB DIAH and the COE will develop a TF scope of work including criteria for selection of TF members. A Code of Conduct will provide guidance to the members in making informed, consistent, and ethical decisions related to their contribution to the COE.

✓ The regional task-force will be established to unite the M&E specialists of intervention countries

✓ It will serve as a consultative body to review/develop policy documents, activities, dash-boards, etc.

✓ The task-force members will be linked to the virtual platform enabling communication with COE users

Enhancing M&E and Surveillance Systems

Approach to TB M&E Strengthening Planning

Identify strengths and opportunities for improvement of a TB M&E and surveillance system in terms of its core functions, system's structure, enabling environment, support functions and the technical, organizational and behavioral determinants of an effective surveillance system, as well as examine the mechanisms for assuring quality of data generated by the system and their use for epidemic responses.

Assist country stakeholders to develop a costed implementation plan for strengthening national TB M&E and surveillance system through specific activities informed by the system landscaping exercise

1 Desk review

2 Information gap mapping & expert interviews

3 Findings review & synthesis

4 Validation & prioritization workshop

5 Action plan & budget
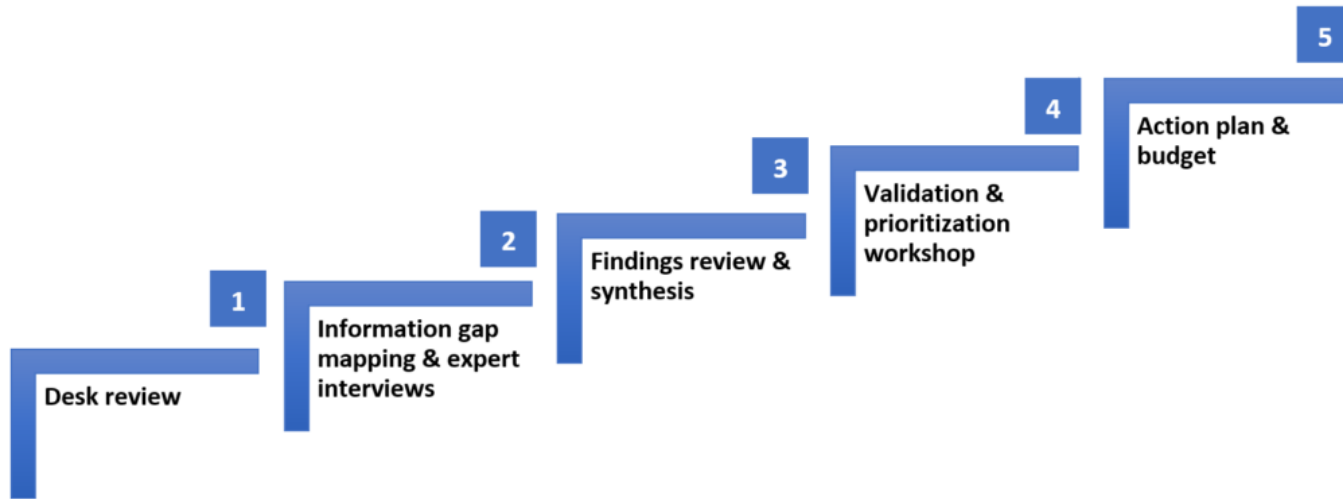
Improving Data Use

Implementation research capacity strengthening

Trainings, webinars and support for country specific small-scale IR

Country-specific, language appropriate dashboards
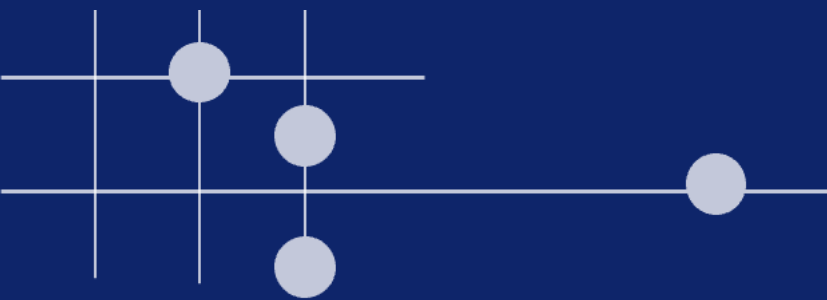
Data HUB and performance tracking dashboards

Data review meetings
In-person and online

National TB report templates

Marina Janjghava, NCTLD

COE Engagement in the Region

Initial Steps

- USAID missions helped to reconnect with NTPs from the COE standpoint

- Virtual introductory meetings were held with NTPs and TB stakeholders

- NCDC's and NCTLD's regional presence played an important role

Regional Consultation

Promoting effective engagement and local commitment

Introduce in greater detail:

- ☑ TB DIAH project
- ☑ EEE work plan
- ☑ COE approach and strategy
- ☑ COE host institutions

Overview and discuss:

- ☑ Country-specific M&E and surveillance systems
- ☑ Operational aspects of the Virtual Platform

Regional Consultation

Foundation for inter-country collaboration

The meeting achieved its objectives and was a great success with more than 40 participants from Georgia, Armenia, Moldova, and Azerbaijan, providing opportunities for knowledge exchange and important interactions. It laid a solid foundation for collaboration and effective country engagement.

- ✅ Enhanced Partnership
- ✅ Aligned Vision
- ✅ Guiding Feedback

Key Areas:

During the intensive two-day workshop, countries identified common challenges across different domains of TB M&E and surveillance systems.

Governance
including policy and regulatory issues

Reporting
including alignment with international standards

TB information systems
including standardization and interoperability

Data use and communications

Country Sessions

During the dedicated sessions, each country presented an extensive overview of the national M&E and surveillance system landscape based on the standard checklist.

Country sessions helped TB DIAH to categorize and prioritize areas requiring attention, and underlined the importance of a needs-responsive approach

Session recordings:

- TB Situational Overview and Country Context
- National Tuberculosis Program Summary
- Governance
- Financing
- TB Service Delivery
- TB Information System Overview
- Quality of TB Data
- Indicators
- Data Use
- Communications

National Review / Consultative Meetings

The regional meeting was particularly significant since it helped TB DIAH and the COE to identify countries and region-specific follow-up actions. While consultations revealed common challenges across the countries, a context-specific approach is required to address the pressing needs effectively. For this reason, the COE has conducted a set of National Review meetings in each of the intervention countries in October and November.

OCT Armenia

NOV Azerbaijan

NOV Moldova

Review the progress of the National TB Programs; discuss achievements, pressing needs, challenges and proposed plans to address them

In depth review of the countries' TB data collection, M&E and surveillance, quality assurance and supervision process; Sharing best practices, lessons learned and extensively discussing areas for improvement

Sharing the COE's best practices in TB data collection, M&E and surveillance, quality assurance and supervision process.
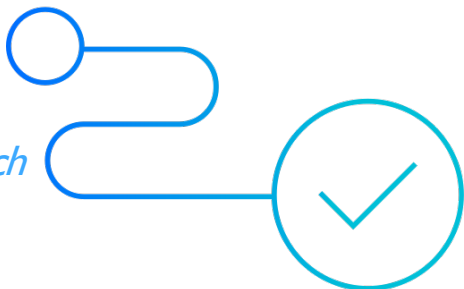
National Review / Consultative Meetings

In depth review of the countries' TB data collection, M&E and surveillance, quality assurance and supervision process

More profound insight on areas of improvement and to better shape the national level activities

System diagnostics

Tailored approach

Capacity strengthening

Key questions:

- The structure and implementation arrangements of the M&E and surveillance system

- Data collection procedures

- Sources of the data

- Data quality assurance procedures

- Guiding principles of supervision and levels of implementation

- Availability of the national supervision plan / guidance

- Availability of the national protocols for TB M&E and surveillance

- TB data management and processing

- TB Facility / service delivery point evaluation criteria

- TB Data use

- Key achievements in the national M&E and surveillance system

- Key challenges / gaps in the national M&E and surveillance system

National Review / Consultative Meetings

Armenia

Key highlights:

Decentralized Governance of the NTP
Involve representatives of local (regional) self-government bodies in M&E activities. Establish feedback loops and procedures for submitting quarterly summary reports on M&E results in the region to the relevant (regional) self-governing bodies.

Updating the National M&E plan
Synchronizing M&E plan with ongoing and upcoming programmatic activities and greater focus on programmatic performance tracking and introduction of extended indicators. Enhance the costing component of the M&E plan, providing several updated models and approaches to have cost estimates of each.

Mapping of the Normative and Legislative Regulations
Need to review the existing regulatory landscape and inspect for the misalignment with relevant national and international standards. Once identified, recommendations and actions for harmonization are essential.

TB HMIS
Upgrade the laboratory database by establishing an electronic data recording and reporting system in the periphery labs, and upgrade and link the e-TB Manager to the e-Health system.

National Review / Consultative Meetings

Azerbaijan

Key highlights:

National Guidelines for TB Surveillance
Development of guidelines compliant to and synchronized with best practice and international standards. The importance of engaging all relevant stakeholders - MoH, TABIB, State Agency for Mandatory Insurance was particularly stressed.

TB M&E Human Resources Management and Capacity Strengthening
The country team proposed development of the TB M&E staffing plan and introduction of country specific training curriculum.

Updating the National M&E plan
Synchronizing M&E plan with ongoing and upcoming programmatic activities and greater focus on programmatic performance tracking, introduction of extended indicators and costing

TB MIS Landscape Assessment
Health Information Systems assessment is particularly important from the perspective of interoperability and data linkage. This is a critical step prior to upgrading existing systems and / or developing new ones. COVID-19 platform developed by TABIB has potential to be expanded and to include TB diagnostics and treatment modules.

National Review / Consultative Meetings

Moldova
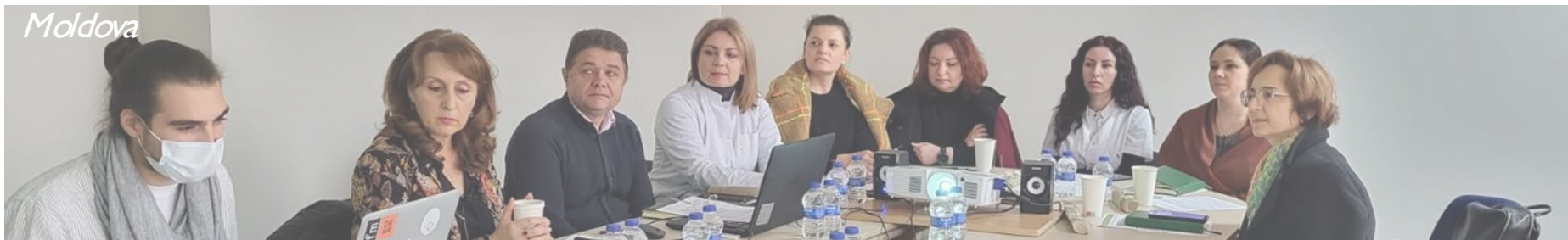
Key highlights:

NTP Mandate, Focus on M&E Activities
National counterparts discussed integration of M&E functions to institution(s) with a broader mandate in terms of decision-making – either the MoH or National Agency for Health Control, that have coordination and M&E departments.

Human Recourses Management in TB M&E
The TB M&E specialist/function is not mentioned in the NTP staffing plan. Job descriptions have no defined M&E functions, tasks, and responsibilities. Amendments to relevant regulations/policies clearly defining M&E functions and developing a set of generic job description(s) are proposed.

Outdated Information System
NTP representatives discussed development of the new information system that will provide a dedicated module for screening, contact tracing, and have a comprehensive reporting / analytical module. The vision is to introduce a new information system that will be interoperable and linked with other systems like a lab information system, an HIV dispensary, and national e-Health system.

National Guidelines for TB Surveillance
Moldova does not have the country specific National guideline for TB epidemiological surveillance. To address this issue, national counterparts proposed to developing one, compliant to and synchronized with best practice and international standards.

Next Steps

In all three countries, the proposed implementation approach is to establish the working group that will serve as consultative body to guide and advise the national consultant(s) that TB DIAH aims to engage.

A three level approach was deemed to be the most effective: Coordination Level, working group level, national consultant level.

The COE will train master trainers from each of the EEE countries in TB M&E and guide national-level step-down trainings as a follow-up to the TOT.

These will be one-week national level trainings coordinated by national focal points, guided by the COE staff and delivered by previously trained trainers
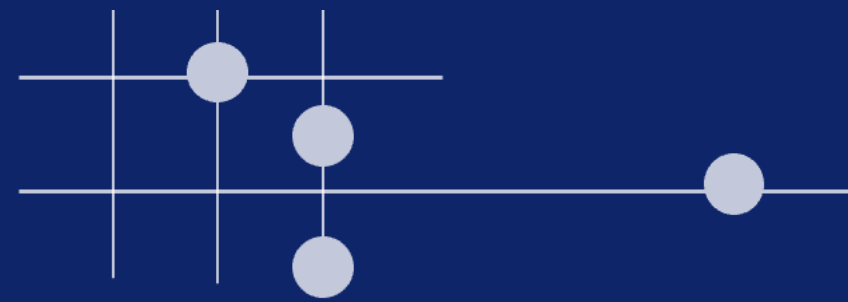
Irma Khonelidze, NCDC

NCDC's Role in and Commitment to the Success and Sustainability of the COE

Live Links

TBDIAH.org   🖥️   http://www.tbdiah.org

PBMEF   🖥️   https://www.tbdiah.org/resources/publications/navigating-tuberculosis-indicators-a-guide-for-tb-programs/

Data Analysis & Visualizations   🖥️   http://hub.tbdiah.org

Center of Excellence   🖥️   https://www.tbdiah.org/center-of-excellence/

For more information

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A recording of today's webinar will be available at
https://www.tbdiah.org/

Thank you!

- Thank you to our panelists
  - ✓ Sevim Ahmedov, USAID/Washington
  - ✓ Giorgi Kuchukhidze, WHO Regional Office for Europe
  - ✓ Bridgit Adamou, TB DIAH
  - ✓ Alexander Asatiani, TB DIAH
  - ✓ Maka Danelia, NCDC
  - ✓ Marina Janjghava, NCTLD
  - ✓ Irma Khonelidze, NCDC

- And thank you all for attending!

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