



ROU-T-RAA Grant

Implementation Status on December 31 2017 (11th quarter)

Activities implemented by the Principal Recipient

- **Programmatic and financial monitoring and evaluation of projects** implemented under the grant through constant communication with Sub-recipients, monitoring and evaluation visits and technical assistance for the development / revision of project implementation methodologies and effective implementation of activities.

- **Prepare the transition to sustainability**
 - Technical and logistical support to the National Coordination Committee (CNC) secretariat in consultation with the Advocacy Working Group on planning advocacy actions to ensure the sustainability of Global Fund-funded interventions.

 - Technical support to the secretariat of the National Coordination Committee in the elaboration of the advocacy plan. The plan was approved for funding by the Global Fund in the reallocation request submitted at the end of February 2017.

 - Organizing technical assistance for the development of Transition Assessment (TPA), Transition Work Plan (TWP) and participation in the development of related documents.

 - Facilitate technical assistance for the Ministry of Health to develop the national HIV / AIDS plan and carry out other activities under the Partnership Agreement concluded in 2017.

- **Facilitate the implementation of the advocacy plan coordinated by the CNC Secretariat**
 - There have been meetings with relevant NGOs in the areas of TB and HIV / AIDS that have approved advocacy priorities by the end of the program (March 31, 2018).

 - The key experts were selected and the advocacy plan implementation team was formed.



- The Advocacy Strategy and the Public Information / Social Media Information Plan have been developed and are being implemented.
- On September 6, a meeting was held at the Health Commission of the Chamber of Deputies on the progress of the legislative process for the draft bill addressed to the patient with tuberculosis.
- The civil society contribution to the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism was elaborated and sent to the UN Human Rights Council, third cycle, Session 29. The report focused on respecting the rights of people affected by tuberculosis and HIV / AIDS, access to vulnerable groups health and the need for sexual education.
- The social media campaign continued to bring public support to TB and HIV themes: Facebook Stop TB Romania website increased from 90 followers in March 2017 to more than 600 in December 2017 and information on TB and HIV was disseminated in general, the report "Crisis of drugs for tuberculosis in Romania", tuberculosis patient law, UPR report, etc.
- The alert report "Crisis of drugs for tuberculosis in Romania" was published on 26 October 2017 on the Romanian Health Observatory page, taken over by Stop TB Romania, RAA and others;
- An open letter on the crisis of medicines was sent to the Ministry of Health and Government after the completion of the current GF grant, signed by 42 national and international organizations;
- The 13miidevieti.ro web page containing the report, open letter, campaign messages circulated on the media and social media was developed, and an automatic letter sending application to decision-makers to solve the drug problem with 1,329 sent letters;

RESULTS:

- Press release issued by the MS on doubling the PNPSCT budget to over 41 million lei and ensuring the legal conditions for the purchase of ALL medicines necessary for the treatment of patients with TB / MDR / XDR;



- Publishing in transparent decision-making the Decision on amending and supplementing the annex to the Government Decision no. 720/2008 for the approval of the List of International Common Name, which includes all the tuberculosis drugs mentioned in the report and which were missing from the list.
- For the National Strategic Plan on HIV / AIDS 2018-2020, filed on October 11, 2017 at the Ministry of Health, a petition was initiated by Alina Dumitriu for its urgent approval with almost 2400 signatures since December 1;
- We conducted a Facebook media campaign to sign the petition and approve the PNS HIV / AIDS 2018-2020;
- On December 14, in Geneva, the reports of Romanian NGOs for UPR were presented to the Permanent Representations of the member countries;
- In December, I participated in meetings with the Spanish, Canadian, French and UK embassies for presenting the UPR report and asking them to make recommendations to Romania;
- In Geneva, I had meetings with some of the Permanent Representatives there.

RESULTS:

- Two countries have asked questions about our report:

UK & NORTHERN IRELAND Given that Romania has the highest TB infection rate in the European Union, what are the steps the Romanian government is taking to ensure that adequate health care, life-saving medicine and other social benefits are provided to people infected with HIV / AIDS, and people diagnosed with TB, in line with WHO guidelines?

CZECH REPUBLIC What measures have been adopted to eliminate discrimination based on their sexual orientation and identity or people with HIV / AIDS? How is Romania raising awareness among these issues?

- Romania's answers to these two questions are vague and undo the essence.
- Documents are available here:
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/ROindex.aspx>

- **Community advocacy for the involvement of local authorities in TB issues**

- From the beginning of the program until the end of the 11th quarter (31 December 2017), 63 meetings were organized by the RAA Foundation with representatives from over 600 local communities in 16 counties. The meetings gathered over 800 participants from the mayoralties, the Public Health Directorates, the TB Dispensaries and other institutions from the counties.
- At some of the meetings, representatives of RAA were accompanied by a representative of ASPTMR and one of the WHO Romania Office.

- **Acquisitions Management:**

During the 11th quarter were carried out activities for the execution of the contracts concluded in the previous quarters.

In November 2017, the donation of IT equipment purchased in July for the CPSS (Center for Health Policies and Services) was made.

In November 2017, the purchase of furniture, medical equipment, medical equipment and household appliances for the MDR TB section design within the Leamna Pneumoftiziologie Hospital, Bucovăț Commune, Dolj, was re-launched through the tender procedure. At the time of the submission deadline (14.12.2017), 2 offers were received, the first one for all three lots, the second tender for lot 2 only. The opening of the bids and the administrative examination of them. The final evaluation of the offers was made in January 2018.

- **Acquisition of equipment for the rapid diagnosis of tuberculosis**

In November 2017, both the donation of Genexpert equipment (purchased in July 2017) and the donation of UPS equipment purchased for use with Genexpert equipment were made. Six (6) complete equipment (Genexpert + UPS) were donated to the Institute of Pneumophytology Marius Nasta Bucharest, the seventh equipment was donated to the National Institute of Infectious Diseases Prof. Dr. Matei Balș Bucharest

- **Acquiring drugs for the treatment of multidrug-resistant and highly resistant to tuberculosis (TB MDR / XDR):**

The efforts directed to the purchase of anti-TB drugs for the treatment of patients with TB MDR / XDR that will receive full treatment regimens were continued: on 26.04.2017 the NAMMD issued the special authorization for the medicinal products: Cycloserine, Capreomycin, Kanamycin , PAS, Levofloxacin, Moxifloxacin, Linezolid, Prothionamide (filed at NAMMD on October 18, 2016); on 05.04.2017 the NAMM granted the special authorization for Rifabutin (dossier filed at NAMM on 29.12.2016); on 08.06.2017 the NAMMD issued the special needs authorization for Clofazimine (dossier submitted to NAMMD on 30.01.2016).

In June 2017 the first tranche of medicines for the year 2017 was delivered to Romania. They were received at UNIFARM headquarters. For EU medicines, a dossier to obtain an exemption



from labeling was filed with the NAMMD and evidence of quality and compliance testing for non-EU medicines was collected. After the issuance of the analysis certificates by the ICCF, the dossier for obtaining the exemption from the labeling will be submitted to the NAMMtra.

In July 2017, the first installment of Clofazimine (297 x 100 cps - 50 mg vial) was delivered to Romania for this project. The authorization to exempt from labeling was issued by the NAMMD in early September.

In September 2017, the last installment of Clofazimine (15 x 100 cps - 50 mg concentrate + 312 x 100 cps - 100 mg vials) was delivered to Romania for this project. For these quantities, samples were taken for quality and compliance testing. After the issuance of the analysis certificates by the ICCF, the dossier for obtaining the exemption from the labeling will be submitted to the NAMM.

During the 11th quarter and October 2017 respectively, the last tranche of medicines related to 2017, medicines related to the 5873 quotation, were delivered to Romania. They were received at UNIFARM headquarters. For EU medicines, a dossier to obtain an exemption from labeling was filed with the NAMMD and evidence of quality and compliance testing for non-EU medicines was collected. After the issuance of the analysis certificates by the ICCF, the dossier for obtaining the exemption from the labeling was submitted to the NAMMD.

Authorizations to exempt from labeling were issued by the NAMMD as follows:

- at the end of October 2017 for medicines of EU origin (Amesol and PAS).
- during December 2017 for both non-EU originals of quote 5873 and the amount of Clofazimine entering the country at the end of September 2017 (15 vials x 100 cps - 50 mg concentrates + 312 bottles x 100 cps - 100 mg concentration).

The medicines purchased by the RAA Foundation within this project, needed for the treatment of 460 patients with MDR / XDR, are the following:

Name of medicine – origin of UE/NONUE	Quantity
Capreomycin/UE - 1g powder vials	68400
Prothionamide/UE - 250 mg 100 tab blister	993600
Cycloserine/NONUE - 250mg 100 cap blister	993600
Linezolid/NONUE - 600mg 20 tab blister	72000
Kanamycin 1g/UE - powder for inj 50 vials	73800
Moxifloxacin/NONUE - 400mg 100 tab blister	28600
Rifabutin/NONUE - 150mg 100 cap jar	27000
Levofloxacin/UE - 250mg 100 tab blister	907200
PAS sodium 5.52g eq. to 4g PAS - powder f oral sol., 25 sac	28800



Clofazimine 50mg - 100 cap jar	31200
Clofazimine 100mg - 100 cap jar	31200

- **Restoration of a TB unit for the care of patients with MDR TB**

In the first month of the 11th quarter, in parallel with the building work carried out by S.C. Orange Steel S.R.L. was continued and the process started in September to change the initial sloping solution with an external wall of support for the new building.

At the end of October, all steps were taken to approve the modification of the solution through a construction permit, but the State Inspectorate for Construction in Dolj considered and argued with a notification that for the construction of this wall of support, it would be necessary to change the foundations of the already authorized building. For this reason, we were forced to re-authorize the work because the use of the foundation to "anchor" a wall to be built outdoors is in fact a modification of the theme of the project, and not just a modification of the solution, solvable with the initial building permit.

The S.C NEAT OFFICE S.R.L Architects team, permanently monitored by the RAA project manager, began working with collaborating experts to update the technical documentation to obtain a wall-building authorization. Along with these steps, the RAA team justified the new situation and received from the GF the approval of the budget reallocation to cover the additional costs of building the support wall for the MDR TB Center in Leamna.

During December, the files with the new technical documentation, supporting documents for amendments etc. were completed, documents that were submitted in order to obtain new views from Dolj Environmental Protection Agency and Dolj Emergency Situations Inspectorate required authorization. At the end of December, we are awaiting ISU approval to complete the file that needs to be submitted in order to obtain the new building permit.

These countless administrative steps have led to some disturbances in the execution schedule of the works, a gap that will be recovered by builders by the end of the program.

<https://www.raa.ro/status-update-spital-pnf-learna/>

- **Coordination of technical assistance missions:**

Technical Assistance Missions have been completed for:

- Develop the following clinical guidelines
 - National Guidelines for TB Case Management in Children
 - National Guidelines for TB / HIV-AIDS Case Management
 - National Guidelines for the TB Lab Network



- Standards for TB laboratories, including minimum conditions to ensure the safety and efficiency of laboratory activities, Procedures and operational standards for the TB laboratory network.
- The centralized TB equipment and consumables plan and the procedures for monitoring the implementation of operational standards coordinating technical assistance missions.

Technical assistance missions have also been completed for:

- Assessment of the legal framework and specific regulations regarding the purchase of antituberculosis drugs, assessment of current barriers.
- Review of the legal framework for infection control in Romania.
- Analyzing the system of financing and settlement of the services of the providers of medical services in the primary care in the field of TB and elaborating a proposal on efficient financing in the field of TB control in the context of the reform of the health system.
- National monitoring and evaluation plan.
- Recommendations to modify the legal framework for NGO funding that provides services to key populations (people vulnerable to TB, the Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting (GARPR) annual report.
- Assessing the current situation of involvement of all service providers in the provision of tuberculosis control services in Romania.
- Development of the legal framework for the treatment of TB in Romania, including mechanisms for the settlement of services to medical personnel (pneumologists and family physicians).
- Improving the funding system for developing a new model of care in the field of TB.
- Development of human resources development plan for TB,
- Develop a Guide to identifying TB suspects and referring patients with TB to all service providers (including active identification of TB cases among vulnerable populations).
- Develop a training plan for staff working in the field of TB
- Developing a Strategic HIV / AIDS Plan

Technical assistance missions are under way to:

- Developing rules on TB control and TB management
- Transition Preparedness Assessment
- Support for MS to assess the current situation in TB

- Support for MS to increase financial and programmatic monitoring capacity

The technical assistance mission reports are available on the Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation site:

<http://www.raa.ro/rapoarte-asistenta-tehnica/>

Activities implemented by institutions and organizations Sub-recipients:

Rapid Tuberculosis Diagnosis (Completed)

Sub-recipient: Institute of Pneumophtisiology "Marius Nasta"

Project title: Rapid and quality diagnosis of TB and TB MDR / XDR by improving the equipment of bk laboratories with fast testing equipment and the development of national methodological guides

Results:

- Purchased, delivered, installed and commissioned: 12 Genexpert equipment; 2 LPA equipment; 2 MGIT equipment;
- By the end of the 11th trimester, TB laboratories were ordered and delivered: 5600 Genexpert kits, 11800 MGIT liquid cultures, 2000 ABG line 1 MGIT tests, 1248 LPA line 1 and 96 LPA line 2 tests.
- Three meetings of the bk Laboratory Working Group were carried out.
- The activity of TB diagnostic laboratories by rapid techniques of TB and TB MDR was assessed within the GLC Mission held between 3 and 7 May 2016.
- **The National Guidelines for TB Case Management in Children and the National Guide for TB/HIV-AIDS Case Management** have been finalized in line with the WHO recommendations endorsed by the Ministry of Health to be published in the Official Journal, with the Order of the Minister of Health for Ratifying Guides;
- At the same time, they have been elaborated, endorsed by the Ministry of Health to be published in the Official Gazette: Standards for bk laboratories, including minimum conditions for ensuring the safety and efficiency of laboratory activities; Procedures and operational standards for the TB network of laboratories; Centralized TB equipment and consumables plan and Procedures for monitoring implementation of operational standards.



Ensuring correct, complete and quality treatment

Sub-recipient: Institute of Pneumophtisiology "Marius Nasta"

Project title: Improving TB / MDR / XDR control by providing uninterrupted, complete and quality treatment with anti-tuberculosis drugs purchased through GLC (DOT-plus).

Results:

- At the end of the 11th quarter, a total of 245 patients with MDR / XDR TB were enrolled in the Cohorta 7 DOTS-Plus project, of which: 42 inpatient patients in the intensive phase of treatment; 195 ambulatory patients, 5 deaths and 3 patients were lost / excluded;
- A total of 530 MDR / XDR TB patients (single CNPs) received social vouchers (80 Lei / month) for adherence to treatment within the project.
- Three meetings of the PNPST County Coordinators within the project were organized in Q4, Q8 and Q11.

Developing a model of integrated patient-centered patient care system for the TB network in Romania

Sub-recipient: Institute of Pneumophtisiology "Marius Nasta"

Project title: Developing a model of integrated patient-centered patient care system for the TB network in Romania.

Location: Bucharest

Results:

- The work is done in collaboration with the PNPST experts (contributing to scientific coordination) and PR (planning, recruitment and contracting of experts).
- Experts were selected and contracted to develop the methodology of the study to assess the current situation of human, material and financial resources in the field of TB control in Romania.
- The TB control data collection tool was developed and revised: Human Resources Inventory Questionnaire in the Tuberculosis Control System. A draft inventory for technology resources / infrastructure of the national TB control network has been developed.
- Activities related to the development of software for collecting data on support services for patients with TB and data related to the costs of TB control activities in Romania were carried out. Through the database to be developed, the physical and cost indicators will be collected,

according to the methodological norms for the implementation of the National Health Programs. The collected data will reflect the actual costs of patient care with tuberculosis and will eventually lead to the development of proposals to review TB reimbursement mechanisms for all medical providers involved in the detection and care of the TB patient.

Interventions for vulnerable groups:

- **Injecting drug users (IDUs)**

Sub-recipient: ARAS¹ in partnership with ALIAT and PARADA organizations

Project title: "TREATMENT FOR ALL, NOW!"

Location: Bucharest

Results:

- No. of unique IDCs who have been contacted and received at least one service: 5090
- No. of IDUs benefiting from the minimum package of services (HIV, HVB, HVC, TB information, education and counseling), condoms and syringe exchange: 3700
- No. of distributed syringes: 1,699,374 (cumulative from FG and other sources)
- No. of condoms distributed: 719,302
- No. of HIV-tested CDI: 601
- No. of HI test CDI: 580
- No. of RDI tested HVC: 584
- No. of hepatitis A and B vaccinated CDI: 307
- No. RDI refer to / accompany health and social services: 423
- No. of CDI receiving TB screening: 2708
- No. CDI refer to TB diagnosis: 780
- No. of IDUs accompanying the medical diagnostic network: 457
- No. TB diagnosed with TB: 110
- No. of RDI receiving the support package for adhesion: 97
- No. RDIs recruited, trained and involved in peer education, access and support: 25

¹ Romanian Anti-AIDS Association

- No. of workshops organized for the training of peer educators: 25

- **Homeless People**

Sub-recipient: Save the Children Romania

Project Title: "Active identification of homeless TB patients and the provision of integrated services to increase adherence to treatment"

Location: Bucharest

Results:

- **2879** homeless people were informed and educated about TB.
- **759** homeless people were identified and accompanied to medical facilities to test and detect TB cases
- **117** homeless people who have been diagnosed with active TB and other **81** who have started prophylactic treatment receive support services to increase adherence (social incentives, DOT, peer educators, psychosocial counseling)
- **1,720** posters and **21,845** flyers were distributed
- **25** peer educators have been trained and activated.

- **Interventions for TB patients undergoing ambulatory treatment**

Sub-recipient: UNOPA

Project title: "Treatment under direct observation for patients with TB in Romania"

Location: (TB Dispensaries) from Neamț, Argeș, Maramureș, Constanța, Dolj and Bucharest.

Results:

- There were recruited and trained from the TB dispensaries in the six counties: 28 nurses (volunteers) and 6 TB doctors (volunteer coordinators). Their role is to provide DOT to patients accessing TB dispensaries from the 6 pilot counties.
- Five DOT volunteer DPO volunteer work meetings were organized.
- 3268 patients with TB benefited from DOT in dispensing and social support to increase adherence to treatment.



Sub-recipient: UNOPA² in partnership with ASPTMR³

Project title: "Integrated Services for Patients with TB in Romania"

Location: (TB Hospitals from) Neamț, Argeș, Maramureș, Constanța, Dolj counties and Bucharest.

Results:

- A multidisciplinary team (a doctor, a psychologist, a social worker) was set up and trained in each of the six pilot counties. The role of the team is to assess the risk of non-adherence to TB treatment and to distribute them, depending on risk, to the psychosocial support services developed within the project.
- **7,376** TB patients were evaluated and 478 patients reassessed to be included in the Global Fund programs of which: 6468 patients were assigned to receive services for one of the Global Fund programs (eg: social admission tickets for treatment psychological counseling, social counseling, support groups, peer support).
- **2,120** patients benefited from **4325** individual face-to-face or telephone meetings with the help of psychologists in the project;
- **1,720** patients participated in support groups organized by psychologists from multidisciplinary teams;
- **2487** patients with TB (high risk patients, average risk patients, hospitalized or outpatient patients) received 4922 informative and counseling sessions with the social worker;
- **630** high risk patients included in the project were supported by peers in order to maintain adherence to treatment;
- **784** patients were enrolled in the project and received social support (social vouchers).
- **13** patients received psychiatric support to increase adherence to treatment of IDU patients.

² National Union of the Organizations of People Affected by HIV/AIDS

³ Supporting Association for Patients with Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis



Sub-recipient: CPSS⁴

Project title: "Providing integrated community support interventions to detect active and improve adherence to treatment of tuberculosis cases"

Location: Neamț, Argeș, Maramureș, Constanța, Dolj counties and Bucharest.

Results:

- Seven county coordinators were employed and together 318 community workers (community nurses and health mediators) were trained to provide the following services: active identification of TB suspects in the community; DOT at home for patients who can't move to the TB dispensary to lift their treatment. In addition to the 318 volunteers, DOT volunteers became family physicians and / or nurses. In total, **442** DOT volunteers were involved in the project.
- **1805** TB suspects were identified, of which **9** were confirmed with active TB;
- **1,774** single patients benefited from DOT at home.

⁴ Center for Health Policies and Services