

**Hybrid meeting on TB patient centered approach with participation of main TB actors national and international (part of TB patient centered piloting project) when to be presented the WHO recommendations package of interventions.**

The Hybrid meeting on TB was attended by representatives of the WHO regional office in Tirana, Dr. Gerald Rockenschaub Head of WHO in Albania, Dr. Artan Mesi, National Professional Officer Tuberculosis, HIV and Hepatitis, Dr. Eugena Tomini, Deputy of Minister of Health Social Protect, Mrs. Merita Xhafaj, Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), Dr. Hasan Hafizi, WHO consultant and National TB expert, MDR-TB clinics' and Head of Laboratory National Reference of University Hospital "Shefqet Ndroqi" and participants from different health institutions, such as Health Care Operator, Compulsory Health Insurance Fund, Institute of Public Health.

There were also online participants and experts WHO, Dr. Andrei Dadu, WHO EURO, Copenhagen, Dr. Pierpaolo de Colombani, WHO Consultant, Dr. Alexandre Laurengo, WHO Consultant, Dawran Faizan Fund Portfolio Manager, Global Fund, Dr. Silva Bino, Head of Department of Infection disease (IPH), as well as participants from family doctors, pulmonologists and epidemiologists from the 4 districts (Elbasan, Shkoder, Durres Kukes ) where the pilot TB will be extended.

**Specific objectives:**

- 🚩 Presentation of the WHO recommendations package of interventions on implementation of the TB patient centered approach in piloting Health Centers as defined by MoH Authorities;
- 🚩 To review the progress made and gaps in implementing the recommendations in the other districts;
- 🚩 To advise on prioritized actions to respond to TB prevention, screening and treatment care on the Primary Health level settings during COVID-19 pandemic and beyond and as previously planned in the National TB NSP 2020-2025, new interventions which NTP and National TB actors shall embark on and/or intensify their work to contribute to achieving a highest impact, TB service maintaining and improving TB prevention and care;
- 🚩 Next steps to follow towards a sustainable TB control and prevention and reaching the target
- 🚩 Presentation of the WHO recommendations package of interventions on implementation of the TB patient centered approach in piloting Health centers as defined by MoHSP Authorities. Recommendations and Outcomes;
- 🚩 Main concepts on TB patient care and pathways in the new country context;
- 🚩 Familiarizing with new responsibilities. Operational Protocol on Patient-Centered Services for TB. Role of PHC on testing for TB infection, reducing transmission of TB in

households, case management other diagnostic and treatments monitoring. Who does what?

- ✚ An updated rapid assessment on TB maintenance services during COVID-19 pandemic situation and GAP created during pandemic situation and necessity to scale up TB prevention and testing; PSM situation and current situation of TB drug supply.
- ✚ All oral treatment for MDR TB patients in Albania. TB care services maintenance during COVID-19 in Albania and challenges
- ✚ Development of financial mechanism for implementation of integrated patient-centered TB model of care next Albanian challenge to come soon.
- ✚ How to link the new intervention with latest WHO guidelines and operational handbooks. New prospective in the WHO EURO Region. Main WHO recommendations and highlights for better new GL implementation.
- ✚ WHO consolidated guidelines and operational handbook on tuberculosis
- ✚ Module 1: Prevention: TPT, WHO operational handbook on tuberculosis;
- ✚ Module 2: Screening – Systematic screening for tuberculosis disease; WHO operational handbook on tuberculosis
- ✚ Module 3: Diagnosis - Rapid diagnostics for tuberculosis detection;
- ✚ Module 4: Treatment; WHO operational handbook;

**Key suggestions obtained from participants during the training for TB Control in Primary Health care:**

- ✚ Integration of TB control within a reformed health system, through involvement of PHC providers into TB treatment, care and support by providing directly observed treatment;
- ✚ Strengthen the TB laboratory logistics by improving laboratory access by streamlining samples delivery and feedback of results during monitoring of treatment outcomes
- ✚ Strengthen Human Resource Capacity by increasing staff competences in modern TB control to involve them more actively in TB treatment, care and support;
- ✚ Improve program management, supervision and surveillance by training management staff in data management and evidence based decision making
- ✚ Financing of the medical institutions for diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and general practitioners





