



**РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫЙ СЕМИНАР ПО ВОПРОСУ УСКОРЕННОГО ВНЕДРЕНИЯ
РУКОВОДСТВА ВОЗ ПО ПРОФИЛАКТИКЕ И ДИАГНОСТИКЕ ТУБЕРКУЛЕЗА И ЛЕЧЕНИЮ
ТУБЕРКУЛЕЗА С ЛЕКАРСТВЕННОЙ УСТОЙЧИВОСТЬЮ (ЛУ-ТБ)**

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ACCELERATED IMPLEMENTATION OF WHO GUIDELINES
ON TB PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, AND DRUG-RESISTANT TB (DR-TB) TREATMENT**

UKRAINE EXPERIENCE ON TB PREVENTION

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Regional Workshop on Accelerated Implementation of WHO guidelines
on TB prevention, diagnosis, and drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) treatment, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28–30 April 2025

PRIORITIZING TB ELIMINATION: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

TB Infection Rates:

- 25% among contact persons
- 43% among people living with HIV
- 21% among individuals starting anti-TNF treatment, undergoing dialysis, or preparing for organ or hematologic transplants
- 23% among individuals with silicosis

Epidemiological Situation in 2024:

18,140 new TB cases, including 642 children

Incidence rate: 44.2 cases per 100,000 population (8.7% decrease compared to 2023)

Ukraine as a WHO Priority Country:

High prevalence of DR-TB complicates treatment and increases economic burdens

Strategic Challenges:

Displacement of millions of people both within and beyond the country's borders heightens risks of uncontrolled TB spread

Russia's war against Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic have jeopardized prior TB control achievements

Solution:

Implementing preventive treatment for key populations and high-risk groups to mitigate these risks



7.5 million UKRAINIANS ABROAD DUE TO THE WAR



70-80% OF THE POPULATION OF UKRAINE EXPERIENCES FEAR AND ANXIETY APPROXIMATELY. 20-30% OF PEOPLE SUFFER FROM PTSD. 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE NEED PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE



DESTROYED CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN KYIV AS A RESULT OF A RUSSIAN MISSILE ATTACK ON JULY 8, 2024

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE NATION TB PROGRAM IN UKRAINE



The Comprehensive Review was carried out by the team of international experts led by the **WHO Regional Office for Europe** and the WHO Country Office in Ukraine, with the **active participation of the NTP** and other national and international stakeholders involved in TB prevention and control in Ukraine

Key Achievements in TB Prevention:

- Ukraine has **policy documents that regulate TPT**, mostly prepared in line with WHO guidelines
- **Preventive therapy coverage of children under 5 years of age** who are household contacts of people living with TB is reported to be **very high** and in line with project targets (as high as 90% and more)
- **Rifapentine is available**, and up-to-date recommendations for TPT with combinations of this drug are in use

Recommendations:

- **Develop and implement an M&E plan for testing and treatment of TB infection**, including electronic system to provide the basis for surveillance activities.
- Continue to use a cascade approach to measure the proportion eligible for TPT, assessed for active TB, diagnosed, started and completed preventive therapy
- **Scale up the transition to the 3-month HR regimen**, mainly in children. Ensure sustained availability of drugs for TPT (including rifapentine)
- Expand **digital technology for interpretation of chest radiology** to allow for the reliable exclusion of TB in adult contacts and facilitate the expansion of TPT in this population

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL TB PROGRAM IN UKRAINE

October – December 2022



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REGULATORY FRAMEWORK IN UKRAINE

LAWS OF UKRAINE

- On Ending TB in Ukraine (2024)
- On the Public Health System (2023)
- On Protection of the Population Against Infectious Diseases

RESOLUTIONS OF THE CMU

- On approval of the State Strategy in the field of combating HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and viral hepatitis for the period up to 2030 (2022)
- On approval of the State Strategy for the development of the system of TB medical care for the population (2024)
- On approval of the Action Plan for the implementation of the State Strategy for the development of the TB medical care system for 2020-2023 (2024)

ORDERS OF THE MOH OF UKRAINE

- No. 302 as of 16.02.2022 "On approval of the procedure for organizing the detection of tuberculosis and latent tuberculosis infection" as updated on 10.05.2024
- No. 102 as of 19.01.2022 "On approval of standards of TB medical care"
- No. 406 as of 19.03.2021 "On approval of the Procedure for epidemiological surveillance of tuberculosis and Amendments to the criteria for case definition of infectious and parasitic diseases to be registered"

STANDARDS OF MEDICAL CARE FOR TB PATIENTS IN LINE WITH WHO RECOMMENDATIONS



The **Standards of TB Medical Care** define the groups of individuals who are subject to diagnosis and treatment of TB infection:

- Household contacts of a person with TB
- People living with HIV
- People who are initiating anti-tumour-necrosis factor treatment, receiving dialysis, preparing for an organ or haematological transplant
- People with silicosis

Algorithms of testing for TBI and TB preventive treatment among high-risk groups for TB exposure

Recommendations for choosing a preventive treatment regimen: **3HP, 1 HP, 3 HR, 6H, 6 Lfx**

An **innovative approach is the multidisciplinary involvement** of a wide group of participants (**non-healthcare facilities**, such as communities, NGOs and other civil society organizations, social services, religious organizations, patient communities, peer support groups, etc. involved in TB preventive treatment among vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations)

NTP OF UKRAINE ADOPTED THE NATIONAL STANDARD OF TB CARE IN LINE WITH UP-TO-DATE WHO RECOMMENDATIONS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PATIENTS, REGARDLESS OF THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THEY ARE TREATED, HAVE ACCESS TO MODERN PROTOCOLS AND MEDICINES.



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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PASS INITIATIVE IN UKRAINE TOGETHER WITH WHO



From July to December 2024, consultations were held between the NTP and WHO Euro Office experts on systematic TB screening and preventive treatment in Ukraine.

The goal of these consultations was to inform the MoH and NTPs to review and ultimately update existing TB guidelines based on:

- the most recent **WHO guidelines** on screening TBI/preventive TB treatment
- the projected calculated indicators from the **ScreenTB** regarding the scale, effectiveness, and cost of screening programs specifically for the target screening group and the testing algorithm used.



Key Components of the TPT Program:

Implementing TPT using WHO-recommended regimens

Program Expansion:

- Expand TPT beyond **PLHIV** and **children under 5 years**
- Incorporate the **WHO-recommended combined algorithm** for screening and testing prior to TPT (as per the 2024 WHO guidelines)

These recommendations will be adopted after the update of national standards in the second half of 2025.

PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING KEY INDICATORS, 2024

TB prevention Objective: $\geq 90\%$

86%

TPT coverage (%) in
TB contacts
<5 years

93%

TPT coverage (%)
child TB contacts
5 –14 years

79%

TPT coverage (%)
TB contacts > 15 years
and adults

88%

TPT coverage (%) in
people with HIV

78%

TPT coverage (%) **other**
risk groups*

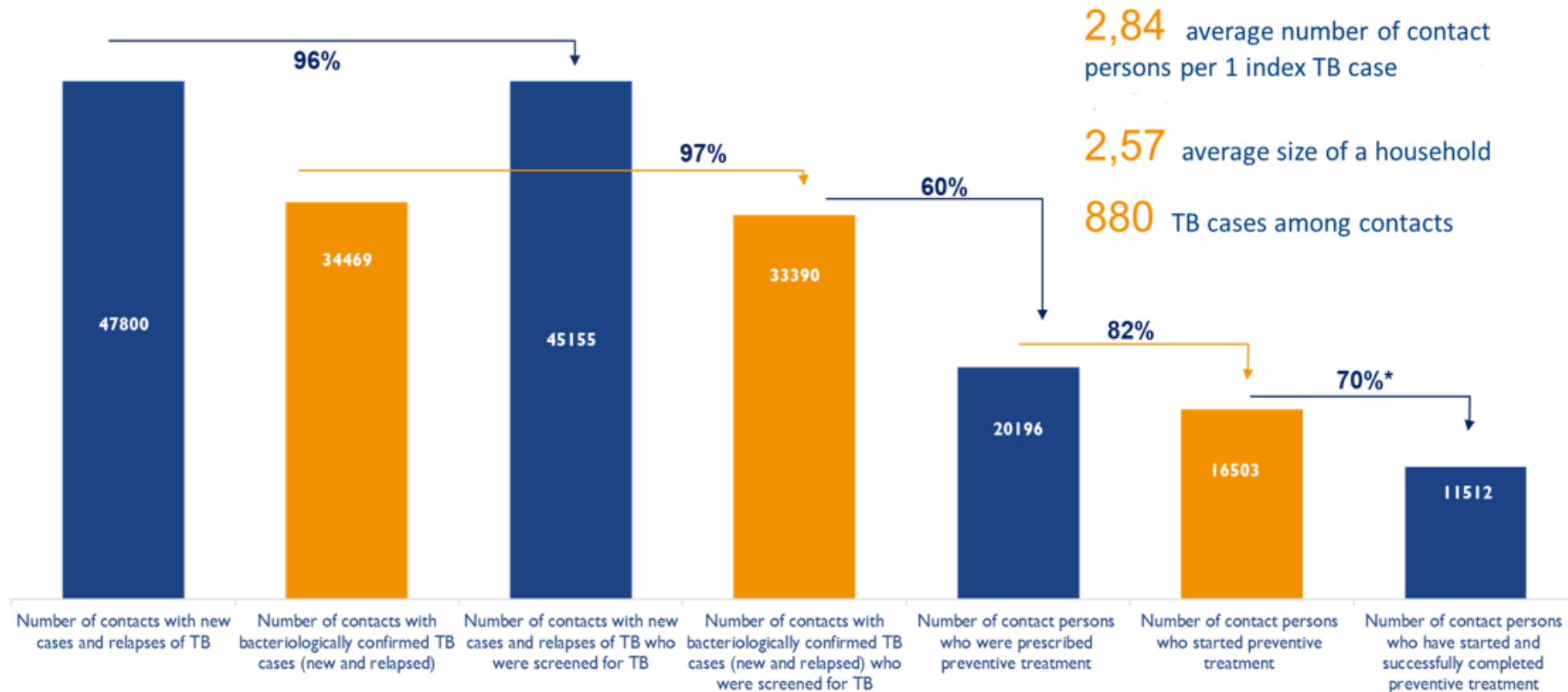
25,128 people

from all risk groups started
preventive treatment

* other risk groups:

- People who are initiating anti-tumour-necrosis factor treatment, receiving dialysis, preparing for an organ or haematological transplant
- People with silicosis

CASCADE OF SCREENING AND PREVENTIVE TREATMENT OF CONTACT PERSONS IN 2024



A cascading M&E system has been established following WHO recommendations in 2022

INTRODUCTION OF INNOVATIVE TB PREVENTIVE TREATMENT

Ukraine has made the transition to **modern WHO approaches** of preventive treatment

Since 2023, **short preventive treatment regimens** have been introduced, including the innovative drug **rifapentine**

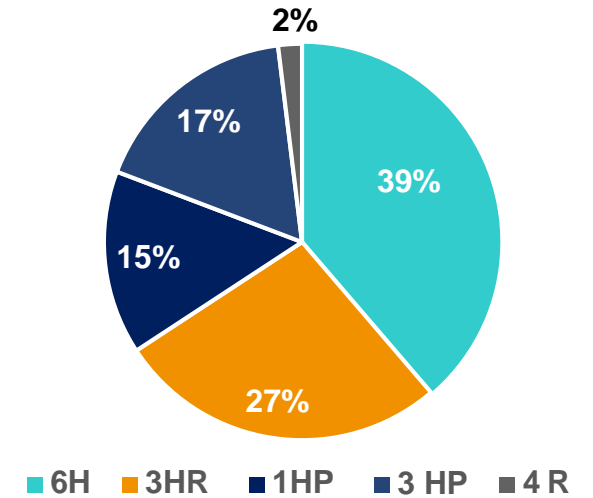
Starting from 2023, the **6Lfx regimen** for the prevention of drug-resistant TB **susceptible to fluoroquinolone** has been implemented at the state level

There are **difficulties with screening and monitoring of preventive treatment** due to restrictions related to the war and the availability of services

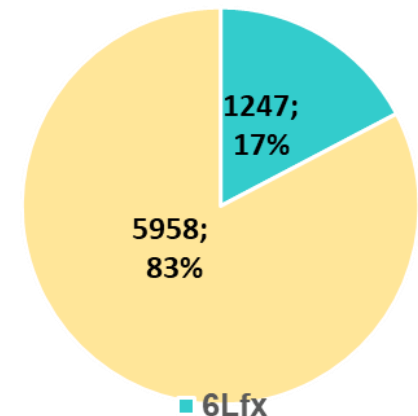
In order to expand access to and prescribe preventive treatment, the Order of the MOH of Ukraine as of 16.02.2022 No. 302 "On Approval of the Procedure for Organising the Detection and Diagnosis of TB and TB infection" (as amended on 01.04.2024) regulated **the possibility of prescribing preventive treatment by family doctors or "specialized" healthcare professionals** (previously, only TB doctors prescribed preventive treatment)

Next plans to **improve TB prevention in contacts exposed to drug-resistant TB** - conducting **an operational study (6 Bdq, 6 Mfx, 6 Dlm), to be done by NTP together with WHO** in the 2nd half of 2025

Preventive TB treatment, 2024



Preventive RR/MDR-TB treatment, 2024



1,247 people - 17% of all contacts with Rif/MDR-TB) received 6Lfx preventive treatment

DEFINING THE TB RESEARCH AGENDA IN UKRAINE (2024)

Development Process:

- A structured prioritization process utilized a modified Delphi consultation conducted in multiple rounds.
- 34 national experts from diverse fields (program managers, researchers, academia, TB service providers, NGOs, development partners, TB-affected communities) identified and ranked priorities using five criteria: effectiveness, equitability, answerability, deliverability, and ethical considerations.

Highlighted Thematic Areas:

- Epidemiology: Understanding TB burden and transmission dynamics.
- Health Systems & Policy: Addressing barriers to TB care and evaluating policy implementation effectiveness.
- Operational Research: Developing patient-centered approaches for prevention, case detection, treatment monitoring, TB care, and support.
- Implementation Research: Optimizing new diagnostic and treatment strategies.

Key Research Priorities:

- Evaluating the effectiveness of TB screening algorithms and prevention.
- Exploring new short-course treatment regimens for prevention/drug-resistant TB.

Impact:

- Supports evidence-informed decision-making to strengthen Ukraine's TB response.
- Serves as a guiding tool for investment, research activities, programmatic interventions, and resource allocation.
- Helps implement Ukraine's National Strategic Plan and achieve the End TB Strategy targets by 2030.



TRANSFORMING PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD TB: UKRAINE'S TB INFORMATION STRATEGY

Development and Objectives (2022):

- Address public stigma surrounding TB.
- Implement effective communication tools in professional environments.
- Enhance the quality of medical services for TB prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment.

Key Results of Implementation (2024):

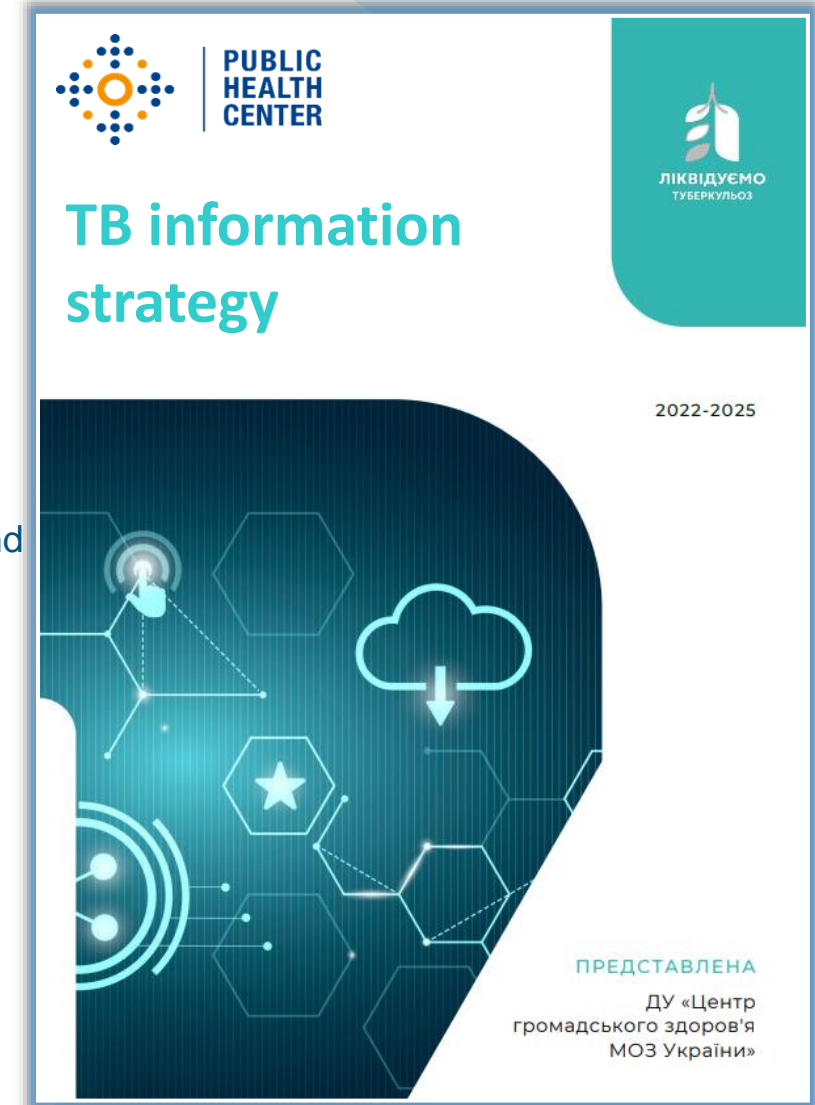
- Over 1,300 information events across healthcare, educational, cultural, and other institutions.
- More than 700 official website posts, 216 articles published in online and print media, and 3,000 social media posts.
- Total media coverage reached 17 million people (every second person in Ukraine).

Expected Achievements:

- Increased public awareness of TB prevention.
- Improved coverage of vaccination and preventive treatment.

Effective communication campaigns are crucial in combating TB as they:

- Transform societal attitudes and reduce stigma.
- Encourage early detection and preventive measures.
- Support the implementation of national strategies and the achievement of the End TB targets.





DESTIGMATIZING TERMINOLOGY HAS BEEN INTRODUCED

- STIGMATIZING WORDS AND ALTERNATIVES THEREOF

TB contact:
it's better to use
CONTACT PERSON

This term is used to identify a person exposed to MTB in the household or due to professional duties. Though the term has no significant negative issues, it is not person-centered

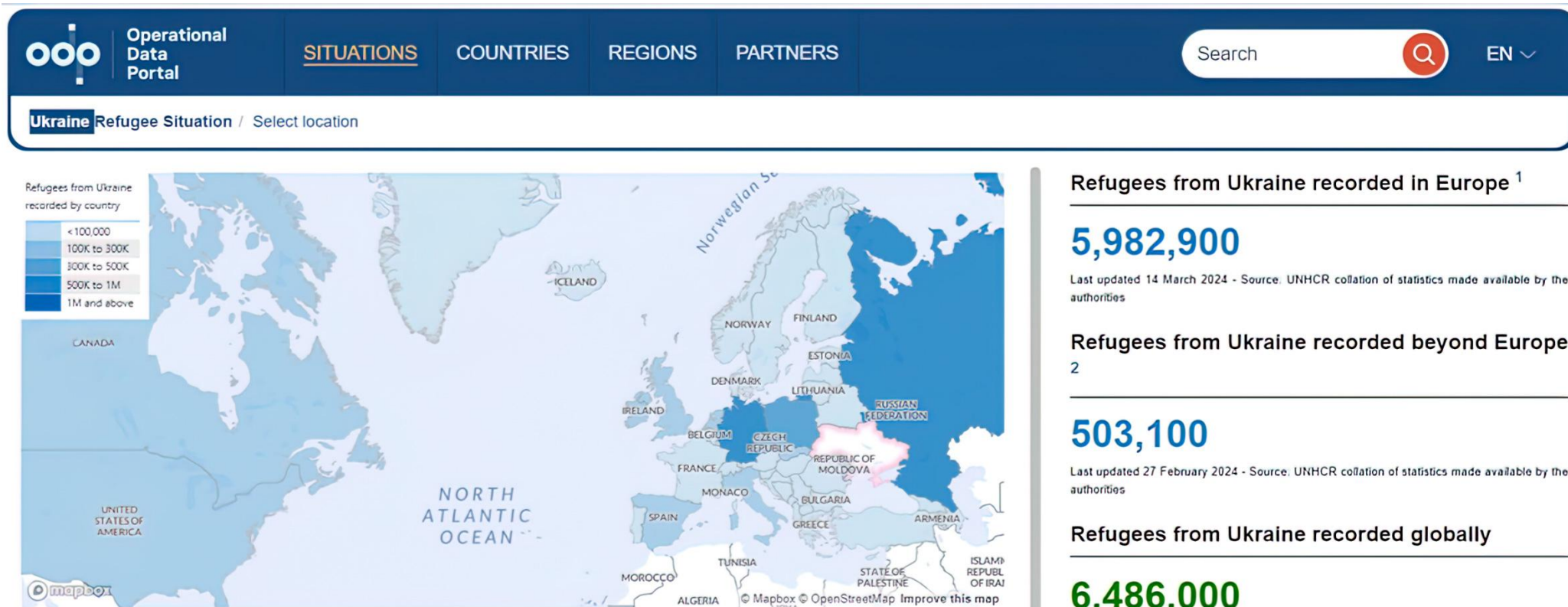


NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

DESTIGMATIZING
LANGUAGE IN TB
RESPONSE

WE TAKE A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO SOLVING
COMPLEX PROBLEMS

REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE AROUND THE WORLD AND THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION PROCESSES ON PLANNING AND FORECASTING ACTIVITIES



Challenges in Preventive Care:

Limited access to modern short-term preventive treatments across the European Region remains a key barrier.



Urgent Call to Action:

Equal access to preventive measures is essential to fulfill the WHO European Region's commitment to end tuberculosis.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Active detection of TB infection becomes more important and relevant in the context of forecasting the deterioration of the TB situation due to the ongoing war

Despite strong progress in the implementation of preventive services, the coverage **of high-priority groups with preventive treatment remains insufficient**, requiring increased attention

Scaling up TB testing in line with the 'test and treat' strategy, with priority given to key and vulnerable populations and communities that will benefit most from preventive treatment

Strengthening **monitoring and evaluation** (develop an electronic tool to track the identification and examination of contacts, implement a system for assessing the quality of medical care in terms of TB treatment coverage, etc)

Strengthening **multisectoral cooperation** (strengthening coordination between regional TB services, infectious diseases services and primary health care facilities, involvement of community leaders, social services, NGOs, educators in TB prevention programmers)

Innovations and implementation of research to scale up TPT among contacts of DR-TB: implementation of operational research on preventive treatment of contacts exposed to DR-TB in 2025 under coordination of the PHC in cooperation with the EuroWHO

Scaling up the information campaign to increase awareness, engagement, and support among key populations and stakeholders



THANK YOU!

