

Implementation of the Advocacy plan April 2017 - January 2019

Context

This comprehensive advocacy plan was long overdue as, apart from several activities and interventions, there was never a coordinated advocacy effort targeting, at the same time, all the relevant decision makers and the most pressing problems identified.

The advocacy plan was elaborated based on a participatory process, following a series of meetings and consultations which started in December 2016, between members of the advocacy group of the CCM, NGOs and TB and HIV patient associations, members and non-members of the CCM. The general aim of the advocacy plan is to persuade the decision makers to commit to respecting the rights of all key and vulnerable populations, including universal access to treatment and psycho-social support, prevention services and education and to ensure the sustainability of the activities currently carried out with GF support¹, taking the responsibility and ownership of the response for the TB reform and national strategy implementation.

The sustainability of the activities implemented with support from the Global Fund had to be approached and the advocacy plan aimed to find solutions to the most pressing political and legislative barriers:

- The Romanian legislation does not allow the Romanian Government and the Romanian Ministry of Health to procure directly some of the drugs needed to treat MDR/XDR-TB patients and to cover for the costs of these drugs from public funds. Therefore, efforts to persuade the decision makers to change the current procurement legislation and increase funding for treatment were of the utmost importance.
- Only the TB patients included in projects funded by GF in six counties receive patient-centered social and psychological support services. We need to persuade the central and local decision makers to continue to support such services from public funds and to replicate this integrated model of care countrywide.
- The needs and rights of key and vulnerable populations are not fully reflected in the public health policies. Were it not for the NGOs that provide services to vulnerable groups (especially IDUs, homeless), many of them would not have access to basic prevention, health care and social support services. We needed to make sure that the interventions that are now implemented from international support will continue from domestic funding.
- There was no HIV/AIDS National Strategy or Action Plan endorsed by the Government to include HIV/TB prevention therefore such a Strategy or Plan had to be developed and funding sources identified.

The objectives of the advocacy plan followed three major directions:

- better services for people affected by TB and HIV,
- equal rights for vulnerable and key affected populations and
- empowerment of those affected or at risk of infection.

The activities included in the plan started in April 2017 and included:

- Work with central or local relevant decision makers to raise awareness about the needs and rights of people affected by TB and HIV;
- Work with high level decision makers at central level (Government, Parliament, and Presidency) with the purpose to change or clarify the current legislation and the implementation methodology;

¹ In the past 12 years, Romania has received over 75 million USD from The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for projects implemented by non-governmental organizations and public institutions in the benefit of people affected by HIV and TB. The current grant, targeting people affected by MDR TB and vulnerable populations affected and at risk of being infected with HIV and TB, will end in March 2018 (or 30 September 2018 if the recent proposed extension will be approved).

- Work with central or local relevant decision makers in order to persuade them to take action in ensuring access to services for vulnerable and key affected populations in various settings (hospitals, local community, mental health facilities, substitution therapy facilities, social care etc.);
- Work with international organizations to gain support for the changes required;
- Identify barriers to access to services for vulnerable and key affected populations and document and make public discrimination cases.

The Advocacy Campaign

Prior to approval of advocacy plan by the GF, in December 2016 and January 2017 we conducted consultations with NGOs members and non-members of the CCM in order to discuss the prospect of carrying out an advocacy campaign. The priorities for the Advocacy plan were discussed and set following meeting with said NGOs, relevant in the HIV and TB fields. The working group benefited from the input of two experts, one for advocacy campaigns and another for human rights campaigns, who facilitated the meetings and provided guidance and support to the participants during the process of the elaboration of the advocacy plan.

After the Advocacy Plan was approved and funded, we selected the key experts and put together the implementation team. During the Plan implementation, the following positions and functions became active as follows:

- Advocacy Coordinator, in charge with coordinating the advocacy activities in relation to local authorities, central authorities, NGOs and elaboration of the advocacy campaign plan, in collaboration with the Human Rights Campaigner, the Communication & Media Relation Manager, the Advocacy Officer and any other expert involved. This position was placed under the CCM Secretariat.
- Human Rights Campaigner, in charge with public mobilization on human rights issues, event strategy, relationship with journalists/media, any other experts involved, PR & Communication staff, NGO representatives, Facebook and petition management. Elaborated the advocacy campaign plan and worked closely with the Media graphics content manager in order to make the messages visually friendly.
- Communication & Media Relation Manager, in charge with research related to TH and HIV and writing and publishing pieces for public awareness, recommending the best communication channels, identifying the target group(s) of the advocacy campaign etc.
- Advocacy officer, in charge with providing assistance to the Advocacy Coordinator and the advocacy group with networking and administrative activities such as communication with EU / internationally based networks and supporting organizations (TB Europe Coalition, Stop TB, Results UK, Global TB Caucus, etc.), arrangements on national and international visits and meetings included in the advocacy plan, contribution to the elaboration of various documents (position papers, letters to policy makers), creation of contacts database and submission of position papers and letters to policy makers/stakeholders, identifying and circulating resources among advocacy actors (SRs and CCM secretariat focal point).
- Web promotion officer, in charge with upgrading the Stop TB Romania webpage, social media page development, upload of web updates and web pages maintenance.
- Media graphics content manager, in charge with elaboration of info graphics, graphics for media content and for articles for the campaign to be published in newspapers.
- Medical & Social Sciences Expert, in charge with research on the TB drugs situation in Romania and elaborating the Report on TB Medicine Crisis in Romania.
- Expert in media advocacy, in charge with designing the media campaign for the Report on TB Medicine Crisis in Romania, gaining public support, raising awareness on the issue of TB medication crisis.
- Experts for UPR Report, in charge with research on HIV and TB issues, difficulties and solutions, elaborating the Universal Periodic Review for the January 2018 session;

The Advocacy Strategy and the Communication Plan were developed and implemented.

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

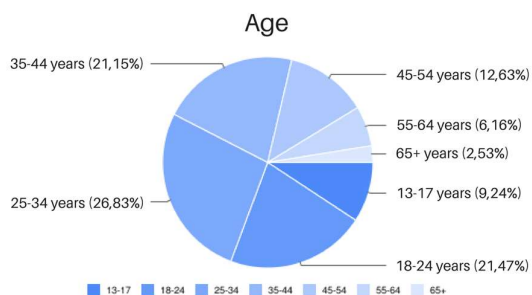


The **Stop TB Romania Partnership** Facebook page is the communication platform used in the advocacy campaign which started in April 2017. We also use partner pages to increase impact in key moments of the campaign.

Overall, the communication in the Romanian online space is insufficient, inconsistent and with little variety of content on tuberculosis and HIV. The possibilities to involve the general public in decision-making processes and to inform it in real time about the latest news in the fields of HIV and TB are limited as official pages do not provide a very flexible approach towards engaging the population.

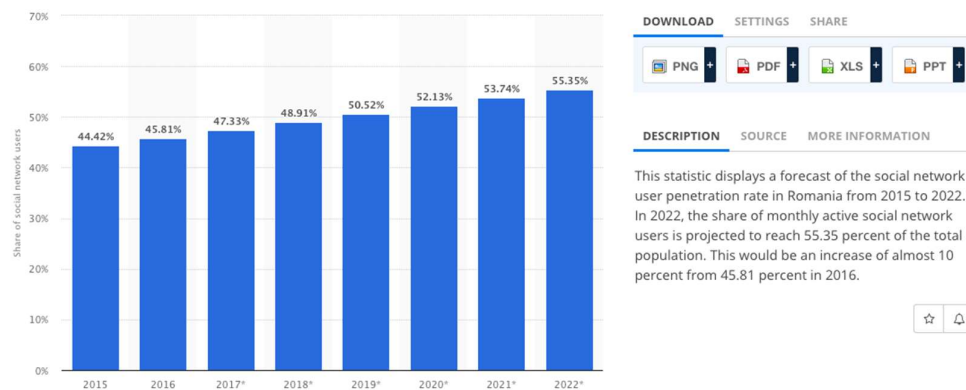
At the same time, social media is the preferred territory of those who support so-called "alternative" treatment methods that induce a harmful and prejudicial discourse in relation to TB or HIV patients, in relation to medical treatment methods, etc. It is precisely the environment in which all this discourse has to be countered, providing constantly documented material at the fingertips of all those willing to learn and to distribute the right information.

Among the media that help promote information, online (social media in particular) is the most accessible and used by the Romanians. According to the data available at the end of last year, over 9.6 million Romanians have a Facebook account, and 32% of them declared themselves active (accessing the network at least once a day).



On the "Campaigns / Health" section, however, the most significant social media channels belong to major corporate CSR departments, and are not necessarily sources of unbiased information or that effectively and genuinely promote relevant information for the HIV / TB sector.

Forecast of the social network user penetration rate in Romania from 2015 to 2022



In this entire context, the presence on social channels of the main organizations working in the TB / HIV fields is not only welcome, but highly necessary. Similarly, on medium term, it is imperative to take into account the establishment of an information distribution network between the several channels that are constantly concerned with this aspect. On short term is mandatory to train and support the network organizations in order to represent themselves constantly and consistently on networks. These suggestions were already implemented in the case of promoting World TB Day and, compared with a single-channeled campaign, this had remarkable results.

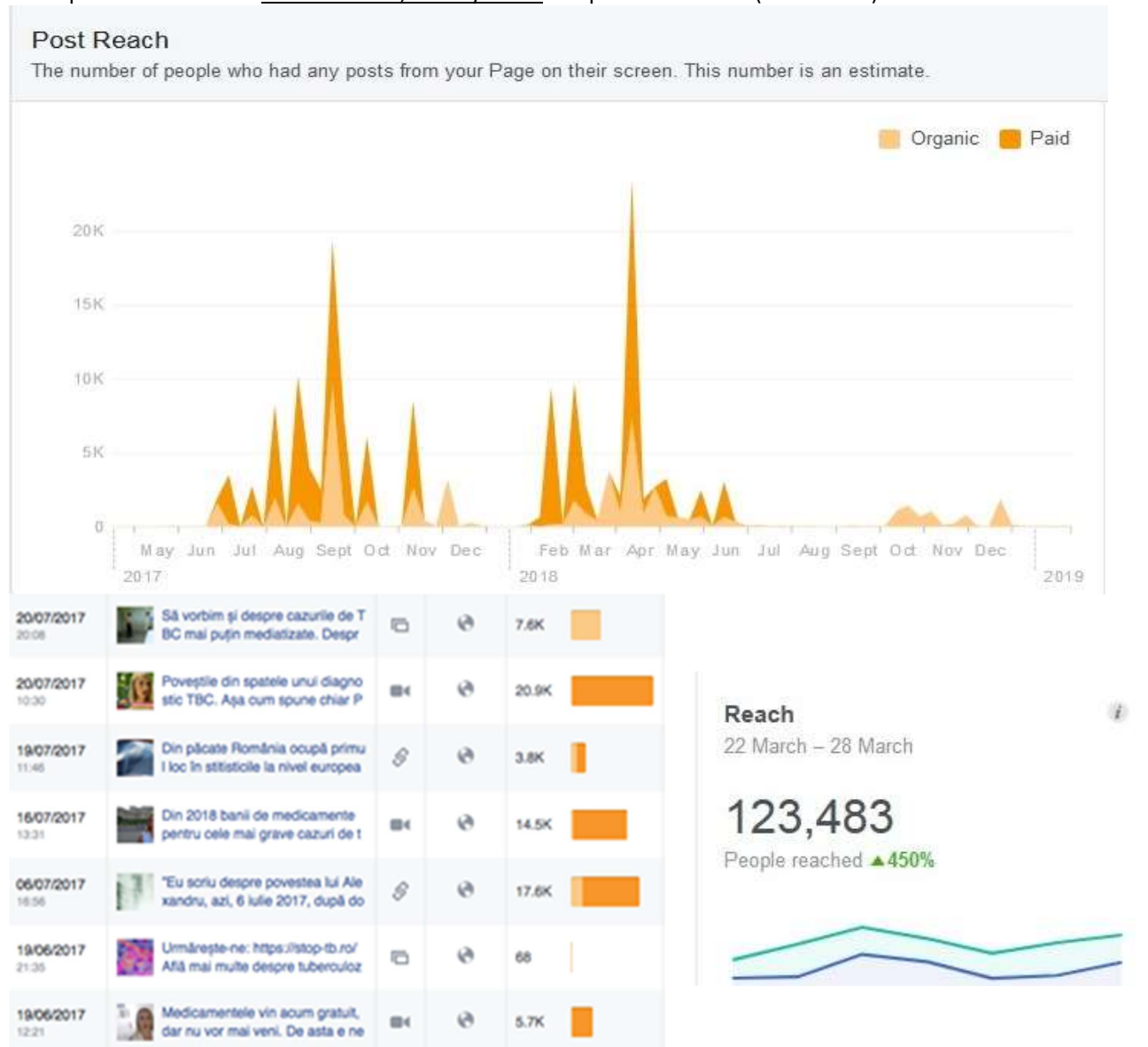
On the **Stop TB Romania Facebook page** we carried out the social media campaign for advocacy and to gain public support for TB and HIV/AIDS issues: the page (www.facebook.com/ParteneriatulStopTB/) increased from 90 followers in March 2017, to over 1640 at the end of January 2019, through original or shared content and through sponsored items and several call to action campaigns. This number does not reflect the audience and impact of the page but the total number of users who chose to follow directly our page after interacting, in one form or another, with the content posted on the page.

Total number of people who liked the page at January 30, 2019



General and specific information on TB, HIV/AIDS, and vulnerable groups was disseminated using the page. The Report on TB Medicine Crisis in Romania was also featured on the page as well as on the Facebook page of the Romanian Health Observatory, among many others.

The impact (reach) was improved, as many of the posts reached several thousand people. The most attractive ones reached 10-15,000 users per post and, weekly, the information reached over 50,000-60.000 Facebook users, with spikes of more than 100.000 users, weekly reach on special occasions (WTB Week).



We asked for involvement in decision-making processes and calls to action through associated campaigns and petitions. The most successful posts reached over 50,000 Facebook users.

The TB patient bill was heavily promoted and we have carried out a campaign for the HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan 2018-2020 on the same platform:

- Petition for the TB Patient Bill: <http://bit.ly/petitieTBC>
- Petition for the HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan 2018 - 2020: <http://bit.ly/petitieHIV>

The social media campaign included info-graphics, photos, short videos, calls to action, articles on real life stories of people affected by TB and HIV, interviews, profile frame etc.

Main contributions from: *Advocacy Coordinator, Human Rights Campaigner, Communication & Media Relation Manager, Advocacy officer, Web promotion officer, Media graphics content manager*



Parteneriatul Stop TB Romania
 Published by Claudia Apostol (7) · 22 February at 10:35 · €

"Nu poți combate tuberculoza fără să combați sărăcia!"

►► Cere și tu deputaților să voteze Legea Tuberculozei. Semnează petiția: <http://bit.ly/petitieTBC>

11,073 people reached



Parteneriatul Stop TB Romania
 Published by Claudia Apostol (7) · 28 January · €

Nu, tuberculoza nu este o boală a trecutului. Informează-te corect și ajută-ne să convingem deputații să voteze Legea Tuberculozei: <http://campania.de-clic.ro/TB>

Diagnostic timpuriu, sprijin financiar pentru o alimentație mai bună, concediu medical, informare corectă a publicului larg despre pericole și despre nevoile celui diagnosticat cu tuberculoză... asta conține legea tuberculozei! Semnează petiția și distribuie mai departe. Vă mulțumim!

21,162 people reached



Semnați și distribuiți: <http://bit.ly/petitieHIV>

Am fost în iad cu ambulanța. Reportaj din Ferentari

Am fost în iad, un iad cu oameni vii care sunt însă morți pentru societate. Am fost în Ferentari. Nu singură cu împreună cu echipajul medical-social de la ARAS (Asociația Română Anti-SIDA). Se duc acolo săptămânal cu două ambulanțe, într-una un...

PAULARUSU.RO

13,900 people reached

Parteneriatul Stop TB Romania
 Published by Claudia Apostol (7) · 1 December 2017 · €

Azi este 1 decembrie. Zia Națională a României dar și Zia Mondială de Luptă împotriva HIV/SIDA. Dacă vrei să dai o mână de ajutor celor aproape 15.000 de români care trăiesc cu HIV, semnează petiția prin care cerem Guvernului să adopte Planul Național Strategic HIV/SIDA 2018-2020: <https://campaniamea.de-clic.ro/p/PNS-HIV>

Și schimbă-ți poza de profil: <https://actionsprout.io/D46DB2>

Măcar azi 😊



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **There is an enormous discrepancy between the need for information among the general public and the quantity of quality materials made available to the public.** Until a year ago, the number of people constantly informed about tuberculosis on our page was negligible. At the moment we are talking about at least 50-60,000 people we reach every week. This segment of organic population is expected - after a year of constantly presenting the problem of tuberculosis in the social media. **It is absolutely necessary that the frequency and constant communication through Facebook channels does not decrease in the next period, but is amplified.**
2. In the past two years at least, social media has become a "battlefield" on **vaccination and alternative cures**, a battle that medicine (and reason) is currently losing in social media. For example, anti-vaccine groups and pages reach tens of thousands of users, who then propagate unverified, untrue and information potentially disastrous for the real data - more and more Romanians refuse to vaccinate their children. **Without a constant, incisive campaign in social media, this growing opinion will not be countered.**

- Over the past year, the social media communication strategy has been constantly considering strengthening the discourse promoted by the organizations active on the TB / HIV sector. Each campaign and event was promoted in partnership, unitary, bringing together organizations and publics that had previously communicated disparagingly. The voice of those working directly with patients (TB and/or HIV) has to become louder.

TB PATIENT BILL

The TB Patient Bill has been drafted in 2013-2014, following consultations with various stakeholders: doctors, patients, their families, civil society organizations. The Bill was registered at the Romanian Senate in March 2016 and went through all the legal steps. The Bill is now at the Health Committee at the Chamber of Deputies, which is the decisional chamber.

We initiated a petition in 2017 to gain public support for the Bill and over 8.500 people signed it urging the deputies to vote for the Bill. The Stop TB Romania Facebook page was the one of the main information channels. The petition was used not only to gain signatures so we can keep people informed, but also as a vehicle for awareness sub-campaigns on several topics related to the TB agenda.

On September 6th 2017, the Communication & Media Relation Manager, the Advocacy officer, former TB patients and the CCM Secretary attended a meeting at the Health Committee at the Chamber of Deputies, where the TB Patient Bill was discussed. The team advocated for the necessity to adopt the bill from the perspective of the TB patient who face financial difficulties during treatment and lack of support in the community.

Another meeting with the President of the Health Committee at the Chamber of Deputies took place in January 2018, to assess the next steps needed for the Bill to be voted by the parliament.

The Communication & Media Relation Manager interviewed in March 2018 the Minister of Health, Sorina Pintea, who expressed her support for the bill addressing the needs of the TB patient.

The NTP submitted amendments to the TB Bill to the head of the Health Committee in the Chamber of Deputies. The TB Bill is currently at the Ministry of Health

and amendments and a point of view will be submitted to the Health Committee.

In October 2018, following our continuous public campaign for the TB Bill, it was discussed in the Health Committee and received a positive report. It was later included on the agenda of the Chamber of Deputies, the decisional chamber, and was finally voted on November 14th. At the beginning of December it was promulgated by the President without amendments so is now a law in force.

<http://www.tbcoalition.eu/2018/11/23/romanian-tb-law-adopted-by-parliament/>

Main contributions from: *Communication & Media Relation Manager, Advocacy Coordinator, Human Rights Campaigner, Advocacy officer, Web promotion officer, Media graphics content manager*



Unprecedented events were organized in Bucharest on the 24th of March 2018, so we took the opportunity to promote the main TB related problems to our public. More than 60.000 people were informed, exclusively through our Facebook channel, about the events and our ongoing campaigns. All the communication was carefully organized on our page and on our partners pages and channels, forming a network of social-media based promoting that can also be used in the future for key strategic moments.

Due to this promoting done on social media, huge media coverage served the event and all the main TV channels were present and broadcasted about tuberculosis on the 24th of March. Also, all the important news agencies published materials related to World TB day provided by our main Facebook event.

The World TB Day was marked in front of the Bucharest City Hall, which was light up in red. A photo exhibition was also organized and photos of former patients were displayed on the fence of Cismigiu Park. Tens of people were present, as well as the most important media outlets. The event was organized by the MDR TB Patients Association and journalist Paula Rusu.

We also published a layout on March 24th on the last cover of Libertatea newspaper, the most read newspaper in Romania, about TB and World TB Day.

Main contributions from: *Human Rights Campaigner, Communication & Media Relation Manager, Advocacy officer, Media graphics content manager*




THE HIV/AIDS NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2021

The HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan was submitted to the Ministry of Health on October 11th 2017, for review and approval. Stop TB Romania initiated a public petition urging the MoH to urgently adopt the NSP and, consequently, to identify resources for the prevention activities. These are carried out mostly by NGOs with funding from international donors and very little support from the national budget. The petition has over 4.500 signatories.

The Plan was published for consultation in December 2018 and we requested a public debate on the need to include the budget in the Plan that will be approved. We also initiated an open letter that we circulated among civil society organizations and it was signed by 17 NGOs working on HIV and TB, urging the Romanian Government to approve the 2019-2021 HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan as soon as possible. The letter was sent to the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Public Finance and endorsed by EATG, AIDS Action Europe and EHRN so far, who have also sent letters to the government. The Plan is in the legal process of approval.

Main contributions from: *Human Rights Campaigner, Communication & Media Relation Manager, Advocacy Coordinator, Advocacy officer, Web promotion officer, Media graphics content manager*




Parteneriatul Stop TB Romania

Published by Stop-tb-romania (?) · 27 February at 14:22 · 🌐

⋮

"De aproape 20 de ani, statul român preferă să lase pe umerii organizațiilor neguvernamentale munca de prevenție în comunitățile în care trăiesc persoane vulnerabile. Astfel, în timp ce incidenta infecțiilor HIV/SIDA este în creștere, din cauza lipsei finanțării pentru reducerea efectelor negative, organizațiile neguvernamentale trebuie să depună încă un efort pentru ca serviciile să nu fie întrerupte: să atragă donori internaționali care să finanțeze serviciile deoarece Guve... See more



Ministerul Sănătății îndemnat să urgenteze aprobarea Planului Național Strategic HIV/SIDA 2018-2020 – Stop TB Romania

STOP-TB.RO

Performance for your post

3,365 People Reached

131 Reactions, comments & shares

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 99 Like | 20 On post | 79 On shares |
| 7 Love | 0 On post | 7 On shares |
| 1 Sad | 0 On post | 1 On shares |
| 3 Angry | 0 On post | 3 On shares |
| 1 Comments | 1 On Post | 0 On Shares |
| 21 Shares | 21 On Post | 0 On Shares |

235 Post Clicks

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 0 Photo views | 68 Link clicks | 167 Other Clicks |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Hide Post | 0 Hide All Posts |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|


THE REPORT ON TB MEDICINE CRISIS IN ROMANIA

It was elaborated following extensive consultations with stakeholders from the National TB Program, the Ministry of Health, the National Medication Agency, former TB patients, civil society etc. The Report was published and disseminated on October 26th 2017, on the website 13miidevieti.ro, on the Romanian Health Observatory Facebook page and shared on the Stop TB Romania page, Romanian Angel Appeal and many others.

Post Details

Parteneriatul Stop TB Romania
Published by Stop-tb-romania [?] · 27 October 2017 · 🌐

Peste 700 de mesaje au pornit deja către factorii de decizie! Toate aceste mesaje cer soluționarea de urgență a crizei medicamentelor de tuberculoză, medicamente de care depind viețile a peste 13.000 de pacienți.
Semnează acum apelul, mesajul tău va ajunge automat prin email la decidenți: <http://bit.ly/apelORS>
Citește integral raportul aici: <http://bit.ly/raportORS>



STUDIUL 15 medicamente esențiale în tratamentul tuberculozei sunt raportate a avea dificultăți în achiziționare

ADEVĂRUL RO [Learn More](#)

Performance for your post

8,173 People Reached

131 Reactions, comments & shares 🗨️

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 82 Like | 71 On post | 11 On shares |
| 1 Love | 1 On post | 0 On shares |
| 9 😞 Sad | 9 On post | 0 On shares |
| 1 😡 Angry | 1 On post | 0 On shares |
| 13 Comments | 13 On Post | 0 On Shares |
| 25 Shares | 25 On Post | 0 On Shares |

322 Post Clicks

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 0 Photo views | 211 Link clicks | 111 Other Clicks 🗨️ |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 0 Hide Post | 0 Hide All Posts |
|--------------------|-------------------------|

Concurrently, a web page was developed, 13miidevieti.ro, to attract public support in urging the Ministry of Health to take action and find solutions to the TB medication crisis which was expected from 2018. The site published the report, the public campaign messages which were shared on social media (<http://13miidevieti.ro/multimedia/>) as well as a section where the people could send letters to the main decision makers (<http://13miidevieti.ro/semneaza-apelul/>). Since October, 1.329 people sent letters to the Ministry of Health and the Prime Minister expressing their concern on the possible lack of TB medication in the future.

An open letter was sent to the Ministry of Health, on the subject of TB medication. It was signed by 42 Romanian and international organizations, thus showing the massive international support for our efforts (<http://13miidevieti.ro/scrisoare-deschisa/>).

Following public pressure and messages from the main international funding organizations, the Ministry of Health issued a press release (www.ms.ro/2017/11/22/toti-pacientii-cu-afectiuni-tb-vor-fi-tratati-in-cadrul-programului-national-de-prevenire-supraveghere-si-control-al-tuberculozei/) on November 22nd, stating that it would double the NTP budget for 2018 and make all efforts to change the legislation so that the MoH will be able in the near future to procure all the necessary drugs for all the patients. In December 2017, the MoH published on its site, in decisional transparency, a draft of Government Decision which includes all the TB drugs on the list of compensated medication in Romania. This is the first step towards ensuring the legal frame that allows the MoH to procure TB drugs, including those that had been procured from international funds through GDF by the Romanian Angel Appeal, for the past 10 years.

<http://www.tbcoalition.eu/2017/12/11/tb-medication-crisis-in-romania/>

Main contributions from: *Advocacy Coordinator, Human Rights Campaigner, Communication & Media Relation Manager, Advocacy officer, Medical Expert, Expert in Media Advocacy*

UPR REPORT

The civil society contribution to the Universal Periodic Review was elaborated and submitted to the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) within the UN in Geneva, third cycle, Session 29. 11 Romanian NGOs contribute with information and signed the report. The report was focused on the rights of people affected by Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, the access of vulnerable groups to health services and the need for an extensive program for sex education in schools.

In December we organized meetings with foreign embassies in Bucharest (Spain, Canada, France and the UK) and presented our UPR report, asking for their support in urging the Romanian Government to take action to find solutions to the problems identified by us. Our efforts culminated with taking part in the pre-UPR session in Geneva on December 14th, when a summary of all the UPR reports from Romania was presented at the UN. We had meetings with the Permanent Missions in Geneva as well, to convince the states to make recommendations for Romania.

In January 2018, many of the countries have already sent advanced questions on our subjects, but as far as TB and HIV/AIDS are concerned, the UK and the Czech Republic stand out:

- **UK & NORTHERN IRELAND** Given that Romania has the highest TB infection rate in the European Union, what concrete steps is the Romanian government taking in order 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 against persons based on their sexual orientation and identity or persons with HIV/AIDS? How is Romania raising awareness among society about these issues?

At the end of March, the Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review for Romania includes 5 recommendations submitted by various states to be implemented until the next UPR, 2022:

On HIV:

6.70. Launch an awareness-raising programme for the public against negative prejudices and discrimination against persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity and against persons with HIV/AIDS (Czech Republic)

6.133. Introduce a national HIV prevention strategy and work with civil society for its implementation (Australia);

6.134. Consider the adoption of a national strategy on HIV/AIDS (Israel);

6.135. Accelerate the adoption and budgeting of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy 2018-2020 and the National Strategy on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (Germany);

On TB:

6.136. Increase the budget for the National Tuberculosis Program and change the legislation necessary to treat all tuberculosis patients (Estonia);

UPR submissions and reports can be found here:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/ROindex.aspx>.

Main contributions from: Advocacy Coordinator, Advocacy officer, Experts for UPR Report

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY FOR INVOLVING LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TB

In 2017 and 2018, we organized 32 meetings with representatives from over 250 local communities in 10 counties. The meetings gathered over 400 participants from the representatives of the mayoralties, the Public Health Directorates, the TB Dispensaries, other institutions from the counties.

The main messages we gave were:

- The authorities need to support patients diagnosed with tuberculosis in the community by employing community workers (community health nurse and / or health mediator) and by providing social support of all kind to both the patient and his / her family members.
- Community nurses and health mediators should observe tuberculosis patients treated in ambulatory.
- Local authorities must provide sanitary materials and medicines that community health workers use in their activity, according to the legislation in force
- Local authorities should collaborate with non-governmental organizations providing social services
- Local authorities must ensure that community workers carry out activities according to the job description of the community nurse, respectively health mediator



More extensively about this activity, here:

<https://stop-tb.ro/en/grass-root-community-advocacy-in-romania/>

<http://www.tbcoalition.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/RAA-Personal-Note-En.pdf>

UN HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON TUBERCULOSIS

In June 2018, RAA attended the Interactive Civil Society Hearing which took at the UN Headquarters in New York, in preparation of the UN High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis in September 2018. Our Communication & Media Relation Manager was among the speakers at the hearing, as former TB patient and vocal supporter of patients' rights.

We also had a meeting with the Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations and gave our message about TB in Romania. We sent letters to the Presidential Administration & Ministry of Health to ensure that Romania will have a high-level representation at the meeting in September. The Minister of Health attended the meeting.

TB EUROPE COALITION

RAA has been a member of the TB Europe Coalition for more than 7 years and since last year we have a member in the Board. We have contributed and co-facilitated two workshops on TB and advocacy, targeting both professionals in the TB field and social welfare field and civil society organizations (<https://www.facebook.com/tbeuropecoalition/photos/a.909765952379095/2055754534446892/?type=3&theater>, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MjvJL6bpvg&fbclid=IwAR3MwD2-TpQnWz_RxcEKFLq5Ega6gTvjX0mZqoQ2ri_wPBidvVvpXvmVX6s)

A short report by a Moldavian MP about the latest advocacy action here: <http://www.tbcoalition.eu/2018/12/10/parliamentarians-and-civil-society-can-work-together-to-have-a-lasting-impact-on-the-tb-epidemic/>

Other activities as TBEC members:

<http://www.tbcoalition.eu/2018/01/26/tbec-romanian-members-engage-actively-at-the-union-world-conference-on-lung-health/>

Facebook post from TB Europe Coalition, dated 25 October 2018. The post includes a photo of a group of people at a booth and a close-up of hands signing a document. The text of the post reads: "Live advocacy at TB Europe Coalition booth at the Community space - with WHO Regional Office for Europe this time!"

Facebook post from TB Europe Coalition, dated 24 October 2018. The post includes a collage of photos from a session on transition & sustainability. The text of the post reads: "The 1st TB Europe Coalition session was on transition & sustainability in the EECA region after donor funding withdrawal. Civil society testimonies from Bulgaria, Romania and Estonia. Great wake up call from @SharonannLynch at MSF Access Campaign on National governments to take responsibility for the TB response!"