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## E-TB MANAGER PROMOTES TREATMENT QUALITY AND EVIDENCE-BASED FORECASTING OF TB MEDICINES IN UKRAINE



### CHALLENGE Lack of accurate data hinders TB control efforts

Each year, tuberculosis (TB) claims more lives in Ukraine than any other infectious disease. Achieving TB control is hampered, in part, by weak information, tracking, and reporting systems in-country. Effective TB control requires harnessing, integrating, and analyzing complex data from across all levels of the health system, including data on TB and MDR-TB cases, medicines consumption patterns, and commodity forecasting projections.

Assessments conducted in 2013 on the management of TB drugs in Ukraine highlighted

specific pharmaceutical management challenges, particularly in terms of data collection, capacity constraints, data quality, and frequency of reporting. Of note, cases of TB within the penitentiary system—roughly 15% of all TB cases in Ukraine—were poorly tracked; even when available, data from the penitentiary system were not integrated with the information system at the Ministry of Health (MOH), which skewed TB surveillance data. Furthermore, ongoing political unrest and personnel changes at the MOH continue to hinder efforts to address these challenges.

### SIAPS ACTIVITIES Using integrated data management systems to stop the spread of TB

Recognizing that managing pharmaceutical information is essential to curbing the spread of TB in Ukraine, the MOH adopted a SIAPS tool, e-TB Manager, to help manage TB-related data. e-TB Manager is a web-based platform that integrates data across major aspects of TB control, including tracking TB and MDR-TB cases, monitoring the quantities of medicines available for treatment, reporting laboratory test results and treatment

regimens prescribed, and following treatment outcomes. The e-TB Manager tool can be used for regular and ad-hoc reporting, routine monitoring and evaluation, and epidemiological surveillance at regional and national levels. It can also help program managers identify gaps in TB control efforts, monitor medicine use, and forecast future pharmaceutical needs.

SIAPS supported the implementation and maintenance of the system by training 21 local users who then provided trainings at all health facilities using e-TB Manger. Additionally, SIAPS established a help desk in collaboration with the Ukrainian Center for Disease Control (UCDC)

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which provides online and phone support for e-TB Manager users. The tool has been successfully rolled out in every region of Ukraine with 507 active users at over 1,000 facilities, tracking nearly 130,000 cases of TB. There were more than 1,000,000 electronic transactions reported

in the system during 2013, signaling widespread use of the system. To improve monitoring and transparency, the UCDC has started regularly publishing the number of TB and MDR-TB cases managed in e-TB Manager on their website.

## RESULTS **Controlling TB with better data for decision making**

With the national rollout of e-TB Manager complete, the amount of time needed to prepare facility-, regional-, and national-level TB reports has decreased from several days to 1-2 hours, and compliance with national quarterly reporting increased from 77% to 98%. Additionally, because e-TB Manager monitors which treatment regimens are being prescribed, the tool has helped increase adherence to national TB treatment protocols.

Notably, SIAPS has also helped integrate TB data from the State Penitentiary System into the national system through e-TB Manager which has, in turn, enabled UCDC to more accurately assess and monitor epidemiological trends, identify

potential issues, and plan regional interventions. For example, e-TB Manager has enabled better follow-up of patients who transfer between treatment facilities or move from the penitentiary system to public facilities. As a result, the UCDC was able to track approximately 800 transferred patients in 2013 to ensure that they received appropriate care and treatment.

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## NEXT STEPS **Building on government commitments to increase use of the tool**

On October 19, 2012, the ministry issued Order No. 818, "Order on Electronic TB Registry (e-TB Manager) Operations" and following the order's enactment, e-TB Manager received official certification for data security compliance to manage TB patients' personal data according to

national legislation. Ukraine's experience in e-TB Manager to date, along with new legal backing, will facilitate continued implementation in all 27 regions of Ukraine as part of the ministry's information system for TB management.

**ABOUT SIAPS** | The Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS) program works to assure access to quality pharmaceutical products and effective pharmaceutical services through systems-strengthening approaches to achieve positive and lasting health outcomes. SIAPS is funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and is implemented by Management Sciences for Health. For more information, visit [www.SIAPSprogram.org](http://www.SIAPSprogram.org).



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