

STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

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For research on
diseases of poverty
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World Health
Organization

CURRENT TB RELATED ACTIVITIES IN EAST EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

- **Ongoing in East Europe/Central Asia: MDR-TB**
 - **Intervention/Operational Research and Capacity building: SORT-IT** programme (in collaboration with Union, MSF, WHO_EUR)
 - **Support to clinical trial: TB-PRACTECAL Trial** (Uzbekistan, 6-month MDR-TB treatment; sponsor: MSF-UK)
- **Potential for East Europe/Central Asia:**
 - **TB Drug Safety monitoring** (with WHO/GTB, including SORT-IT)
 - **Pharmaco-vigilance** (funded by UNDP for specific countries)
 - **Pregnancy registry**
 - **Promotion of TB IR/OR & strengthening of the research capacities of the National TB programmes** (currently piloted in West-Africa)

3 OPERATIONAL RESEARCH (OR) QUESTIONS:

- What is happening in our public health programme?
- Is it what we want?
- Why is it happening like this?

RESEARCH FOCUSES ON
ROUTINE DATA COLLECTED
WITHIN PUBLIC HEALTH
SYSTEMS → **PROSPECTIVE
MIXED-METHODS**

***“Our country is data rich
but information poor”***

Minister of Health, Fiji

Public health programmes often not doing simple research that could improve performance and public health

Professional researchers linking with public health programmes (and data) but research questions are those of researchers

Operational research results are powerful advocacy tools

Aims to help countries to:

Conduct operational research (OR) in accordance with their own priorities

Develop adequate and sustainable OR capacity in public health programmes; and

Create an organizational culture of policy and practice that is informed by OR and leads to improved programme performance

Outputs from 20 completed OR trainings: by 31 Mar, 2015

Participants starting the training	236
Participants finishing the training with all milestones completed	213 (90%)
Scientific papers submitted to peer-reviewed journals	247
Papers published or in press	208 (84%)

First 88 papers
assessed for policy and
practice
65 (74%) made a
difference

Change in programme implementation N=27
Adaptation of monitoring tools N=24
Change in existing guidelines N=20

Some papers had more than one effect on policy and practice

*** Data are self-reported through a questionnaire**

Zachariah et al, TMIH 2014; 19: 1068-1075

SORT IT Operational Research and Capacity-Building (31 Aug 2015)

TOTAL: 340 participants from 79 countries/territories

Europe (former

Soviet Union = 14)

- 1 Georgia
- 2 Ukraine
- 1 Estonia
- 2 Latvia
- 3 Belarus
- 2 Moldova
- 2 Armenia
- 1 Azerbaijan
- 1 Denmark
- 1 Italy
- 1 Switzerland

Asia (former Soviet Union = 12)

- 58 India
- 8 Bangladesh
- 6 Pakistan
- 4 Afghanistan
- 5 Nepal
- 7 Bhutan
- 3 Sri Lanka
- 4 Uzbekistan
- 3 Tajikistan
- 1 Singapore
- 5 China
- 3 Vietnam
- 1 Mongolia
- 3 Cambodia
- 17 Myanmar
- 2 Kazakhstan
- 1 Turkmenistan
- 2 Kyrgyzstan
- 1 Timor Leste
- 1 Indonesia

South America

- 5 Brazil
- 2 Peru
- 2 Mexico
- 1 El Salvador
- 1 Colombia
- 1 Dominican Republic
- 1 Guatemala
- 1 Honduras
- 1 Haiti

Africa

- 16 Kenya
- 9 South Africa
- 8 Ethiopia
- 12 Malawi
- 10 Zimbabwe
- 1 Benin
- 2 Somaliland
- 4 Rwanda
- 4 Uganda
- 1 Ghana
- 2 Tanzania
- 3 Namibia

South Pacific

- 3 New Caledonia
- 1 Cook Islands
- 2 Tonga
- 3 Marshall Islands
- 3 Federated States of Micronesia
- 2 Solomon Islands
- 2 Vanuata
- 25 Fiji
- 1 American Samoa
- 1 Samoa
- 1 Guam
- 4 Kiribati
- 2 Palau

SORT IT PLATFORM FOR DATA-SHARING

- 8 Eastern European countries (ex-USSR)
- 5 Central Asian countries (ex-USSR)
- TDR, WHO EURO, WHO GTB, BMGF
- Data-sharing workshop in Paris (Nov 2014)
- Data-pooling and analysis training (Dec 2016): retrospective data from SORT IT papers
- Prospective data-collection, sharing and analysis from 2017
- Pharmacovigilance of new anti-TB drugs

SAFETY MONITORING OF MDR-TB TREATMENTS

- WHO/GTB programme: Support country control programmes in **monitoring and reporting safety** of newly-introduced MDR-TB drugs (e.g. bedaquiline, delamanid), short-course treatments. Specifically: Database for safety monitoring of new TB drugs – country and global level
- Capacity building for safety monitoring of new health technologies to address TB malaria and NTDs (**Access and Delivery Partnership project** – UNDP): capacity building in pilot countries (Ghana, Indonesia, Tanzania) to strengthen country capacity for drug safety monitoring, responding to country needs – country-specific activities, pilot project.
- Central database for **drug safety monitoring in pregnancy**: to collect and collate information on exposure to drug during pregnancy and pregnancy outcome / birth defects. Collaboration with different WHO department, esp. HIV (for the surveillance of ARV) – global level, not country specific but initial focus on Africa.

WEST AFRICA NTPs NETWORK: WARN-TB



- **Large collaborative project** (16 West Africa NTPs, WHO/ GTB, WAHO, WHO/AFR/IST, Union etc.)

Context

- The WHO/GTB End-TB strategy with Pillar 3 focus on TB research
- TDR has made substantial investments and built strong relationships with NTPs in West Africa over the past ~10 years

Objective

To promote research and strengthen capacity of NTPs of the West African region in support of GTB strategy for TB control

Method

- Establishment of a network of the NTPs of West Africa (WARN-TB)
- Support of this network for identifying national and regional operational research priorities and capacity building needs
- Support to the countries for developing their national TB research agenda
- Support for the conduct of country-specific and region-wide operational and implementation research projects
- Mentoring countries for grants submissions

THANK-YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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BACKUPS

Beyond SORT IT....

Participants returning questionnaire	76
Completed research projects after the training	47 (62%)
Published papers after the training	38 (50%)
Facilitated at further operational research training	33 (43%)

****Data are self-reported through a questionnaire***

83 successful participants completed the course: 76 (92%) returned questionnaire

CURRENT TB RELATED ACTIVITIES IN EAST EUROPE

DRUG Trial: TB-PRACTECAL Trial

- Phase II/III MDR-TB randomised trial to shorten MDR-TB treatment to 6 months
- Collaboration with the National TB programme of Uzbekistan
- Sponsor: MSF UK
- TDR role: Support for the design and conduct of the trial
- 1st patient to be recruited in Dec 2015