

HEALTH EVIDENCE NETWORK SYNTHESIS REPORT 56

What constitutes an effective and efficient package of services for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of tuberculosis among refugees and migrants in the WHO European Region?

Themed issues on migration and health, VIII

Sally Hargreaves | Kieran Rustage | Laura B Nellums | Jaynaide Powis | James Milburn
Santino Severoni | Masoud Dara | Soorej J Puthoopparambil | Jon S Friedland



The Health Evidence Network

The Health Evidence Network (HEN) is an information service for public health decision-makers in the WHO European Region, in action since 2003 and initiated and coordinated by the WHO Regional Office for Europe under the umbrella of the European Health Information Initiative (a multipartner network coordinating all health information activities in the WHO European Region).

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Abstract

The WHO European Region has faced high rates of external and internal migration in recent years, with concerns that this is contributing to the burden of tuberculosis (TB), multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) and TB/HIV coinfection in some countries. This report examines evidence of effective and efficient service packages for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of TB to inform strategies to address the TB burden in refugee and migrant populations. Significant regional variations were identified in both migration levels and TB burden in refugees and migrants, as well as in approaches to TB control, with low quality of evidence in many cases. While it is unlikely that a single strategy/package will be effective for all situations, the evidence highlights some common approaches that could guide policy-making and service development. TB elimination targets for the Region will not be met unless inequalities in access to screening and treatment for migrants are addressed, alongside efforts to tackle TB globally.

Keywords

TUBERCULOSIS – DIAGNOSIS, PREVENTION AND CONTROL; TUBERCULOSIS, MULTIDRUG-RESISTANT – DIAGNOSIS, PREVENTION AND CONTROL; LATENT TUBERCULOSIS; REFUGEES, TRANSIENTS AND MIGRANTS; PROGRAM EVALUATION; EUROPE

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ABBREVIATIONS

BCG	Bacillus Calmette–Guérin
CXR	chest X-ray radiography
DOTS	directly observed treatment, short-course
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
EEA	European Economic Area
EU	European Union
IGRA	interferon-gamma release assay
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LTBI	latent tuberculosis infection
MDR-TB	multidrug-resistant tuberculosis
TB	tuberculosis
TST	tuberculin skin test

CONTRIBUTORS

Authors

Sally Hargreaves

Senior Researcher, International Health Unit, Section of Infectious Diseases and Immunity, Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom

Kieran Rustage

Researcher, International Health Unit, Section of Infectious Diseases and Immunity, Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom

Laura B Nellums

Senior Researcher, International Health Unit, Section of Infectious Diseases and Immunity, Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom

Jaynaide Powis

Researcher, International Health Unit, Section of Infectious Diseases and Immunity, Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom

James Milburn

Researcher, International Health Unit, Section of Infectious Diseases and Immunity, Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom

Santino Severoni

Coordinator, Migration and Health programme, Division of Policy and Governance for Health and Well-being, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Masoud Dara

Coordinator, Communicable Diseases Programme Manager, Joint Tuberculosis, HIV and Viral Hepatitis programme, Division of Health Emergencies and Communicable Diseases, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Soorej J Puthoopparambil

Consultant, Migration and Health programme, Division of Policy and Governance for Health and Well-being, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Jon S Friedland

Head of Infectious Diseases and Immunity, Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom

External peer reviewers

Knut Lönnroth

Professor of Social Medicine, Department of Public Health Sciences, Karolinska Institutet and Senior Consultant, Centre for Epidemiology and Community Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden

Manish Pareek

NIHR Postdoctoral Fellow and Senior Clinical Lecturer in Infectious Diseases, Department of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, University of Leicester and Honorary Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Department of Infection and HIV Medicine, Leicester Royal Infirmary, Leicester, United Kingdom

Ivan Solovic

Associate Professor, Catholic University Ružomberok, and Specialist for TB and Lung Diseases, National Institute for TB, Lung Diseases and Thoracic Surgery, Vysne Hagy, Slovakia

Editorial team, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Division of Health Emergencies and Communicable Diseases

Masoud Dara

Joint Tuberculosis, HIV and Viral Hepatitis programme

Martin van den Boom

Joint Tuberculosis, HIV and Viral Hepatitis programme

Division of Policy and Governance for Health and Well-being

Santino Severoni

Assistant Director General for Health and Well-being

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