

Národný ústav tuberkulózy, pľúcnych chorôb a
hrudníkovej chirurgie
Vyšné Hágy



**World Health
Organization**

Country Office in Slovakia
Kancelária WHO na Slovensku



Tackling TB in refugees in Europe

WHO CC National Institute for TB, Lung Diseases and Thoracic Surgery, Vysne Hagy, Slovakia

Ivan Solovič

COVID-19 pandemic and ending TB

„The COVID-19 pandemic has reversed years of global progress in tackling tuberculosis and for the first time in over a decade, TB deaths have increased“

New challenges

Influx of people displaced from Ukraine to the EU following Russia's aggression in Ukraine

Between 24 February and 27 March 2022, the total number of people fleeing Ukraine reached **3 821 049**

Poland 2 267 103

Romania 586 942

Hungary 349 107

Slovakia 277 012

Czechia 200 852

Application of the estimates to the displaced people fleeing Ukraine

As of March 26 according UNHCR data **277 012 people fleeing Ukraine to Slovakia**

Estimated number of TB cases 90

Important consideration during resource planning at the country level include

33% of pulmonary TB patients from Ukraine are estimated to have RR/MDR-TB

27% of RR/MDR-TB patients from Ukraine are estimated to have pre-XDR-TB

22% of TB patients are HIV-positive

Ubl'a – Slovak – Ukrainian border 24.3.2021



Risk to the displaced people from Ukraine include

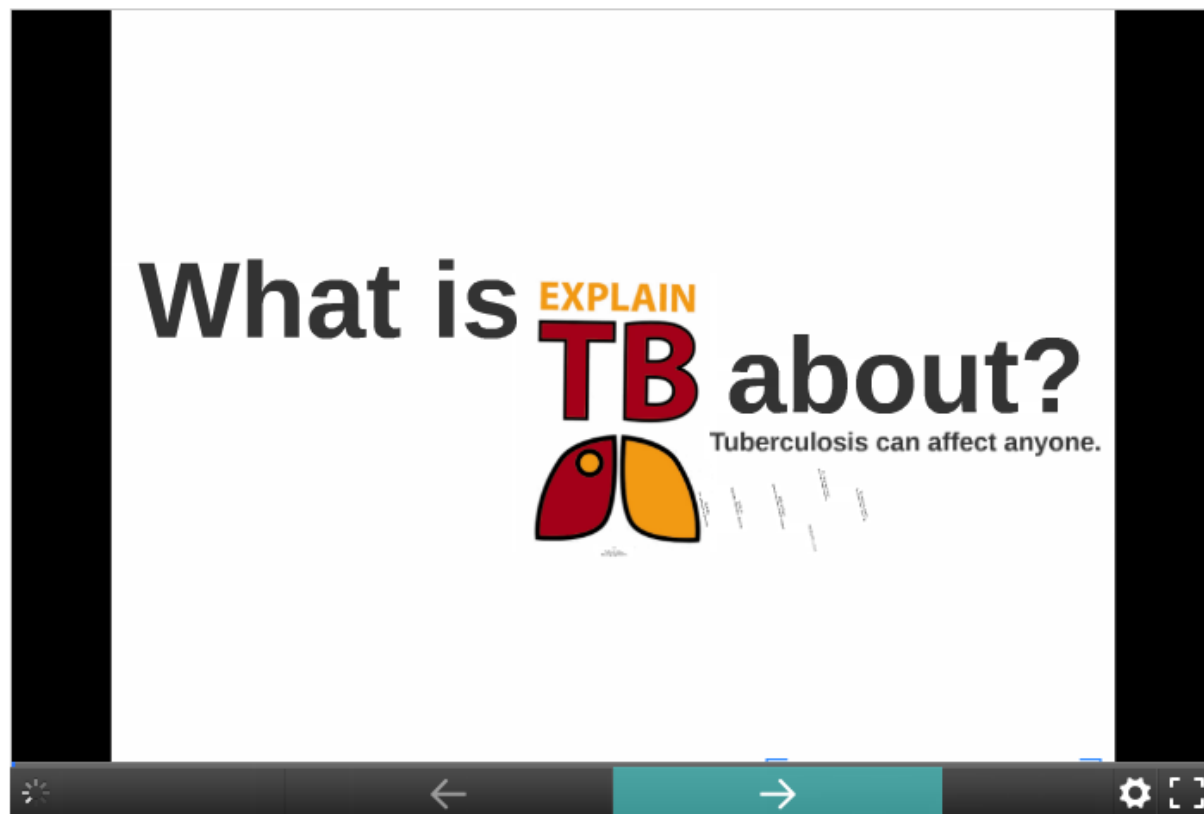
- Environmental hazards – exposure to cold or dehydration on the way to a border crossing
- Disruption of healthcare – interruption/loss of prescription medicine
- Psychological stress and mental health issues
- Access to healthcare – many persons lost their medicines
- Great help for each country from the WHO Euro as well as the ECDC is irreplaceable
- WHO Euro has a unique place in ensuring the initial communication between individual national TB programs

Practical issues that countries receiving people fleeing from Ukraine should consider

- Expedite decisions on access to healthcare and healthcare benefits – many persons have lost their medicines and /or need to continue treatments
- Provide information material in Ukrainian language on administrative procedures, access to healthcare and prescriptions
- Provide translation services for healthcare providers in the community and in hospitals - **ExplainTB.org**
- Expedite decisions on vaccination strategy for the incoming persons and procedures to access vaccinations

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Watch the presentation below for more details about ExplainTB



APP INFORMATION

Watch the ExplainTB trailer below for information about the [app](#).

[VIDEOS](#)[HANDOUT](#)[APP](#)[DOWNLOAD](#)[CONTRIBUTE](#)[ABOUT](#)[English](#)

Mobile tuberculosis education

Smartphone-based aid for patients and healthcare workers.



CREATE A BILINGUAL HANDOUT

1. Select two languages (for example, doctor's language and patient's language)
2. Drag & drop any content you need from the left column into the right column.
3. Click „Create“ below.

Version 2015 | Version 2014

1st Language

English ▼

2nd Language

English ▼

AVAILABLE CONTENT

☐ Select all chapters

- ☐ Welcome
- ☐ X-ray
- ☐ Sputum analysis
- ☐ Testing of contacts
- ☐ Tuberculin Skin Test (TST)
- ☐ Interferon-gamma Release Assay (IGRA)
- ☐ Computed tomography (CT scan)
- ☐ Bronchoscopy
- ☐ HIV Test
- ☐ Research
- ☐ Symptoms
- ☐ Pathogenesis
- ☐ Chance of cure
- ☐ Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI)

- ☐ Extrapulmonary TB
- ☐ Lymph node TB
- ☐ Pleural TB
- ☐ Urogenital TB
- ☐ Newly diagnosed susceptible tuberculosis
- ☐ Newly diagnosed resistant tuberculosis
- ☐ Transmission
- ☐ Prevention of transmission
- ☐ Isolation
- ☐ Vaccination
- ☐ Pregnancy
- ☐ Children
- ☐ Migration
- ☐ General information about therapy

- ☐ Patient's contribution to recovery
- ☐ Standard treatment
- ☐ Treatment of resistant tuberculosis
- ☐ Directly observed therapy (DOT)
- ☐ Isoniazid
- ☐ Rifampicin
- ☐ Ethambutol
- ☐ Pyrazinamide
- ☐ Fluoroquinolones
- ☐ Injectable Drugs
- ☐ HIV therapy
- ☐ Palliative Care
- ☐ Surgery



The provision of health care can be negatively affected by several factors:

On the part of the migrants

- Distrust,
- unwillingness to cooperate,
- different level of knowledge,
- communication problems,

By healthcare professionals

- inexperience,
- insufficient communication skills,
- language barriers

Necessary steps for the future

- **Protection for arrivals from Ukraine**

the Slovak Government has established an official website with useful information and important contacts in English, Ukrainian and Slovak:

[Information for Ukrainians entering Slovak republic](#)

Other useful information and contacts can be found in English, Ukrainian and Slovak at: <http://www.ukraineslovakia.sk/>

- **Cooperation with WHO**

close cooperation on a daily basis with the **WHO Euro** assistance in finding individual data on TB patients from Ukraine

assistance in establishing cooperation with MSF - a potential donor of drugs for the treatment of RR TB as the country does not have a supply of drugs

per year we had 2-3 cases of patients infected with RR TB and therefore we did not have a supply of drugs for the treatment of RR forms of TB in the country



Many thanks...

