

Tuberculosis Monitoring, Evaluation, and Surveillance Training for Regional TB Coordinators and Data Collection Supervisors in Georgia

July 2023



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TB DIAH

University of North Carolina
123 West Franklin Street, Suite 330
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516 USA
Phone: 919-445-6949 | Fax: 919-445-9353
hub@tbdiah.org
www.tbdiah.org



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Abbreviations

COE	Center of Excellence
EEE	Eastern Europe and Eurasia
HMIS	health management information system
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MoILSHA	Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons, Labour, Health, and Social Affairs of Georgia
NCDC	National Center for Disease Control and Public Health
NCTLD	National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases
NTP	national TB program
TB	tuberculosis
TB DIAH	TB Data, Impact Assessment, and Communications Hub
ToT	training of trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization

Background Information

The Tuberculosis (TB) Data, Impact Assessment, and Communications Hub (TB DIAH), funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is part of USAID's new business model to fight TB: the Global Accelerator to End Tuberculosis (USAID TB Accelerator). The Accelerator is designed to increase investments from the public and private sectors to end the TB epidemic, while simultaneously building local commitment and capacity to achieve the goals set forth at the 2018 United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB. TB DIAH aims to ensure optimal demand for and analysis of routine and non-routine TB data and their appropriate use to support interventions, policies, and performance management. To achieve this, TB DIAH supports national TB programs (NTPs) in strengthening TB surveillance systems and improving data use, building capacity to report on countries' TB Roadmap indicators, strengthening monitoring and evaluation (M&E) skills, and developing and promoting online data resources.

TB DIAH's approach in the Eastern Europe and Eurasia (EEE) region builds upon a virtual Center of Excellence (COE) model as a means of providing technical assistance to five EEE countries that USAID provides bilateral and regional TB support to: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. TB DIAH established a virtual EEE regional COE in TB M&E and Surveillance in May 2022 in Georgia. It is hosted by the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) together with Georgia's National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (NCTLD). The Center's purpose is to model, test, and share best practices in TB M&E in the region; serve as a hub for TB DIAH support in the region; and ensure synergy and effective use of resources.

Since its establishment, the COE, with TB DIAH's support, has convened several regional and national consultative meetings and trainings. During these events, NTPs and TB stakeholders identified overarching challenges across different domains of TB M&E and surveillance systems and emphasized the need for capacity strengthening. In May 2023, a five-day Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) in TB M&E and Surveillance was held in Tbilisi, Georgia. The overall purpose of the training was to provide a foundation for critically reviewing, understanding, and using routine TB surveillance data through the practical examples of analysis, interpretation, and visualization of the data at sub-national and national levels.

About the Event

As a follow-up to the ToT, a three-day in-person training was held in Tbilisi, Georgia, July 17–19, 2023. The objective of the training was to build the capacity of NTP staff on data collection, reporting, analysis, visualization, and use to improve TB surveillance and program management. Georgian NTP regional coordinators and database managers with M&E, surveillance, and TB program management background from every region of the country attended a mix of lectures and presentations and individual and group activities. Overall, 26 participants (19 women and 7 men) attended the training (Appendix 1). The training was facilitated by Alexander Asatiani, TB DIAH's Senior TB M&E Consultant for the EEE Region.

Training Modules

TB DIAH, in consultation with COE staff from the NCDC and NCTLD, reviewed the standard TB M&E training modules that had been developed by TB DIAH and used in other parts of the world. While developing the curriculum, the COE staff reviewed and analyzed country-specific needs and adapted the curriculum to the Georgian context. The development process also included consulting with stakeholders, identifying relevant topics, and customizing the learning objectives accordingly. Specific modules were selected, modified

appropriately, and translated into Georgian. The nine modules used for this training event are as follows:

1. TB Epidemiology and Control
2. Data Collection and Analysis
3. M&E Fundamentals
4. TB Health Management Information System (HMIS)
5. Country-Specific Performance Frameworks
6. Data Quality
7. Supportive Supervision
8. Root Cause Analysis
9. Data Analysis, Visualization, and Interpretation

Monday, July 17, 2023

Welcome and Opening Remarks

The training session opened with opening remarks from Irma Khonelidze, Deputy Director General, NCDC; Nino Lomtadze, Head of Surveillance and Strategic Planning Department, NCTLD, on behalf of Zaza Avaliani, Director of the NCTLD; and Alexander Asatiani, TB DIAH’s Senior TB M&E Consultant for the EEE Region.

The first day served as an introduction to global TB strategies, targets, and key milestones presented by Maka Danelia, Global Fund TB Program Manager, NCDC, while Lomtadze presented on TB epidemiology in the EEE countries and TB case definitions from an M&E perspective.

Module 1: TB Epidemiology and Control

Danelia covered global TB strategies, targets, and key milestones including the End TB Strategy vision, goal, and 2035 targets: 95 percent reduction in deaths due to TB (compared with 2015), 90 percent reduction in TB incidence rate (compared with 2015), and no affected families face catastrophic costs due to TB.

In the next session, “TB Epidemiology in EEE Countries including Georgia,” Lomtadze reviewed TB epidemiology in



the EEE countries.

This included TB burden estimates, notifications, and trends; drug-resistant TB; TB/HIV coinfection; treatment outcomes; global progress towards ending TB; and the COE countries’ progress towards ending TB. COE country-specific data were abstracted from the *Tuberculosis surveillance and monitoring in Europe 2023 Report* (World Health Organization [WHO] Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control). Lomtadze concluded this module with a presentation on TB case definitions, followed by a question-and-answer period from training participants.

During the initial sessions, it became evident that there is a crucial need to **improve understanding and build capacity in terms of TB case definitions**. The discussions shed light on the necessity for clarifying and enhancing the comprehension of TB case definitions. Participants expressed a strong need and interest in having reference sheets available in the Georgian language. These reference materials would encompass precise and easily understandable wording for each TB case definition, leaving no room for misinterpretation. To address this need, it was proposed that comprehensive training sessions be organized specifically for TB physicians. These training sessions would focus on educating physicians about TB case definitions, ensuring that they grasp the nuances and specifics associated with each case. The aim is to empower healthcare professionals with the knowledge and expertise required to accurately identify, diagnose, and categorize TB cases.

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Module 2: Data Collection and Analysis

The second training day opened with Lomtadze presenting the cascade analysis, understanding the TB cascade of care, and identifying gaps in quality of care through the care cascade analyses. Lomtadze talked about the objectives of cascade analyses, limitations, and opportunities. She described the basic steps or process of conducting cascade analyses and what is required. During the presentation, Lomtadze shared illustrative examples and real data from Georgia.

Irakli Gabisonia, M&E Officer for the Global Fund TB Program, NCDC, presented on data collection. Gabisonia talked about the difference among data, information, and knowledge; basic concepts of data collection; and qualitative versus quantitative data and data analyses.

Module 3: M&E Fundamentals

Natalia Adamashvili, M&E Officer for the Global Fund TB Program, NCDC, discussed basic M&E concepts, frameworks, indicator definitions, and measurements. The focus was on the Global Fund performance framework and indicators, however, Adamashvili also briefly mentioned USAID's Performance Based Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. In this presentation, Adamashvili described SMART objectives—specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound—and led group work where the trainees had to review cases handed out and develop a logic model using the five key components: input, process, output, outcome, and impact.



Module 4: TB HMIS

Gabisonia presented on Georgia's new TB database. The database was developed by the Information Technology Agency with the support of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons, Labour, Health, and Social Affairs of Georgia (MoILHSA) and funding from the Global Fund TB Program in Georgia. This electronic database is currently being implemented in Georgia's TB program, and trainings on how to use the database are held in every region of the country. During this practical session, Gabisonia showed every step of entering TB cases into the TB HMIS, which delved into various aspects of the database.



During this session, the importance of effectively implementing a new database within the TB M&E system was underscored. The discussions emphasized the critical nature of this implementation. It became evident that substantial work is required to ensure a seamless integration of the new database into the existing M&E system. The presentation triggered extensive discussions related to the database itself, covering its functionalities, structure, and potential impact on the overall M&E process.



However, it became clear from the participants' active engagement that the challenges mentioned extend beyond the realm of the TB HMIS and encompass broader TB program implementation arrangements. The discussions highlighted that addressing these challenges

necessitates further dialogue and focused efforts. These challenges involve issues such as data accuracy, system interoperability, data security, data user training, and resource allocation.

Overall, this session shed light on the intricate nature of implementing a new database within the M&E system. It emphasized the need for a comprehensive and well-coordinated approach to tackle not only the technical aspects of the database but also the broader programmatic challenges associated with TB management. This recognition sets the stage for future collaborative efforts and discussions to devise effective strategies for successful database implementation and sustainable improvements in TB programs.

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Module 5: Country-Specific Performance Frameworks

Adamashvili presented the WHO European Region action plan and M&E framework, followed by the Global Fund TB Program in Georgia, including performance framework indicators. The Global Fund performance framework serves as a core tool for reporting to the Global Fund. Adamashvili discussed performance framework indicators, how they are collected, and the frequency of reporting within the country as well as to the Global Fund.

Module 6: Data Quality

Marina Janjghava, Head of TB Management and Control Service, NCTLD, discussed key components and methodology of data quality assurance, data quality terms, dimensions, accuracy, and verification at the health facility level. She also discussed data reliability, internal and external consistency, completeness, timeliness, precision, and integrity. Janjghava provided specific examples of data quality issues and together with the group discussed roles



and responsibilities of the M&E team. In the second half of the presentation, she focused on data quality assessment tools, identified gaps and weaknesses in data management and reporting systems, and identified key factors for ensuring data quality, including data accuracy, completeness, precision, timeliness, reliability, and integrity. At the end of the presentation, Janjghava led the group work where participants were asked to come up with five main issues that affect data quality.



This session revealed that data quality is not only affected by internal factors but also by factors that are external to the TB program. Because TB facilities are private in most regions, this poses additional challenges. For instance, in some cases, hospital management does not allow internet use, only the intranet (which will be a challenge when the electronic TB HMIS is implemented since it requires an internet connection). One participant suggested

organizing meetings between hospital management and the MoLHSA to discuss this matter and come up with solutions.

Module 7: Supportive Supervision

Janjgava explained the different types of supervision, differences between controlling and supportive supervision, steps involved with supportive supervision (before, during, and after), its benefits and challenges, and tools for self-assessment. She shared tips on providing feedback to team members, talked about the leadership skills required for supportive supervision, and provided examples of effective communication.

Module 8: Root Cause Analysis

Danelia discussed the process of discovering the root causes of problems to identify appropriate solutions. She discussed the “5 Whys” approach, its benefits, preparation methods, and limitations. Practical group work followed where training participants named a problem and followed the 5 Whys approach to identify the root cause of the problem to inform a solution.



Module 9: Data Analysis, Visualization, and Interpretation

In the first presentation, Danelia talked about the purpose of M&E, the conceptual framework for data demand and use, barriers to data use, how data demand and use are defined, stakeholder engagement, and key tools for data demand and use. She described underlying principles around decision-making—that decisions are choices made in support of goals and that all decisions are made based on some information.



Adamashvili delivered the next presentation in the data use and sharing module. She discussed ways to define data dissemination and communication, the importance of using and disseminating M&E results, common dissemination formats, tips for making an effective oral presentation, and tips for preparing slides using visual aids in communication materials.

Closing Remarks

At the conclusion, the facilitators thanked the participants for taking part in the training. Khonelidze expressed her gratitude for the training and the COE’s commitment to providing training to the regional TB coordinators and data collection supervisors to support improved TB M&E. All the participants were awarded training certificates.



Conclusion

The three-day in-person training served as a crucial initiative to enhance the capacity of NTP staff in Georgia. The training focused on a range of vital modules essential for strengthening TB surveillance, data collection, analysis, and reporting.

The training sessions provided a comprehensive overview of TB epidemiology and control; data collection and analysis; M&E fundamentals; TB HMIS; M&E framework indicators and reporting; data quality assurance; supportive supervision; root cause analysis; and data analysis, visualization, and interpretation. Throughout the training, participants engaged in interactive discussions, sharing practical experiences, identifying challenges, and proposing solutions. Notably, the importance of clear TB case definitions in the local language and the need for focused training for TB physicians were emphasized, signifying the commitment to improving understanding and expertise in TB case categorization.

Furthermore, the session on TB HMIS shed light on the intricate nature of implementing a new database within the M&E system and recognizing the broader aspects associated with TB program management. Addressing challenges such as data accuracy, system interoperability, and resource allocation is essential for successful database integration and sustainable improvements in TB programs.

The training highlighted the significance of data quality, emphasizing its role in informed decision-making and effective program management. Discussions regarding data quality assurance tools and methodologies underscored the need for a robust approach to ensure reliable and accurate TB data.

The participation and active engagement of NTP staff from various regions reflected their commitment to enhancing TB surveillance and program management. The event's success can be attributed to the collaborative efforts of TB DIAH and the COE, led by the NCDC and NCTLD, demonstrating a unified approach toward achieving common goals in TB control and management.

In conclusion, the training event in Tbilisi served as a significant step toward building a more proficient and skilled Georgian workforce in TB M&E. The knowledge and experiences gained during this training will



undoubtedly contribute to more effective TB surveillance, ultimately driving progress toward the goal of ending the TB. Pre- and post-tests showed major improvement among participants: in post-test, participants averaged 83 percent of correct answers, while in the pre-test the participants had 59 percent of correct answers on average. The commitment and dedication displayed by all participants are key to realizing the vision of a TB-free future in the country and beyond.

Appendix 1. List of Participants

#	Name	Affiliation	Title	Email
1	Irakli Gabisonia	NCDC	M&E Officer, The Global Fund TB Program	i.gabisonia@ncdc.ge
2	Irma Khonelidze	NCDC	Deputy Director General, Director of the Global Fund Programs in Georgia	i.khonelidze@ncdc.ge; ikhonelidze@gmail.com
3	Maka Danelia	NCDC	Manager, The Global Fund TB Program	m.danelia@ncdc.ge; makadanelia@gmail.com
4	Natalia Adamashvili	NCDC	M&E Officer, The Global Fund TB Program	n.adamashvili@ncdc.ge; natalia.adamashvili@gmail.com
5	Guliko Gonashvili	NCTLD	Kakheti Regional Coordinator of the State TB Program	tbgurjaani@yahoo.com
6	Irina Shavgulidze	NCTLD	TB Data Collection Supervisor in Imereti 1 region	irinola08@gmail.com
7	Ketevan Ghvinashvili	NCTLD	Supervisor of TB Data Collection in Kakheti Region	qeti.gvinashvili@yahoo.com
8	Ketevan Mshvenieridze	NCTLD	Mtskheta Mtianeti Regional Coordinator of the State TB Program	ketevanmshvenieradze82@gmail.com
9	Lela Lochoshvili	NCTLD	TB Data Collection Supervisor in Kvemo Kartli Region	rustavitubi@gmail.com
10	Maia Tinikashvili	NCTLD	Supervisor of TB Data Collection in Shida Kartli Region	maia_tin@yahoo.com
11	Malkhaz Davitashvili	NCTLD	Tbilisi Regional Coordinator of the State TB Program	malkhazdavitashvili@yahoo.com
12	Mamuka Chincharauli	NCTLD	TB MIS Manager	chincharaulimamuka@gmail.com
13	Manana Ghongadze	NCTLD	Shida Kartli Regional Coordinator of the State TB Program	tbd_gori@yahoo.com
14	Manana Kutateladze	NCTLD	TB Data Collection Supervisor in Imereti 2-Racha-Guria Region	kutateladze_manana@mail.ru
15	Mariam Chokheli	NCTLD	Supervisor of TB Data Collection in Mtskheta-Mtianeti region	mariamchokheliii@yahoo.com
16	Mariam Sherazadishvili	NCTLD	Supervisor of TB Data Collection in Samtskhe-Javakheti Region	mariamisherazadishvili@yahoo.com
17	Marina Janjghava	NCTLD	Head of TB Management and Control Service	marijntp@yahoo.com

#	Name	Affiliation	Title	Email
18	Misha Madzgharishvili	NCTLD	Coordinator of the TB Program of the State TB Program of Penitentiary Institutions of Georgia	mikheilmad@gmail.com
19	Nana Kankia	NCTLD	Supervisor of TB Data Collection in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Region	nanakankia2@gmail.com
20	Nana Khuchua	NCTLD	Kvemo Kartli Regional Coordinator of the State TB Program	rustavitubi@gmail.com
21	Nana Murjikneli	NCTLD	Samtskhe-Javakheti Regional Coordinator of the State TB Program	murjikneli-nana@mail.ru
22	Nani Darchidze	NCTLD	Supervisor of TB Data Collection in Adjara Region	nanichk@mail.ru
23	Nino Lomtadze	NCTLD	Head, Surveillance and Strategic Planning Department	nlomtadze@gmail.com
24	Soso Kuchava	NCTLD	Imereti 2-Racha-Guria Regional Coordinator of the State TB Program	sosokuchava@hotmail.com
25	Zaza Dgebuadze	NCTLD	Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Regional Coordinator of the State TB Program	zazadge@yahoo.com
26	Alexander Asatiani	TB DIAH	Senior TB M&E Consultant, EEE Region	Alexander_asatiani@jsi.com

**Tuberculosis (TB) Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Surveillance Training for
Regional TB Coordinators and Data Collection Supervisors in Georgia**
Eastern Europe and Eurasia (EEE) Center of Excellence (COE) in TB M&E and Surveillance

Appendix 2. Agenda

Monday, July 17

Time	Duration	Session	Presenter
9:00 AM	0:30	Registration	
9:30 AM	1:35	Welcome and general housekeeping	
9:30 AM	0:20	Opening remarks	Irma Khonelidze, Nino Lomtadze, Alexander Asatiani
9:50 AM	0:15	TB DIAH and COE	Alexander Asatiani
10:05 AM	0:10	Training objectives and overview	Alexander Asatiani
10:15 AM	0:30	Pre-test	
10:45 AM	0:20	Coffee Break	
11:05 AM	3:15	Module 1: TB Epidemiology and Control	
11:05 AM	0:40	Global TB strategies, targets, and key milestones	Maka Danelia
11:45 AM	0:40	TB epidemiology in the EEE countries, including Georgia	Nino Lomtadze
12:25 PM	0:10	Q/A	Nino Lomtadze
12:35 PM	1:00	Lunch	
1:35 PM	1:00	TB Case definitions, M&E perspective	Nino Lomtadze
2:35 PM	0:15	Q/A	Nino Lomtadze
2:50 PM	0:30	Group work (case definitions)	Nino Lomtadze
3:20 PM	0:20	Coffee Break	
3:40 PM	1:50	Module 2: Data collection and analysis	
3:40 PM	0:30	Key data collection concepts, tools and standards	Irakli Gabisonia

Time	Duration	Session	Presenter
4:10 PM	0:50	TB cascade analysis	Nino Lomtadze
5:00 PM	0:30	Group work	Nino Lomtadze
5:30 AM	0:15	Feedback and closing	

Tuesday, July 18

Time	Duration	Session	Presenter
9:00 AM	0:30	Registration and recap of day 1	
9:30 AM	0:50	Module 3: M&E Fundamentals	
9:30 AM	0:30	M&E plans, indicators and SMART objectives	Natalia Adamashvili
10:05 AM	0:20	Group work (logic model)	Natalia Adamashvili
10:20 AM	0:20	Coffee break	
10:40 AM	4:50 AM	Module 4: TB HMIS	
10:40 AM	1:30	Georgia TB HMIS overview	Irakli Gabisonia
12:10 PM	0:30	Q/A	
12:40	1:00	Lunch	
1:40 PM	1:40	Group work (data entry and analysis)	Irakli Gabisonia
15:20	0:20	Coffee break	
3:40 PM	0:50	Module 5: Country specific performance frameworks	
3:40 PM	0:35	WHO Euro M&E plan, Georgia performance framework	Natalia Adamashvili
4:15 PM	0:15	Question and answer	Natalia Adamashvili
4:30 PM	0:15	Feedback and closing	

Wednesday, July 19

Time	Duration	Session	Presenter
9:00 AM	0:30	Registration and recap of day 2	
9:30	0:45	Module 6: Data quality	

Time	Duration	Session	Presenter
9:30 AM	0:45	Key components and methodology, assessment	Marina Janjgava
10:15 AM	1:35	Module 7: Supportive supervision	
10:15 AM	0:45	Supportive supervision techniques, examples and practical tips - transitioning to eHMIS	Marina Janjgava
11:00 AM	0:20	Coffee break	
11:20 AM	0:30	Group work	Marina Janjgava
11:50 AM	3:00	Module 8: Root Cause Analysis	
11:50 AM	0:40	Root cause analysis	Maka Danelia
12:30 PM	1:00	Lunch	
1:30 PM	0:40	Group work	Maka Danelia
2:10 PM	0:40	Module 9: Data analysis, visualization, and interpretation	
2:10 PM	0:40	Using TB M&E results for decision making	Maka Danelia
2:50 PM	0:40	Data dissemination and communicating M&E results	Natalia Adamashvili
3:30 PM	0:20	Coffee break	
3:50 PM	0:30	Group work	Natalia Adamashvili
4:20 PM	0:30	Post-test	
4:50 PM	0:40	Feedback and closing	



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