



SPERANȚA TERREI

MOLDOVA

Speranța Terrei is a Moldovan grassroots organization dedicated to tuberculosis control since 2006. Our principal purpose is to give treatment adherence support to tuberculosis (TB) patients and promote their socioeconomic integration. Located in Bălți, Speranța Terrei has managed community-based Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) programs in Bălți municipality, in northern Moldova, and in breakaway Transnistria. Speranța Terrei was honored twice with international prizes, the inaugural Tuberculosis Survival Prize in 2008 in recognition of innovative advocacy and social mobilization; and the Kochon Prize in 2016 to our long-time treatment supporter, Galina, for her contributions to TB elimination.

Speranța Terrei brings together patients, citizens, medical professionals, and government officials in fulfilling their collective responsibility for treatment adherence, consistent with international standards. Treatment supporters, called moderators, give DOT to patients in run-down apartments, remote villages, and the street. Moderators encounter alcohol, tobacco, and drug addiction, homelessness, insufficient nutrition, unsanitary living conditions, isolation, and stigma of former prisoners. In cooperation with doctors and nurses, moderators take anti-TB drugs from the dispensary to patients and report back on patients' concerns on drug regimens and side effects. Moderators are from the community and develop patients' trust through persistence, compassion, and persuasion. Some 150 moderators have given treatment support to 1560 patients with drug-susceptible and multi-drug resistant (MDR-TB) tuberculosis or to contacts on prophylaxis treatment. The treatment success rate for patients we assist is 84 per cent.

As Moldovan TB policy has begun to encompass active case finding, Speranța Terrei is conducting screening among vulnerable populations. Since 2021, Speranta has screened 1200 persons in the northern districts of Moldova. When Ukrainian refugees flowed into Moldova after the Russian invasion in 2022, Speranța Terrei joined international and Moldovan organizations in offering humanitarian assistance and medical services. Our Centre for Tuberculosis Patients in Bălți expanded from training moderators and counseling patients to a distribution point for refugees.

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