

AFR/RC40/R7: Review of the tuberculosis programme

The Regional Committee,

Considering Resolutions WHA27.54, WHA33.36 and WHA36.30 of the World Health Assembly which specifically called on Member States to establish national tuberculosis control programmes consisting of diagnostic, treatment and preventive services covering the whole population and integrated into general health services and into PHC;

Considering resolutions AFR/RC23/R8 and AFR/RC28/R9 of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa which lay emphasis on strengthening the epidemiological surveillance of communicable diseases and on planning control programmes;

Considering that Member States have accepted the health development scenario as a structural and organizational framework for accelerating the achievement of HFA/2000;

Considering different recommendations made by the International Union against Tuberculosis and by different expert committees on tuberculosis control technologies, particularly those relating to screening by bacilloscopy and to different therapeutic regimens;

Bearing in mind that tuberculosis is still a major public health problem in the countries of the Region;

Concerned by the impact of HIV infection and AIDS on the evolution of tuberculosis;

Noting that the decline in standard of living has adversely affected the situation as regards tuberculosis;

Having discussed in detail the Regional Director's report;

1. THANKS the Regional Director for his excellent report which also serves as a basis for formulating national tuberculosis control programmes;
2. CALLS UPON Member States:
 - (i) to take all the measures necessary to analyze their national tuberculosis situation in order to establish the exact epidemiological profile and particularly the spread of tuberculosis in the community and the impact of HIV and AIDS infection on the spread of the disease;
 - (ii) to formulate or revise national control programmes which take into account the three-phase scenario as a structural and organizational framework covering all the people in the country with activities distributed at all the levels of the health system and among the different health development partners;
 - (iii) to systematize and strengthen the use of bacilloscopy as a method of diagnosis and decide on standard therapeutic regimens to be used in all the health facilities;
 - (iv) to undertake in particular health manpower training in the technical and operational aspects of the programme, especially screening, bacilloscopy, treatment and follow-up of patients on treatment, and contact-tracing;
 - (v) to integrate tuberculosis control activities into primary health care from the planning stage, taking special account of leprosy and AIDS control;

- (vi) to mobilize local and external resources for the programme;
 - (vii) to take advantage of the resources mobilized for the prevention and control of AIDS to strengthen tuberculosis control activities;
3. CALLS UPON international, governmental and nongovernmental organizations as well as private voluntary foundations to support tuberculosis control activities in the African Region;
 4. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
 - (i) to provide the necessary technical support to Member States in the formulation of their national tuberculosis control programmes and in their integration into primary health care;
 - (ii) to organize technical and management training activities for national officers in charge of tuberculosis control as well as seminars and workshops to facilitate the exchange of experiences and the promotion of the programme at the national, regional and district levels;
 - (iii) to disseminate all the relevant information available on tuberculosis control;
 - (iv) to mobilize additional resources to support national programmes;
 5. REQUESTS the Regional Director to report to the forty-second session of the Regional Committee on the progress made in the institution of national tuberculosis control programmes.

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