



SPERANȚA TERREI

MOLDOVA

Speranța Terrei is a Moldovan grassroots organization active in tuberculosis practice and policy since 2006. Our principal purposes are to give treatment adherence support to tuberculosis (TB) patients, promote their socioeconomic integration, and raise public awareness of TB. Located in Bălți, Speranța Terrei has managed community-based Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) programs in Bălți municipality and 8 districts in Moldova and 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 engages patients, their families, medical practitioners, government officials, and citizens in TB control and advocates shared responsibility for treatment adherence, consistent with international standards. Treatment supporters, called moderators, give DOT to patients wherever they live, a run-down apartment, a remote village, or the street. 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. A total of 151 moderators have given treatment support to 1444 patients who had new and previously treated drug-susceptible and multi-drug resistant (MDR-TB) tuberculosis or who received prophylaxis treatment as contacts of TB patients. For patients we assist, the overall treatment success rate is 87 per cent.

Tuberculosis is associated with poverty and every day we interact with those on the margins of society. Moderators encounter patients who suffer from alcohol and tobacco addiction, homelessness, insufficient nutrition, unsanitary living conditions, isolation, and stigma as former prisoners. With TB as an entry point, we guide patients to psychological and legal counseling, job training, and temporary housing. We have undertaken special projects for former prisoners and the homeless to screen and treat them for TB. In 2015, Speranța Terrei opened a Centre for Tuberculosis Patients in Bălți where we train moderators, counsel patients on applying for residency permits and social assistance, serve food and distribute clothes and hygiene products, and bring together patients and the larger community.

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str. Borodin 26, ap.13 A, MD-3100 Bălți, Republica Moldova, tel: +373.231.72038; +373.69.615982
ул. Бородина 26, кв.13 А, МД-3100 Бельцы, Республика Молдова, тел.: +373.231.72038; +373.69.615982
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