



The Verkhovna Rada Committee for Public Health has rejected an inadequate draft National Targeted Social Programme for TB Control for 2018-2021.

The Ministry of Health of Ukraine developed and in January 2019 submitted draft Law of Ukraine on approving the National Targeted Social Programme for TB Control for 2018-2021 (No. 9467) to the Ukrainian Parliament.

On 24 April 2019, this draft Law of Ukraine was reviewed at a meeting of the Verkhovna Rada Committee for Public Health.

Having reviewed the draft law, people's deputies of Ukraine serving on the Committee noted a number of its shortcomings that make it impossible for the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to approve the draft law with the proposed content of the National Programme.

"Stop TB Together" Coalition of Organisations also carried out detailed analysis of the draft programme that had been provided for the Committee's members.



Participating in the meeting of the Committee was co-head of the Coalition Igor Gorbashenko who, based on the results of analysis of the draft programme, said that the programme must be returned to the Cabinet of Ministers and Ministry of Health of Ukraine so that they revise and improve it and gave a number of important remarks regarding the draft law.

The main shortcomings of the draft programme, based on the results of its analysis by the community dealing with TB:

- for the first time in the history of drawing up TB programmes, the almost three-year-long work by the MoH of Ukraine of developing the new Programme is no more than a declaration of intentions.
- The proposed draft TB Programme is full of manifestative and declarative phrases (such as "comprehensive coverage", "rational use", "successful external control", "proper access", "of the entire set of services... in full", "optimisation ... of the effect of programmes" etc.) that aren't concretised into criteria and indicators.
- The Programme includes items and measures that were planned for or already carried out in 2018, but the Ministry of Health of Ukraine is seeking to get financing for them from the State Budget of Ukraine starting from 2019, which will lead to possible double financing of certain items of the Programme and misuse of funds.
- Since the Programme was submitted to the Parliament for approval in 2019, it should be re-developed taking account of changed period for its implementation and financing and should

be named the Programme for 2019-2022.

- The proposed Programme is based on statistical TB incidence figures for 2016 that don't reflect today's situation with the TB epidemic and are unacceptable for such a document.

- The financial and programmatic calculations underlying the proposed draft Programme are based on distorted data that doesn't correspond with the real official results of the MoH's activity in the previous programme period (according to the materials by the Auditing Chamber of Ukraine).

In particular, the section "Purpose of the Programme" says:

"As a result of implementation of the National Targeted Social Programme for TB Control for 2012-2016, TB incidence among the population decreased by 9 per cent".

However, an audit carried out by the Auditing Chamber of Ukraine (Decision No. 9-1 of 11 April 2017) showed that:

"almost 82% of the measures provided for by this programme that had expired as of 1 January 2017 were implemented partially or weren't implemented at all."

Overall more than 3.2 bln UAH were allocated for its implementation, including 2.1 bln from the state budget and 1.1 bln UAH as international assistance".

That is, the more funds are allocated and the less measures provided for by financed plans are implemented, the better the indicators are?

