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# **The collaboration between Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan in bringing tuberculosis under control in penitentiary facilities**

**Years - 1995-2010**



# ICRC and TB in prisons of the Republic of Azerbaijan



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- The ICRC has been working in Azerbaijan since 1992 in relation with conflict around NK
- 1994 Several prisoners of war followed up by the ICRC where suffering from TB and quite some of them where dying.
- 1995 ICRC supported WHO DOTS based pilot project for 300 TB patients in central penitentiary hospital including prisoners of war





# **The situation in penitentiary system in regard with TB by 1995**



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- ❖ **Treatment was organized in two wards with the bed capacity 160 at the Central Penitentiary Hospital**
- ❖ **TB patients were kept in general barracks**
- ❖ **Absolute lack of examination and diagnostic means and resources (X-ray, clinical and bacteriological laboratory)**
- ❖ **Absolute lack of anti-TB drugs, and unsure quality and by unknown manufacture**
- ❖ **unsystematic, erratic, uncontrolled, non-adequate and incorrect period of use of available TB drugs**
- ❖ **Non-existence of unified data base**

**In 1995, 655 – 7.3% prisoners died from different deceases, including 469 – 5.2% death due to TB**



# The main Intention of ICRC



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- ❖ To reduce suffering of TB Patients and prevent death from TB by supporting Prison authorities in establishing sustainable TB prevention and treatment program based on international standards.







# Important stages of the cooperation



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❖ 1995 – Discussions between ICRC and MOJ about finding solution to the problem and soon after signing the cooperation agreement in March.



❖ Start of Pilot TB treatment with DOTS strategy for 300 patients in Central Penitentiary Hospital. First year 112 patients were provided with TB treatment.





# Important stages of the cooperation



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- ❖ 1997 – “Signing of Baku Declaration” in attendance of representatives of Austria, Belgium, France, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Poland, Russia, Switzerland
- ❖ “TB was recognized as Public Health Problem in Prisons”
- ❖ 1998 – signing of Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between ICRC, MOJ and Ministry of Health





# Important stages of the cooperation



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- ❖ 1998 – Establishment of Specialized Treatment Institution
  - ❖ Creation of inpatient department in Col 3
    - isolating the patients in separate wards according to the infectiousness and treatment phases
    - upgrading bacteriological laboratory
    - enrolling all TB patients in treatment with DOTS strategy





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## Important stages of the cooperation

- ❖ 2001–2008 upgrading laboratory in order to meet the advanced requirements
- ❖ 2003 Began of the collaboration with the Supra National Reference Laboratory in Borstel (Germany)
- ❖ 2008 – Start of cooperation with "FIND" Switzerland company on new laboratory methods







# Main priorities of the joint activity on TB Control



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- ❖ Creation of Data base in "Epi-info 6" computer program
- Local trainings for health staff of STI
- International trainings for health staff of STI on Data base.
- Quality assurance of data base and permanent update





## Main priorities of the joint activity on TB Control



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- ❖ **Provision of TB drugs**
- **1995-2005 1st line drugs were provided by the ICRC**
- **Sustainable and sufficient quantity of drug provision**
- **Provision of vitamins and drugs for symptomatic treatment.**
- **2007-2008- provision of side-effect drugs in order prevent adverse-reactions of 2nd line drugs.**



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## Important stages of the cooperation

- ❖ 2002 – Start of TB health education activity among detainees and prison staff
  - Over 30 TB health education material (brochures, leaflets, posters) were developed and distributed
  - Audio TB education used by audio tapes in prisons. On 24th of March World TB Day is marked in the colonies and documentary films were demonstrated
  - 2007- “First day of remaining life” TB educational theatre performance were developed and demonstrated in 14 colonies.





# Important stages of the cooperation



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## ❖ 2003 – Start of Active Case finding activity in penitentiary institutions

➤ TB screening at pre-trial isolators by questionnaire and Fluorography methods (every year aprox. 7500 person)

➤ Entry screening in the colonies by questionnaire method (every year aprox. 6000 person)

➤ Mass Screening in colonies by questionnaire and Fluorography methods

(every year 12-13 colonies and aprox. 8000 persons were covered ). “TB suspects” passed through clinical and laboratory examinations.







## Important stages of the cooperation



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- ❖ **2005 – preparing proposal for GFTAM round 5 on MDR treatment for the penitentiary system of Azerbaijan**
- 2007 – preparing proposal for GFTAM round 7 on MDR treatment for the penitentiary system of Azerbaijan**
- ❖ **Submission of the proposal to GFTAM by CCM, proposal accepted and Ministry of Justice granted as sub-recipient**
- 2006 and 2008 Grant agreements were signed**
- ❖ **April 2007 first time in the country MDR treatment started in penitentiary system**



## Important stages of the cooperation

- ❖ **2009 – Submitting of the proposal to CCM for GFTAM round 9 on MDR treatment for the penitentiary system of Azerbaijan**
- ❖ **TB proposal accepted and Ministry of Justice became Principal Recipient and 2010 - Grant agreement were signed**





# Main components of the joint efforts



- ❖ Application of medical regulations on TB and other infection diseases to the international standards
  - August 2006 – Guidelines on TB infection control in the penitentiary system in Azerbaijan
  - April 2007 – Temporal guidelines for the TB control in the penitentiary system in Azerbaijan
  - June 2008 – Guidelines on preventive measures against blood transmission diseases such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C



# Main components of the joint efforts



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## ❖ Local and International trainings for doctors and nurses on TB management in 2001-2008

- 4 doctors – attended training on DOTS strategy, organized by WHO, Warsaw
- 5 doctors – attended training on DOTS-Plus strategy, organized by WHO, Riga
- 12 doctors and 10 nurses attended training on DOTS-Plus strategy, organized by WHO in Baku
- 4 doctors attended in study tour to Tomsk city
- 2 nurses attended the DOTS Strategy courses in the WHO training centre in Tartu
- Totally 12 local trainings were organized for the doctors and nurses

**About 140 staff members attended the trainings and workshops!**





# Main directions of the joint activity on the TB Control



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- ❖ **Upgrading the bacteriological laboratory to the international standards**
  - **1999 year – application of the culture and 1<sup>st</sup> line DST on solid media**
  - **2003 year – External Quality Control - Borstel SNRL**
  - **2005 year – UV microscopy application**
  - **2006 year – general application on culture methods**
  - **2007 year – application of 2<sup>nd</sup> line DST**
  - **2007 year – application of the Bactec MGIT 960**
  - **2009 year – application of the GeneXpert**
  - **2010 year – application of the HAIN diagnostics**





# Main directions of the joint activity on the TB Control



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- ❖ **Due to the improvement of treatment and infection control in STI:**
  - **Creation of the dispensary department in order to provide an observation of the post-treatment stage**
  - **Construction of the separate department for the patients waiting for their culture results**
  - **Construction of the different departments according to the treatment stages for the patients receiving 2nd line drugs**
  - **In order to make the additional examinations needed for the diagnosis and treatment construction of the new department which include endoscopy, bronchoscope, functional diagnostics, ultra sound examination and physiotherapy cabinets**



# **Main directions of the joint activity on the TB Control**



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## **❖ Improvement of the infection control measures in the STI**

- during 2006 – 2009 - installation of a ventilation system in the departments**
- 2007 - an installation of the booths in the departments for the sputum collection**
- 2007 - construction an incinerator**
- 2010 - creation of the “clean area” in the departments**
- 2010 – installation of the booths with phones inside for the short duration visits with the family of bacillary patients**

**To day 900 patients are under treatment (300 in dispensary). There are 29 wards and units in STI, 13 diagnostic cabinets and facilities**



# Highlighting of the joint activity on TB control and achievements



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- ❖ 2006 – 2010 in the 3 Conferences of the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases were presented 3 presentations and 11 different posters
- ❖ 2007 - during 4 Regional Congress in Riga were presented 2 posters
- ❖ The results of the GeneXpert research together with FIND was published in the "New England journal of Medicine" on September 2010
- ❖ 2011 - to the "Lanset" journal of the Great Britain has been presented 2 articles for the publication







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**Thank you for attention**