

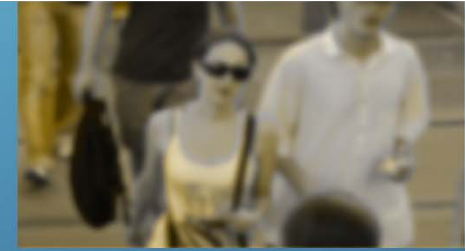
Increasing treatment adherence for TB patients through incentives



Dr. Victoria Mihaescu
Romanian Red Cross

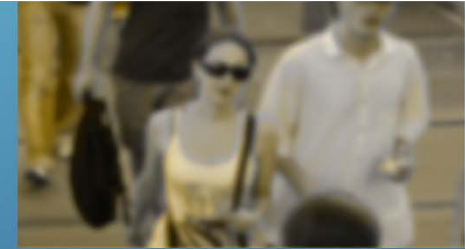
**Eveniment finanțat de Fondul Global de Luptă Împotriva
HIV/SIDA, Tuberculozei și Malariei prin Fundația Romanian Angel Appeal**

Proiect finanțat de Fondul Global de Luptă
Împotriva HIV/SIDA, Tuberculozei și Malariei
prin
Fundația Romanian Angel Appeal
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TB Treatment

- Long term medication (6 months – 2 years)
- At least 4 different types of drugs are prescribed (at least 13 pills daily)
- The TB patients will feel better after several weeks
- The drugs may have unpleasant adverse reactions, leading to discontinuation of treatment

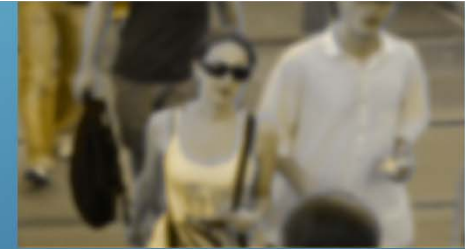


Treatment discontinuation

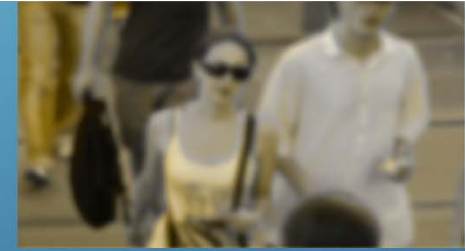
Consequences:

- The disease will reactivate;
- The microbe becomes drug-resistant;

Tuberculosis will not be cured or becomes difficult to cure!

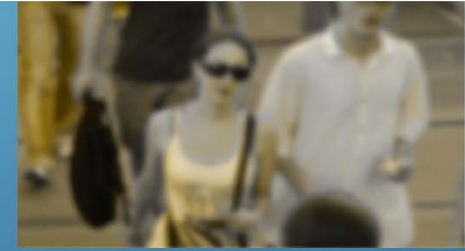


- Correct and complete treatment is essential for curing TB and limits the spread of the infection!
- We must do **ANYTHING** and **EVERYTHING** in order to cure every TB case on the first treatment!



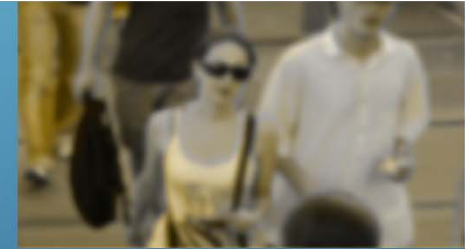
Providing incentives

- Material support that helps ensure adherence / compliance to correct treatment throughout its course
- The material support may consist of:
 - Food
 - Transportation
 - Money
 - Other incentives...
- It is an intervention recommended by WHO and successfully implemented in many countries



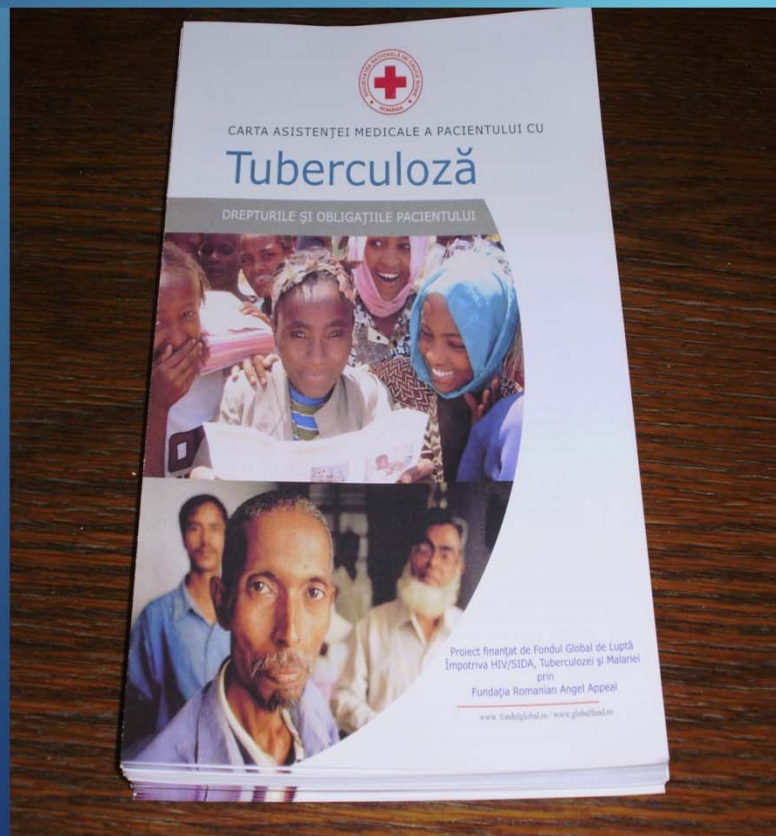
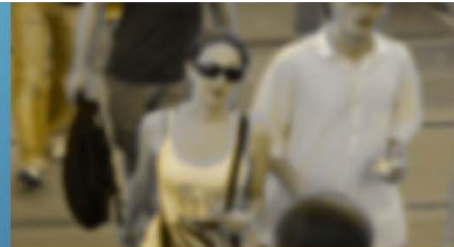
In Romania

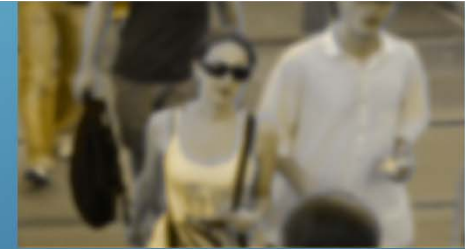
- Social vouchers = vouchers such as food vouchers or gift vouchers that employers give their employees
- The patients can buy food or hygienic supplies
- Accompanied by TB-related information and education interventions: flyers, conversations with the TB patients;



Organizing the distribution of incentives

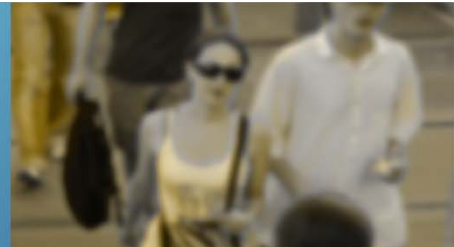
- Development of methodology: distribution algorithm, management, recording and reporting, database, roles and responsibilities etc.
- Development and distribution of information materials: posters, flyers etc.
- Recruiting and training the volunteers and TB dispensaries staff

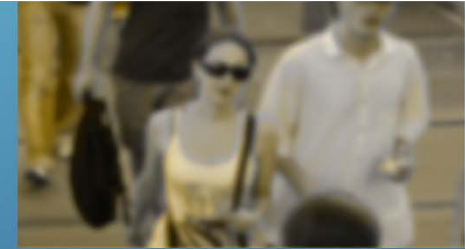




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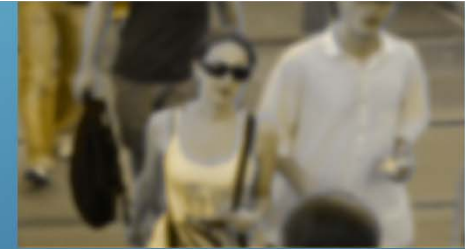
- Monthly procurement of vouchers, based on the needs estimated by the physicians working with TB patients
- Vouchers distribution, ONLY to TB patients who take the treatment entirely as prescribed
- Voucher value: max. 50 lei monthly for every TB patient





Results

- More than 12,000 TB patients from 12 counties and Bucharest received social vouchers over a period of three years
- Treatment adherence in the continuation phase increased from 50% to over 80% in the locations and for the time period when the incentives were distributed.



Conclusions

- A relatively small financial effort can have very good results
- The pilot project financed through the Global Fund proved effective
- Scaling-up the intervention nation-wide through financing from the local communities contribute significantly to TB control. Furthermore, it can result in involving local communities in other TB control activities.