

BACKGROUND

Anti-TB drug resistance surveillance data by the WHO shows that 3.5% of new and 18% of previously treated TB cases in the world are estimated to have multidrug-resistant or rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis (MDR/RR-TB). In 2017, an estimated 558 000 new cases of MDR/RR-TB emerged globally. MDR/RR-TB caused 230 000 deaths in 2017.

Source: WHO Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) fact sheet, 2018

THE PROBLEM

In September 2018, the first-ever United Nations High-Level Meeting (HLM) on Ending Tuberculosis was held in New York. It produced a historic Political Declaration with specific, measurable milestones to be achieved by 2022. The targets directly related to management of MDR-TB include 'successfully diagnose and treat 1.5 million people with DR-TB, including 115 000 children, by 2022'. The field of DR-TB is very dynamic with advances in both diagnostics and treatment and these are reflected in international recommendations that national tuberculosis programs (NTPs) need to adopt and adapt for their settings.

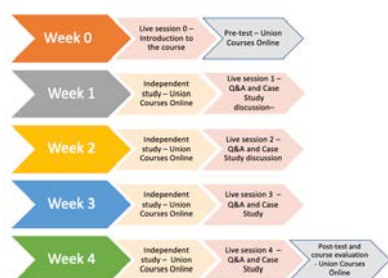
THE UNION APPROACH

In this context, The Union has developed a DR-TB Academy to train physicians, nurses and other health workers on detection, diagnosis and treatment of Drug Resistant TB. The Union's DR-TB Academy has a three-tiered approach. Each course targets a specific audience with different roles in DR-TB management and also different training needs:

1. DR-TB Management for Experts, for clinicians, laboratory scientists, lecturers and staff from medical and other health training institutions with experience in MDR-TB management.
2. DR-TB Training in Clinical and Programmatic Decision Making, for clinicians responsible for TB diagnosis and treatment.
3. Programmatic and Clinical Management of DR-TB, for clinical officers, nurses, paramedical staff and other health workers.

The courses are offered online, over a period of three to four weeks, and include live sessions with the facilitators to discuss case studies. The Union partners with local stakeholders to localise the content of the course and to create case studies relevant to the participant's daily practice. The creation of the DR-TB Academy was possible thanks to a grant from the Johnson and Johnson Foundation.

Learner's Journey



Partners



FOUNDATION



THE RESULTS

Since November 2020, over 230 health workers have been trained. The DR-TB Academy has been launched in two countries: Philippines and Indonesia*, and it will be launched in Ukraine* and Kenya in 2021. There are plans to expand to other high burden MDR-TB countries.

- 85% of the participants from Philippines would recommend the DR-TB Training in Clinical and Programmatic Decision Making (for Clinicians) to a colleague
- 73% of the participants from Philippines thought the content of the DR-TB Management for Experts course was relevant to their daily clinical practice
- 75% of the participants from Indonesia felt comfortable using the online course platform

*With some of the course elements translated into the local language.