The Union

International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

President's message

"In 2022, we continued to exemplify that we are the leading scientific organisation within lung health. We set out our 2022-2027 vision and strategy for tuberculosis (TB). This can only be achieved collectively. For the third year, we delivered the Union World Conference on Lung Health virtually and it was a resounding success.

I would like to thank all our staff, members and partners for your tireless dedication to our vision – a healthier world for all, free of tuberculosis and lung disease. Especially those working in unimaginably challenging situations, like our colleagues in Myanmar. You are a great inspiration to us all.

We achieved great things across the fields of TB, lung health and tobacco control globally in 2022. This report is just a snapshot of our achievements."

Tuberculosis

Africa

- **Enrolled 698 people** on a study exploring how TB preventive therapy (TPT) can be improved for people living with HIV in Uganda.
- Union led research found it is **feasible to incorporate contact investigation in African TB programmes**.
- Commenced the **first-ever study into the integration of smoking cessation** within national TB programmes in Africa.
- The Centre of Excellence hosted a webinar on operationalising the new WHO guidelines on management of TB in children and adolescents.

Myanmar

- Delivered life-saving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) to a total of **32,001 people living with HIV**, while surpassing a **96% success rate** in tuberculosis (TB) screening for newly enrolled people living with HIV.
- **102%** achievement rate in supporting people with drug-resistant TB (DR-TB).
- Provided social protection support packages to **138 people** with DR-TB, as part of a USAID grant.

South East Asia

- **0.53 million** household contacts were screened for TB, resulting in **0.35 million** people initiated on TPT – **88% completed treatment successfully**.
- TB treatment regimen trial initiated in **nine trial sites** with **343 people enrolled**.
- Supported states and districts to develop and deliver strategic advocacy, communications and social mobilisation plans, through capacity building interventions spanning training sessions, toolkits, content creation and systems strengthening.
- **260 organisations** led TB initiatives through the Corporate TB Pledge.

Our membership

- Launched online Town Hall meetings, a forum for our members to hear from The Union leadership about the latest activities and ask questions.
- Continued our donated membership initiative. Almost **100 Union student memberships were awarded** – roughly 50% were women and most from lower-income countries.
- A **new Board of Directors election process** was established and implemented, whereby our new Board would be elected **from the membership by the membership**.

Operational Research

- Centre for Operational Research in numbers:
  - **1,025 participants** from **94 countries** and 70 institutions trained
  - **1,763 papers** published
  - **68%** of research papers contributing to policy and/or practice change

- Co-led a study investigating TB active case finding and why people are lost during care in India.
- Implemented projects about supporting people with co-morbidities and disability at the end of anti-TB treatment, initially in China, then in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- Began assessing the application of '7-1-7' timeliness metrics for household contact tracing and TPT in India, Pakistan and Kenya.

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Journals

- The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease **impact factor increased to 4.0**.
- Launched the second wave of the IJTLD Clinical Standards for Lung Health.
- The Journals were no longer reliant on a subsidy from The Union.

Training & Education

- **1,600+ people trained globally** in various aspects of the care and prevention of tuberculosis.
- **17 training events**, including in-person and online.
- **247 hours** of training delivered.
- **Three free online courses** launched or updated: Programmatic and Clinical Management of DR-TB (in Ukrainian), Interpretation of chest X-rays (in French), and Child and Adolescent TB Training course for healthcare workers (in English).

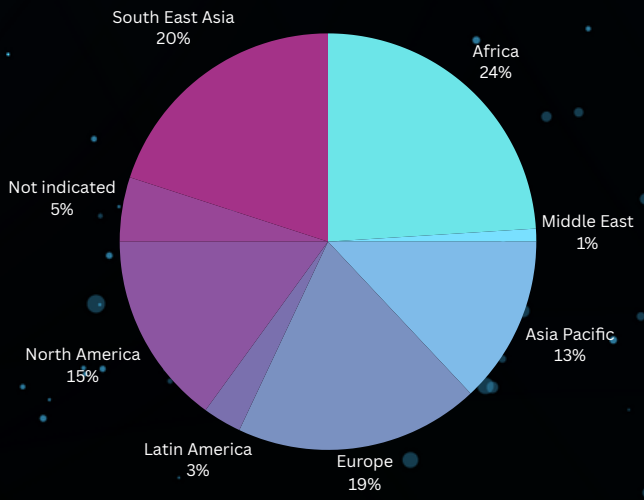
Tobacco Control

- In the Philippines, data showed a significant decrease in tobacco use among adults from **29.7% in 2009 to 19.5% in 2021**. The Union worked closely with the Department of Health in raising tobacco tax, promoting smoke-free environment, and protecting the government from tobacco industry interference.
- In Bangladesh, the Ministry of Finance **increased the fund allocation for tobacco control** to 300 million BDT (≈ 3 million EUR) from the Health Development Surcharge fund, doubled from previous year. The Union provided support to the Ministry of Health in streamlining the fund allocation process and boosting use.
- In Indonesia, The Union helped achieve an **increase in excise tax (10%) and price (12%)** through the provision of technical support to the Ministry of Finance and support to the Ministry of Health to release a policy paper on the benefits of tax increase.

53rd Union World Conference on Lung Health

In 2022, The Union delivered the third, fully-virtual World Conference on Lung Health. The Conference aired **nine simultaneous broadcasting channels**, including Union LIVE (the free-to-access channel, which hosted the debrief on WHO's Global TB Report, Youth4LungHealth and Plenary Sessions, which were very well attended).

Thanks to the inclusivity of virtual conferencing, the Conference had **over 3,800 registered participants**.



Technical publications

- The *Diagnostic CXR Atlas for Tuberculosis in Children: A Guide to Chest X-ray Interpretation* (the Atlas) has been extensively revised, followed by the release of a supporting online image library.
- Union child TB experts supported the publication of WHO's updated guidelines on the management of TB in children and adolescents.

Other events

- **Over 500 delegates**, including 48 mayors and vice-mayors, from **62 cities of 10 countries** across the Asia Pacific region joined the 7th Asia Pacific Summit of Mayors. The summit reinforced leadership, built accountability, and ensured sustainability for tobacco control efforts.
- The Union organised the **first-ever workshop about advocacy, communications and social mobilisation for the Indian National TB Programme**.