

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

President's message

“Members, staff and partners have all played a vital role in maintaining progress towards The Union's vision – a healthier world for all, free of tuberculosis and lung disease. I am truly grateful to you all for your commitment and resilience.

We appointed a new Board of Directors, directly elected from the membership by the membership. The Board is determined to build a prosperous and sustainable future for the organisation.

I hope you will all agree that we have achieved great things in 2023 across the fields of tuberculosis (TB), lung health and tobacco control globally. This report is just a snapshot of our achievements. ”

Tuberculosis

Africa

- Undertaken **over 17,700 home visits** and supported almost **28,500 children** under five years old to start TB preventive treatment (TPT) or TB treatment, across eight countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Cameroon and Central African Republic).
- Leading a study to explore how TPT can be improved for people living with HIV, including children, in Uganda.
- The Centre of Excellence hosted three webinars, including one about diagnosis and management of drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) in children and adolescents.

India

- Screened over **425,000** household contacts for TB, resulting in more than **340,000** people initiating TPT – **85% completed treatment successfully**.
- National TB Programme (NTP) staff from across all 30 states and union territories have been trained on advocacy, communications and social mobilisation.
- Launched the 'Manage TB India' application, supporting decision making for DR-TB treatment – installed by **more than 2,000 users**.
- More than **50,000 people** were provided with nutrition support through the Corporate TB Pledge.
- Developed a training system for the NTP, through which training conducted for more than **6,500 staff**.

Myanmar

- Delivered life-saving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) to a total of **32,741 people living with HIV**, while achieving a **95% success rate** in TB screening for newly enrolled people living with HIV.
- Community volunteer referrals resulted in **1,480** people confirmed with TB.
- Provided social protection support packages to **406 people** with DR-TB.

Our Membership

The Union membership is global, with **118** countries represented – **49%** from low- and middle-income countries.

- A **new Board of Directors** was elected by the membership.
- Committee elections were held for scientific sections, sub sections and regions.
- A **new Community Advisory Panel (UCAP)** was elected.
- Engaged members through online Town Hall meetings, where Union updates are provided and members are invited to ask questions.

Operational Research

- Centre for Operational Research in numbers:
 - **1,037 participants** from **94 countries** and 70 institutions trained
 - **1,777 papers** published
 - **68%** of research papers contributing to policy and/or practice change
- 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.
- Led a multi-country study on the application of '7-1-7' timeliness metrics for household contact tracing and TPT in India, Pakistan and Kenya.
- Collaborated with colleagues in India to develop and deliver a five-day workshop to build capacity within the NTP in programme monitoring.

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Journals

- Launched the *IJTL Open*, a new open-access journal, to improve access to scientific knowledge.
- The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease's (IJTLD) **impact factor is 4.0**.
- Published four IJTLD Clinical Standards for Lung Health across a range of topics, including asthma and long COVID.
- In Public Health Action, supplements on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and trauma were published.

Training & Education

- **4,500 people trained globally** in various aspects of the care and prevention of TB
 - **96%** described the information as very actionable or actionable.
 - **96%** felt very comfortable or comfortable implementing the new skills in their practice
 - **92%** believed that the community they served had benefited from the new knowledge and skills they acquired
- **19 training events** and **322 hours of training** delivered, including in-person and online.

Tobacco Control

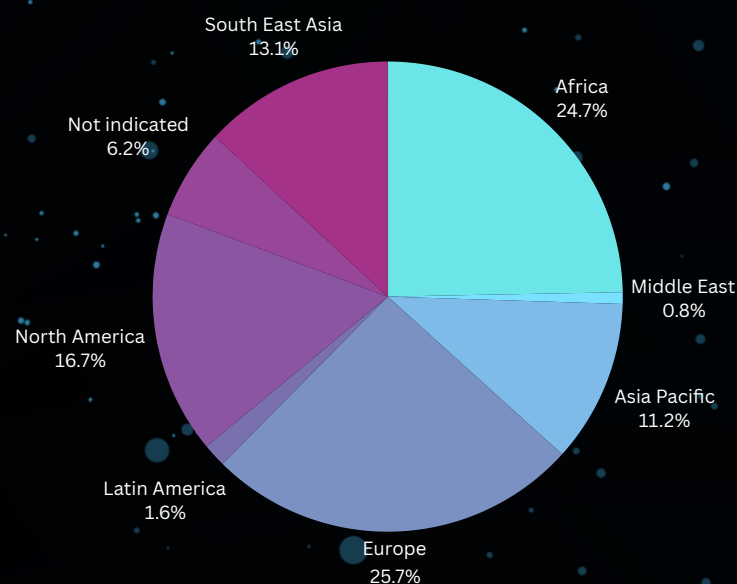
- In **Mexico**, with support from The Union, the regulation of the tobacco control act entered into force. Smoke-free environments were set in all public places and there was a total ban on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship.
- In **Indonesia**, 346 out of 514 cities/districts have banned smoking in all public places, workplaces and public transport. The Union and local partners have been instrument in this public health drive.
- With Union support, the Public Health Centre of **Ukraine** provided technical support to the Ministry of Health and advocated for the inspection of non-compliant venues and for the inclusion of information about quitting smoking on tobacco packages.

54th Union World Conference on Lung Health

For the first time since 2019, The Union World Conference on Lung Health was held in person, in Paris, France.

Under the theme of *Transforming evidence into practice*, **3,700 delegates from over 155 countries** gathered to discuss the latest scientific breakthroughs, share insights and finally network in person. With **38%** of delegates coming from low- and middle-income countries.

Learnings from our past virtual conferences was not lost, as Union LIVE, a comprehensive broadcast element, was available for delegates unable to physically attend.



Technical Publications

- The fourth edition of *Diagnosis and Management of Tuberculosis in Children and Adolescents: A Desk Guide for Primary Health Care Workers* was published, which includes revisions to diagnostic approaches and options for treatment of both TB infection and disease.