

Course brief

Title: Principles of Tuberculosis Care and Prevention: Translating Knowledge to Action

Dates:

Asynchronous content to be completed between August and September 2025

In-person session: from the 20th to the 25th October in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Language: English

Number of participants (maximum): 25

Introduction

To drive the way towards ending tuberculosis (TB), health professionals need to understand the principles of TB care and prevention, have the skills to manage patients and work with and within the National TB Programmes (NTPs).

This course, previously known as the International TB Course, has been in existence for several decades and was updated and shortened in 2016. The current course will be offered in a hybrid format and will consist of two parts: i) an asynchronous component with pre-recorded video presentations and ii) an in-person session with site visits and field practical.

Course goal

This course will provide the knowledge and skills to senior programme staff and other health professionals to improve management of persons with TB and strengthen programmatic practices.

Learning objectives

At the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Understand the bacteriological and epidemiological basis for the principles of effective TB patient care and programme management.
- Understand transmission of TB bacilli and pathogenesis of TB.
- Understand diagnosis of TB infection and disease.
- Treat and provide support to persons with TB infection and disease.
- Record, report, analyse and use data on TB for decision making at all levels of health care and continuous quality improvement of TB services.
- Describe the epidemiology of TB, including drug-resistant TB, and TB in key populations, including persons living with HIV.

- Monitor and evaluate TB programme activities and provide support and supervision to providers working at different levels of health care.

Target audience

This course is designed for staff of national TB programmes, such as TB coordinators working at the national and sub-national levels of health services. It is also suitable for medical, clinical and nursing officers, monitoring and evaluation officers, laboratory and radiology staff and professionals working in health services management interested in TB care and prevention. Technical partners and persons who plan to work in TB and communicable diseases control in the above-mentioned settings will also find this course relevant.

Course format

This course will be delivered as a hybrid course: participants will need to complete online materials in their own time and then attend a 6-day in-person session in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

The online course duration is about 20h. The course materials include:

- Pre-recorded lectures developed by the course faculty (slides, audio, and interactive elements). Each educational unit (EU) is about 30 minutes long. To reinforce learning, the learner will need to complete a quiz at the end of each educational unit
- The presentations include transcripts to facilitate understanding of the content
- There are additional readings available to complement the lectures
- Weekly live sessions with faculty to discuss the content presented via the pre-recorded lectures

The 5.5-day in-person training will review some of the key points from the online materials as well as new concepts. A summary of the online content will be presented, followed by question-answer sessions and practical exercises. There will also be a field visit to local health facilities to familiarise with TB services in Zimbabwe and use of routinely available TB data for strengthening quality of these services.

Course director: Dr Riitta Dlodlo

What are the costs to participate in the course?

The course fee is 3,000 EUR. It will include:

- Unlimited access to the online course materials
- In-person session for 5.5 days
- Lunch and coffee/tea breaks during the in-person session

The fee does **not** include return travel from the participant's home country to Bulawayo, (Zimbabwe) travel insurance, visa costs or accommodation.

The fee is payable via credit card or international bank transfer.

How to apply for the course?

To complete your registration, you will need to complete an online form, submit a CV and the details of your sponsor or the person paying for the course fees. Register here:

<https://courses.theunion.org/>

Unfortunately, The Union does not have funding to offer scholarships to attend this course. We encourage participants to find a sponsor locally.

Detailed course content:

Module 1: Bacteriological basis for TB care and prevention and methods of TB diagnosis:

- Basic mycobacteriology
- Management of specimens for TB testing
- TB diagnostics: microscopy
- TB diagnosis: molecular methods
- TB diagnostics: Culture, DST and immunodiagnostics
- Quality assurance and infection prevention and control in the TB laboratory

Module 2: Transmission and pathogenesis of tuberculosis:

- Pathogenesis and transmission of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, Part 1
- Pathogenesis and transmission of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, Part 2
- Infection prevention and control

Module 3: Diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis infection:

- Diagnosis of TB Infection
- Tuberculous infection treatment (TPT) or TB preventive treatment

Module 4: Diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis:

- Diagnosis of TB disease
- Use of chest radiology in TB prevention and control
- Treatment of drug-susceptible tuberculosis
- Person-centred approach to TB care
- Drug resistant TB: principles of development and treatment

Module 5: Tuberculosis in children and adolescents:

- Active case finding: contact investigations
- Tuberculosis in children and adolescents
- Contact investigation

Module 6: TB comorbidities:

- Nutrition as a comorbidity of TB disease
- Nutrition as a determinant of TB disease
- TB and HIV Part I
- TB and HIV Part II
- Diabetes mellitus and TB
- TB and mental health integration
- Smoking and alcohol use in tuberculosis

Module 7: Burden of tuberculosis. Programmatic Management of Tuberculosis:

- Burden of tuberculosis in the world: WHO estimates, surveys and surveillance
- National Tuberculosis Programmes: functions and organisation
- How is TB laboratory service organised?
- Management of supplies in TB programmes
- Case and treatment outcome definitions and recording and reporting tools in TB programmes
- Public-Private Mix (PPM) for TB care and prevention

Module 8: Local use of routinely available TB data (TBData4Action):

- Recording and reporting in TB programmes
- Care cascades and quality of TB services
- How to tabulate and analyse facility level TB data?
- How to tabulate, analyse and use TB data for decision making at district level
- How DHIS2 can facilitate data tabulation and analysis?
- Data-driven site support and performance review meetings; operational research.

Learner's journey:

