



The Union

International Union Against
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease

2026

UNION COURSE CATALOGUE



THE INTERNATIONAL UNION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS AND LUNG DISEASE

The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) is a global scientific organisation with the mission to improve health among people living in poverty. We do that by conducting scientific research, working with governments and other agencies to translate research into better health for people around the world, and delivering projects directly in the field. The Union is made up of a membership body of people around the world who help to advance our mission, and a scientific institute that implements public health projects within countries. For close to 100 years, we have been leaders in the fight against some of the world's biggest killers, including tuberculosis (TB), lung diseases and tobacco use.

UNION COURSES

Union Courses provide the knowledge and skills that health professionals and programme managers need to run public health programmes that are clinically sound and administratively effective.

TB and lung health courses cover clinical and programmatic aspects of TB, multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB), TB comorbidities and child and adolescent TB. We provide health professionals working in resource-limited settings with the most recent scientific evidence, skills and competencies to enable them to deliver quality services and manage programmes.

Our courses aim to:

- Share new knowledge on TB and lung health with health practitioners, national programme officers and policy makers
- Support staff working in national public health programmes to ensure quality diagnosis, treatment and care for people with presumptive and diagnosed TB, including children and adolescents with TB, are provided
- Build capacity so that health professionals can record, report, monitor and evaluate services
- Ensure continuous quality assurance and strengthening of public health programmes in consultation with people suffering from TB and lung diseases and affected communities



IMPACT

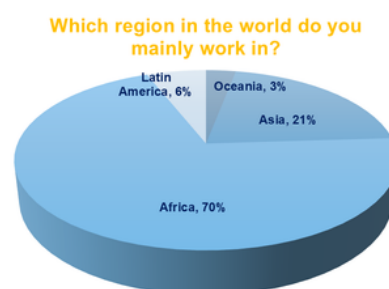
The Training and Education Department at The Union organised 20 educational activities in 2025, amounting to almost 300 hours of training delivered to approximately 2,200 health professionals from more than 160 countries.



Once a year, we send an impact survey to gather information about the impact of the courses and help us improve. 85% of participants that took a Union Course in 2024 reported that the community they serve had benefited a great deal or a lot from the skills and knowledge they gained by attending a Union Course.

PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

Women make up 39% of our learners, contributing to a diverse and engaged audience. Most learners are aged between 35 and 54. Participation is well distributed across sectors, with roughly one-third from academia, one-third from government, and one-third from NGOs. The majority of participants are middle managers, complemented by faculty, non-management professionals, executives, and physicians—reflecting a broad mix of expertise. Our learners primarily come from Africa, with additional representation from Asia, Latin America, and Oceania.



FREE ONLINE COURSES

The Union Courses Online platform has registered more than 57,000 visits in its six years of existence. We currently offer the following online courses, free of charge:

1. Online course for chest radiograph interpretation for diagnostics of TB in adults (English)
2. Drug-resistant tuberculosis: from clinical to programmatic (English)
3. Course on tobacco cessation for health care professionals (French)
4. Online course on the management of child and adolescent tuberculosis (English)
5. How to develop a research grant proposal (English)
6. Interpretation of CXR in children with presumptive TB (English)
7. Interpretation of CXR in adults (French)

NEW LEARNING HUB

In 2026 we're upgrading our Online Courses platform to make learning more dynamic and relevant. Here's what this means for you:

- **More timely content:** We'll offer educational and training content on emerging topics and new developments.
- **Smaller, focused learning units:** Micro-learning experiences that fit into your schedule and apply right away.
- **Greater variety:** With more flexibility in how we create content, you'll see a broader range of learning opportunities and you will have the opportunity to create your own learning path.
- **Improved experience:** The platform will be more intuitive and responsive, making it simpler to find and complete what you need.

The Union online courses and educational materials are available for free thanks to the generous support of donors who cover the costs of developing, publishing and maintaining them.

Access our online courses here: <https://coursesonline.theunion.org/theunion/>



FACULTY

The Union faculty have expertise in the clinical, programmatic, and organisational management of diseases, as well as leading expertise in public health management. Our team has decades of experience and we have designed programmes for some of the leading lung health organisations in the world.

Read more about our faculty here: <https://theunion.org/our-work/union-courses/union-courses-faculty>



CUSTOMIZED COURSES

The Union faculty and staff are ready to help you design courses and curriculum to meet your specific training needs. With expertise in the clinical, programmatic, and organisational management of diseases our team has designed programmes for some of the leading lung health organisations in the world. We specialise in programmes designed to reduce the burden of lung disease, improve overall lung health, and better manage TB in low-resource settings. Some examples of our most popular customized courses:

TBData4Action

Based upon our Principles of Management in Tuberculosis Care and Prevention international course, The Union has developed TBData4Action, a training program that aims to fill that gap by empowering local level TB officers to collect, tabulate and analyse routinely available TB data, rather than simply submitting quarterly case finding and treatment outcome reports to national programmes. This approach has been implemented in Kenya, where it has been adopted by the Government as best practice, and in Zimbabwe.

This training consists of classroom sessions with a focus on TB care and prevention, and field practicals. Based from the selected health facilities, field practicals give trainees the opportunity to validate data from the electronic surveillance system, perform data-analysis with facility staff, and to then develop a visit report based on their observations and the validated TB data. County and sub-county TB coordinators also bring their own TB data to the training. They then tabulate and analyse the data and then prepare and present their action plans to the audience, which consists of fellow participants, faculty and the host county team. Final action plans include set targets for each key indicator.

SORT-IT

The Structured Operational Research and Training Initiative (SORT IT) is a global partnership-based initiative coordinated by the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) hosted at the World Health Organization (WHO) and implemented with various partners. Focused on implementers, the SORT IT training teaches the practical skills to conduct and publish research and foster evidence-informed decision making. There are three modules that sequentially include protocol writing (module one), quality assured data capture and analysis (module two) and manuscript writing for publication (module three). Continuous mentorship and support for peer-review is an integral aspect of the SORT IT cycle. The SORT IT model is adaptable to various geographic contexts, different thematic areas and research methodology. Examples include malaria elimination, Ebola and health systems, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and expanded research designs like mixed-methods and qualitative research.

Generally, about 90% of the participants complete the course and among the papers submitted to journals, about 90% get published. Of the papers assessed for impact at 18 months after the completion of the course, about two-thirds of the participants self-reported impact on change in policy and/or practice. About half the participants complete a new research project within 18 months after the course and about 25% of the participants go on to facilitate at future OR courses.

For more examples of customized courses delivered in the past, please visit:
<https://theunion.org/our-work/union-courses/on-request-and-tailored-courses>
To request any of these courses, please contact unioncourses@theunion.org

