



International Union Against
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease

Health solutions for the poor

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

US \$48 MILLION IN FUNDING TO EXTEND THE UNION'S FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

The Global Fund Continues Project Axshya in India and PICTS in Myanmar
USAID Renews Funding for TREAT TB

4 November 2013/ Paris, France – At the close of the 44th Union World Conference on Lung Health, the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease today announced it has received US \$48 million in new funds for TB control in some of the world's hardest-hit countries and to continue critical areas of operational research.

"This announcement is the perfect way to round off what has been a stimulating and informative conference," said Jose Luis Castro, Interim Executive Director of The Union. "In recent days we have discussed so many innovative and effective projects to research, diagnose, treat and control lung disease, but the challenge of funding this important work is ever present. That's why I am pleased to be able to announce the allocation of more than US \$48 million today, money that will be used to bolster the fight against TB in countries with a high burden of the disease. We look forward to hearing about the progress of these projects at next year's Union World Conference on Lung Health in Barcelona."

INDIA: US \$30.45 million from the Global Fund for Project Axshya

With some 2 million new cases of Tuberculosis yearly, India bears the highest burden globally, and has among the highest number of MDR-TB patients. Additional funding of \$30.45 million over the next two years from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (The Global Fund) will expand access to Tuberculosis information and services, increase the reach of the National Programme and empower civil society and people affected by TB. This additional funding is part of Phase Two of the A2-rated, Round 9 Grant to Project Axshya. "Axshya", meaning "TB-Free", is a major initiative that will continue to strengthen Tuberculosis care and control in 300 districts across 21 States of India – over half the country. Coordinated by The Union South-East Asia Office in New Delhi, and implemented through nine partners, this grant works with over 1200 NGOs and 3,000 CBOs.

Axshya prioritises vulnerable populations and people living in hard-to-reach geographic areas who have the greatest difficulty in accessing diagnosis and treatment for TB. This includes women, children, tribal communities, urban slum dwellers and migrant populations.

<http://www.theunion.org/index.php/en/what-we-do/tuberculosis/project-axshya>

MYANMAR: US \$9.6 million from the Global Fund for PICTS

Since 2005, The Union Office in Mandalay has been providing TB services in Myanmar, one of the 22 countries with the highest burden of TB. In 2012, The Union collaborated with the government and People Affected by TB (PATB) community to launch PICTS: a Program to Increase Catchment of TB Suspects. Initially funded by TB REACH, and currently co-funded by the Union's Headquarters, it will now continue with support from the Global Fund from 2014 - 2016. Across the seven townships of Mandalay, PICTS has deployed thousands of volunteers to reinforce case finding and access to diagnosis by increasing community awareness of TB through mass communications, decentralisation of symptom screening, sputum collection closer to the community and referral to Township Health Centers (TSHC).

Through TB REACH, The Union also initiated the use of new diagnostic technologies, such as fluorescent microscopy and GeneXpert. As the result of these efforts, 35,907 people with possible TB were screened and 2,084 cases of TB diagnosed, including 808 bacteriologically confirmed cases (40%).

<http://www.stoptb.org/assets/documents/global/awards/tbreach/Myanmar%20UNION.pdf>

GLOBAL: US \$8.3 million from USAID for TREAT TB

The Union's TREAT TB (Technology, Research, Education and Technical Assistance for Tuberculosis) initiative has received US \$8.3 million for 2013-14 to build on its landmark clinical trial, STREAM, which began patient recruitment in 2012. The STREAM clinical trial compares a shortened MDR-TB treatment regimen with the local, standard, WHO-recommended regimen. The results, which will be available in 2016, will shape global treatment guidelines for MDR-TB.

Funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), TREAT TB is led by The Union, with a core team of international research partners and ministries of health (MOHs). In addition, strategic partners at regional and national levels, who are uniquely positioned to plan and implement research activities, are also involved. The Union also takes advantage of its active involvement in the working groups and taskforces of the Stop TB Partnership and the global network of Union offices as platforms from which to coordinate TREAT TB activities.

One of the achievements of the initiative has been the development of a model for a successful research partnership that can stimulate changes in international standards and practice in ways that serve country needs. <http://www.theunion.org/index.php/en/what-we-do/tuberculosis/treat-tb>

Further details about the 44th Union World Conference on Lung Health are available at: <http://www.worldlunghealth.org/conf2013/>.

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About the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union)

The mission of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) is to bring innovation, expertise, solutions and support to address health challenges in low- and middle-income populations. With nearly 15,000 members and subscribers from 150 countries, The Union has its headquarters in Paris and offices serving the Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, North America and South-East Asia regions. Its scientific departments focus on tuberculosis and HIV, lung health and non-communicable diseases, tobacco control and research. Learn more at www.theunion.org

About the 44th Union World Conference on Lung Health

Since the early 1920s, The Union has been convening international conferences to disseminate the latest research on tuberculosis and other related issues, such as HIV/AIDS, asthma, pneumonia, non-communicable diseases and tobacco control. Some 2,900 delegates from 137 countries attend the 5-day scientific programme. For complete details, go to www.worldlunghealth.org

HOW TO COVER THE CONFERENCE:

Complete details about the 44th Union World Conference on Lung Health may be found on the conference website at www.worldlunghealth.org. Download the conference programme at worldlunghealth.org/conf2013/images/1_Paris2013/Forms/Final_Prog_2013.pdf and the Abstract Book at <http://www.worldlunghealth.org/conf2013/index.php/programme/abstracts/abstract-book>

Following the conference, news, photos, short videos and webcasts of most sessions will be accessible from www.worldlunghealth.org

Journalists can follow the conference on Twitter: [@UnionConference](https://twitter.com/UnionConference) and Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheUnionLungHealth.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact: Tracey Johnston at tjohnston@theunion.org or Sabrina Beaubay at sbeaubay@theunion.org