



International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease

Health solutions for the poor

The Union at a glance: 2009

Our new vision: Health solutions for the poor

In 2009, the 90-year-old Union redefined its vision to **health solutions for the poor** and adopted a new mission: **to bring innovation, expertise, solutions and support to address health challenges in low- and middle-income populations.**

These goals reflect the interrelatedness of TB and lung disease with other conditions ranging from HIV/AIDS to diabetes and the fact that the burden of disease falls more heavily on the poor, wherever they live.

Offices around the world support a global network of experts

The Union is well-placed to fulfil its mission and vision: With close to 300 staff and consultants and 3,000 members from 152 countries, The Union comprises a dedicated network of experts and advocates. Its headquarters are in Paris, and 13 region and country offices now serve the Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, North America and South-East Asia regions.

The Union's scientific departments focus on **tuberculosis, HIV, lung health, tobacco control** and **research**.

The Union model: a successful strategy applied to new challenges

The Union is best known for the research that led to the Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS) strategy for tuberculosis control. Adopted by the World Health Organization in 1995 as the international strategy for TB, this **Union model** continues to be part of today's *Stop TB Strategy*. Drawing on its success in addressing TB from medical, political, social and organisational perspectives, The Union has since applied this same model to the management and treatment of TB-HIV, asthma, pneumonia in children under five years of age and strategies for tobacco control.

2009 highlights

- ▶ The **Department of Research** was established to oversee and provide direction to the research activities within The Union. It comprises the Centre for Operational Research (COR), the Clinical Trials Unit and the Health Policy Research Unit.
- ▶ The **Centre for Operational Research (COR)** launched a three-module OR course and a fellows programme in its first year. COR staff also presented workshops on the importance and utility of operational research at several conferences.
- ▶ The newly formed **Department of Lung Health and Non-Communicable Diseases** focuses on areas such as the link between TB and tobacco; the health impact of indoor air pollution, strategies to improve asthma management; and the benefits of smoking cessation .
- ▶ The **Asthma Drug Facility**, a procurement mechanism developed by The Union, received the first orders for quality-assured essential asthma medicines at reduced prices from El Salvador and Benin. Additional orders in the pipeline for 2010.
- ▶ **TREAT TB (Technology, Research, Education and Technical Assistance for TB)**, a 5-year USAID-funded initiative launched in late 2008, began addressing important gaps in TB-related

research at the international level. Its mandate also includes building capacity for operational research at the national level among national TB programmes in high-burden countries. The TREAT TB initiative is coordinated by The Union North America Office in New York.

- ▶ The Union is one of three partners in India who will implement a 5-year proposal funded by The Global Fund. The US\$ 199 million proposal focuses on **universal access to MDR-TB diagnosis and treatment and increased civil society involvement** in TB care and control. The Union South-East Asia Office will coordinate The Union's participation.
- ▶ **The Integrated HIV Care for Tuberculosis Patients Living with HIV/AIDS (IHC) Programme in Myanmar** secured increased funding to continue and expand with grants of US\$ 4 million from the YADANA Consortium and US\$1 million from the Three Diseases Fund.
- ▶ Mexico DF's tobacco control laws came into effect in 2008, requiring public spaces and workplaces to become smokefree. In 2009, The Union Mexico Country Office **published a case study of Mexico City's smokefree success story**.
- ▶ The Union Middle East Office in Egypt and the China and Russia country offices partnered government and non-governmental agencies to support **smokefree initiatives** in these priority tobacco using regions.
- ▶ **Technical training in tobacco control policies** was offered to more than 200 policymakers, health care professionals and other stakeholders in 8 countries.
- ▶ **The Union Latin America Office** in Lima, Peru and **The Union Asia Pacific Office** in Singapore both opened in 2009. They will focus on coordinating TB and tobacco control activities. These regions are also served by The Union Mexico Country Office in Mexico City and The Union China Country Office in Beijing.
- ▶ **The 40th Union World Conference on Lung Health** was held in Cancún, Mexico. More than 2,000 people attended 120+ sessions addressing the theme of "Poverty and lung health". Union Region Conferences were organised by the Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe and North America Regions.

By providing leadership and expertise in global health, The Union is helping countries around the world achieve the United Nation's **Millennium Development Goals** for 2015.

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