



The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease

The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) has provided technical assistance, education and research promoting lung health in low- and middle-income countries for nearly a century. Established in 1920 as a federation of national lung associations, The Union today is a non-profit scientific organisation comprising 127 member countries and a Secretariat based in Paris. **Current activities focus on tuberculosis, HIV, child lung health, asthma, tobacco prevention and health policy.**

The Union is best **known for the research that led to the global strategy for treating and controlling tuberculosis**. Adopted by the World Health Organization in 1995, The Union model which became known as the DOTS strategy, has been used in 183 countries to treat more than 22 million people. The success of DOTS derives from The Union's emphasis on standard case management and a multifaceted approach to address TB from medical, political, social and organisational perspectives. Now called the Stop TB strategy, The Union model is central to the Global Plan to Stop TB 2006–15. Drawing on its TB experience, The Union has since developed programmes for the management and treatment of TB-HIV, asthma and pneumonia in children under five years of age.

Capacity building and improved access to healthcare services are essential components of all Union programmes. Recent projects which illustrate the breadth of The Union's work are:

- FIDELIS (Fund for Innovative DOTS Expansion through Local Initiatives to Stop TB), which has funded **51 innovative TB case-finding projects serving millions of people in remote, underserved areas** in 19 countries over the past three years
- the Child Lung Health Project, a healthcare services delivery model, which, in Malawi, has **reduced the pneumonia case fatality rate in children under five by 54.8%** between 2000 and 2005
- **management courses for national tuberculosis programme (NTP) managers**
- an international **lab strengthening** programme that trains NTP lab personnel to meet **EQA** standards for microscopy
- an **Asthma Drug Facility** to provide access to affordable good quality asthma drugs in low- and middle-income countries.

In 2005, Union activities took place in 80 countries, including 26 in Africa, 16 in Asia, 13 in Europe, 12 in Latin America, 11 in the Middle East and 2 in North America. This included:

- 76 long- and short-term **technical assistance** projects in 45 countries
- **23 Union international courses** in 17 countries, attended by more than **600 people**; Union consultants also presented more than 100 other education and training courses, workshops and lectures in 36 countries
- **research** in tuberculosis, TB-HIV, asthma, child lung health, tobacco prevention and health policy in 49 countries, including two international TB treatment clinical trials
- **advocacy** for tobacco prevention, child lung health, TB, TB-HIV and asthma, aiming to improve services and provide access to information and treatment for all affected people
- **publication** of the monthly peer-reviewed *International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease*, as well as technical guides and other educational materials.

By providing its expertise and experience to the cause of improving global lung health, The Union is also making an important contribution to achieving the UN's Millennium Development Goals for 2015.

For more information, please visit The Union website at: www.iatld.org or contact us at press@iatld.org