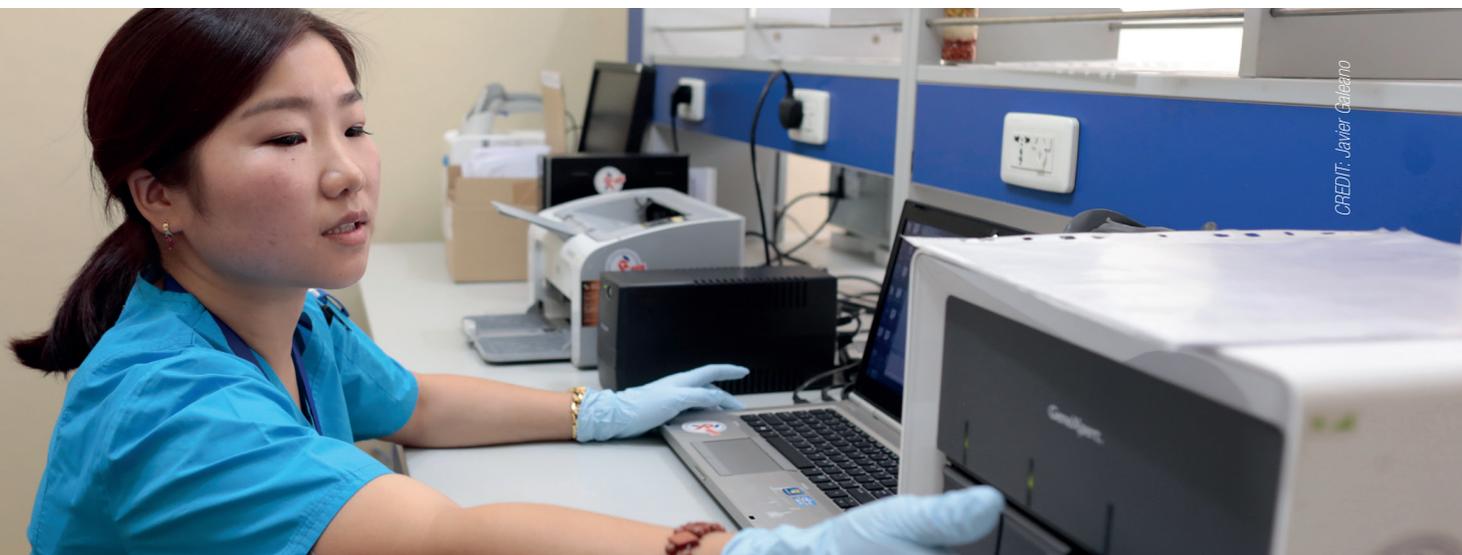


THE UNION ASIA PACIFIC REGION IN 2018



CREDIT: Javier Galeano

TREAT TB TRAINS ONE HUNDRED NURSES IN CLINICAL MANAGEMENT OF MDR-TB IN THE PHILIPPINES

Lab technician in Mongolia screens sputum samples for MDR-TB, to see whether a patient is eligible for the STREAM clinical trial.

Nurses from facilities across two high-burden regions of the Philippines attended training sessions on clinical management of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) as part of an ongoing nationwide effort to intensify TB case finding, diagnosis and treatment in the country.

Led by TREAT TB, in partnership with the National TB Programme (NTP), the training course included lectures on TB diagnosis, identification and management of side effects, and common errors in MDR-TB management. It was facilitated by two of The Union's MDR-TB experts, Dr. Ignacio Monedero and Dr. Patricia Macias.

Nurses provide essential services to MDR-TB patients, which include monitoring and administering treatment, identifying and addressing adverse effects of medicines, and conducting contact tracing. Their understanding of best practices and correct clinical management is essential to improving outcomes for patients with TB. The World Health Organization (WHO) ranks the Philippines as one of the 30 high-burden countries for both TB and MDR-TB. To address this high burden, the Philippines' Department of Health is making a concerted effort to improve TB services in the country.

TREAT TB is supporting the NTP with implementation of the shortened treatment regimen for MDR-TB (as recommended by the WHO in 2016) by providing technical assistance and capacity building in operational research and clinical management. This latest nurses' training is part of this multi-year project.

As the first group of nurses concluded the course, one of the participants commented: "*This training gave me confidence in managing adverse drug reactions and it is especially important as I am the only nurse in my area.*"

TREAT TB is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by The Union and Vital Strategies.

FROM EVIDENCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION

For nearly 100 years The Union has drawn together the best scientific evidence and expertise to address the most pressing public health challenges affecting people living in poverty around the world. Know. Share. Act.

KNOW

- The Union provided technical assistance in a number of countries across the region including China, Papua New Guinea, Australia, Mongolia, and the Philippines.
- Research to evaluate the long-term outcome of smoking cessation intervention for TB patients after five years was conducted by The Union China Office in collaboration with national experts. Findings of the study were presented in March at the World Conference on Tobacco or Health, in Cape Town, which indicated the need for smoking cessation integration and intervention into routine TB services.
- Research into the vitamin D levels of TB patients with diabetes in different economic areas of China was carried out by The Union China Office and national experts, the results of which are to be published in *PlosOne*.

SHARE

- Last year, mayors and health officials representing 21 cities from 10 Asia Pacific countries concluded a two-day tobacco control conference — The Asia Pacific Cities Alliance for Tobacco Control — organised by The Union and Indonesia's Ministry of Health, with a commitment to introduce and enforce policies proven to reduce tobacco use within their jurisdictions. Since then Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar have established their own national alliances and Bogor City, Indonesia, became the first city in the country to ban tobacco product displays at point of sale. The Union has been actively working with mayors across the Asia Pacific region. There are now five alliances formed across 135 cities protecting 133 million people from the harms of tobacco use.
- The Union delivered training courses to health professionals in Singapore, Thailand and Cambodia, including the International Course on the Clinical Management of drug-resistant TB, and the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning for Global Health Projects.

ACT

- The Union supported the city of Lanzhou, Northwest China, in pushing through an amendment of the local smoke-free law focusing on strengthening enforcement to ensure effective implementation of the law. Since it came into effect on 31 May 2018, local enforcement agencies have conducted joint enforcement inspections in their respective jurisdictions. In the first two months they issued a total of 59,850 yuan in fines.
- The Union provided technical assistance to China's National TB Programme in its bid to tackle latent TB infection. This included hosting a seminar which provided information on international best practice, as well as sharing experience and knowledge with local experts.
- Tobacco control enforcement teams in Shenzhen, China, launched a round of targeted inspections of tobacco vendors near schools to ensure the law prohibiting tobacco sales to children is being upheld. This led to one shop owner being fined 30,000 yuan, US\$ 4,800 equivalent, and the story being picked up by national media.

