



## International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease

### **Promoting lung health in low- and middle-income countries**

The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) provides technical assistance, education and research for promoting lung health in low- and middle-income countries. Based in Paris with regional centres in Asia and Africa, The Union has members from 145 countries. Current activities focus on tuberculosis, HIV, child lung health, asthma, tobacco control and health policy.

The Union is best known for its research which led to the global strategy for treating and controlling tuberculosis. Adopted by the World Health Organization in 1995, The Union model, known as the DOTS strategy, is implemented in 187 countries to treat more than 26 million people. The success of DOTS derives from The Union's emphasis on case management and a multifaceted approach to address TB from medical, political, social and organisational perspectives. Drawing from its TB experience, The Union has since developed programmes for the management and treatment of TB-HIV, asthma, pneumonia in children under five years of age, and is presently pioneering efforts to control tobacco use in low-income countries.

The Union is the coordinating partner for the Tuberculosis Control Assistance Program (TBCAP) in Uganda.

### **The Tuberculosis Control Assistance Program (TBCAP) in Uganda**

The Tuberculosis Control Assistance Program (TBCAP) aims to decrease morbidity and mortality by increasing case detection and treatment success of pulmonary TB patients in USAID priority countries. TBCAP is USAID's centrally funded programme focusing on implementing WHO's Stop TB strategy. TBCAP is implemented by a coalition of eight well known organizations in TB control, although one of them is selected as a coordinating partner for a specific program in a country. The coalition includes;

- [The American Thoracic Society \(ATS\)](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [Family Health International \(FHI\)](#)
- [International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease \(The Union\)](#)
- [Japanese Anti-Tuberculosis Association \(JATA\)](#)
- [KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation \(KNCV\)](#)
- [Management Sciences for Health \(MSH\)](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

The Union as the coordinating partner for the TBCAP in Uganda, is supporting Ministry of Health and districts to deliver integrated services for tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS control

and to strengthen Community Based Directly Observed Therapy-Short course (CB-DOTS). The goal of the program is to decrease both the burden of TB among people living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs) and the burden of HIV among notified TB patients. The Union and the TBCAP office is located within the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme (NTLP) premises in Kampala.

The TBCAP strategic approach is to work in specific focus areas aimed at strengthening integration of TB and HIV services and CB-DOTS. The strategy emphasizes partnerships at all levels and improving existing TB and HIV services to be able to provide collaborative services. Models for TB/HIV collaboration based on the Integrated HIV Care for TB patients living with HIV/AIDS (IHC) operational research findings will be developed and applied at district level. The TBCAP program shall advocate for and apply best practices for TB/HIV integration from various partners and countries.

The TBCAP program will support Ministry of Health and districts to address constraints to integration and implementation of TB/HIV collaborative activities at both national and district level. Many of these constraints have been identified from baseline assessments, operational research on barriers to integration of TB/HIV services, deliberations arising from National Coordination Committee meetings and through discussions with various partners including district and Ministry of Health officials.

The major focus for technical and financial support from the TBCAP program is directed towards strengthening the capacity of Ministry of Health (MOH) and selected districts to improve and scale up TB/HIV collaborative activities in addition to consolidating CB-DOTS. However, the TBCAP program will support and collaborate with current USG President's Plan for Emergency AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) funded implementing partners, the Uganda STOP TB Partnership and the National Coordination Committee for TB/HIV to harmonize implementation of TB/HIV collaborative activities and deliver the expected outputs.

Support to districts shall be provided in a phased approach, starting with 12 districts in the first year and later scaling up to other districts using lessons learnt from the first phase districts. The 12 districts that will be supported in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase include; Kampala, Mukono, Kayunga, Mpigi, Soroti, Bukedea, Mbale, Manafwa, Kiboga, Hoima, Masindi and Bulisa

Expected Outputs from the TBCAP programme include:

1. Increased capacity at the national and district level to improve TB/HIV coordination, management and leadership.
2. Improved quality of CB-DOTS implementation.
3. Increased access of HIV diagnosis and care for TB patients and TB diagnosis and care for PHAs.

#### 4. Improved TB infection control at health facilities