

# Programme management principles to improve patient outcomes

The Union

International Union Against  
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease  
*Health solutions for the poor*

## BACKGROUND

Myanmar is one of the 22 high-burden tuberculosis countries. Since 2012, The Union in Mandalay (Myanmar) has been providing technical support to both the National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP) and the National AIDS Programme. The goal is to improve the diagnosis, care and treatment of people with TB and TB-HIV.

The Union also assists with monitoring and evaluation; using operational research to inform practical and policy improvements in the health services

## TB IN MYANMAR

*TB prevalence*

**525**

*per 100,000 people*

**39%**

*of TB cases remain undetected and untreated*

WHO Tuberculosis in Myanmar Progress, Plans and Challenges 2010

## THE PROBLEM

The Union Myanmar office has 250 public health professionals providing support to the National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP) and the National AIDS Programme. The staff, most of whom are medical doctors, were educated and trained in Myanmar and have a deep understanding of the country-specific needs. There was an opportunity, however, to build the team's programme management skills so they could better assist the Ministry of Health. Training would also help with the management of international funding according to best practice.

## THE UNION APPROACH

As with every assignment, our faculty and trainers began with a needs assessment to develop a curricula tailored to include the most impactful topics for a proposed training. The goal was to identify key components of programme management that would help the Myanmar government drive better patient outcomes.

Based on these insights, we designed a course of training that included key principles of and skills building on:

- Fundamentals of Project Management
- Understanding of Budget and Financial Risk Management
- Learning Through Monitoring and Evaluation
- Strengthening Health Systems

The final curriculum included real-world examples and exercises built on local information to create learning scenarios most relevant to the participants. A series of follow ups to reinforce lessons were also developed.

## THE RESULTS

Union Courses was able to deliver training for a diverse team of healthcare and administrative professionals that has had a meaningful impact on the state of TB and TB-HIV in the country:

- Participants demonstrated an enhanced understanding of programme management principles and developed practical roadmaps to integrate learnings into their work
- Follow up training was delivered to both reinforce key topics and address any emergent challenges from implementation
- The entire team was equipped with a common set of tools and language to make changes and adjustments to work plans