



## Call for Symposium Proposals

### Theme:

**Urban Determinants of TB:** Tuberculosis and Urban Poverty

### Background

The interaction between TB and poverty is significant and bidirectional. Poverty increases risk of Mtb infection, disease and poor outcomes following treatment, while TB disease may also lead to catastrophic financial burden on individuals and communities. TB and poverty contribute to a negative spiral, synergistically worsening the impact of both conditions.

Urban settings have particular significance in relation to both TB and poverty, including in relation to migration, employment, housing conditions and nutrition. Despite these recognised factors, there is generally insufficient engagement with poverty alleviation in the context of TB, including effective and community-driven strategies for understanding and programmatic response.

### Why TB and urban poverty at the Union Conference 2026?

Poverty, particularly urban poverty, is an important factor in TB risk and response, both in Brazil and globally. As important elements of the TB epidemic in Brazil connect to urban settings and poverty, this symposium will allow opportunities for exchange of learnings and challenges across urban settings internationally, and with relevance to local context.

Including this symposium within the Union's agenda will:

- Highlight the importance of urban poverty in relation to the risk of Mtb transmission, progression, treatment outcomes and long-term impact.
- Allow opportunities for multidisciplinary engagement with public health and poverty alleviation strategies, particularly in connection with TB care
- Encourage collaboration with policy makers and institutions beyond healthcare
- Promote innovative approaches to research and implementation of better support for individuals and communities affected by poverty and TB.



## Symposium focus areas

We welcome proposals addressing (but not limited to):

- **Characterisation of the interaction between TB and urban poverty:** surveillance and research into causal pathways for interaction with TB diagnosis and short/long term outcomes.
- **Innovative policies and programs for engaging with poverty and TB:** targeted or community-wide responses to poverty, such as direct financing, housing, nutrition and other elements of poverty response.
- **Whole of sector engagement:** collaboration with agencies beyond healthcare
- **Structural vulnerabilities and underserved populations:** including marginalisation, Indigeneity, gender and incarceration and appropriately targeted interventions
- **Voices of affected communities**

## Proposal guidelines

Each symposium should be 90 minutes, with 3–4 presentations (15 minutes each) and structured discussion time.

Proposals must clearly state:

- Symposium title.
- Rationale and objectives.
- Suggested speakers and affiliations. Diversity across geography, gender, career stage, and discipline is strongly encouraged.
- Expected outcomes and contributions to advancing the field of tuberculosis and urban poverty.

Proposals involving early-career investigators, LMIC-based researchers, people affected by TB and community advocates, or interdisciplinary teams are especially welcome. Proposals which explicitly include engagement with Brazilian contexts as well as international settings will be prioritised.

**Expected outcomes**

Through this symposium theme, the Union Conference 2026 aims to:

- Raise awareness of urban poverty as an important driver and perpetuator of TB epidemics, including with government stakeholders
- Encourage multidisciplinary collaboration to advance research and programmatic engagement with poverty and TB
- Showcase innovative responses to improving TB and poverty support, particularly relating to sectors beyond health alone
- Drive new research into key unanswered questions and critical community needs relating to TB and urban poverty.
- Support new opportunities for effective programmatic responses to TB and urban poverty in a variety of settings.