



TUBERCULOSIS IN CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS

In 2019,
**1.2
MILLION**
Children aged 0-14 years
old fell ill with TB

An estimated
50%
of children with
TB go undiagnosed,
untreated or
underreported.

THE BURDEN OF CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENT TB

In 2019

230K
Children died
from TB

80%
Died before the
age of five

95%
of the children who died
from TB did not receive
TB treatment

*World Health Organization Global TB Report 2020

*2018 WHO Roadmap towards ending TB
in children and adolescents

CHALLENGES IN ADDRESSING CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENT TB



Difficulties in Diagnosis

TB in children is difficult to detect using current diagnostic methods but new innovations are on the horizon



Standard TB Treatment Not Child-Friendly

Standard TB medicine is difficult to swallow due to size and bad taste



TB/HIV Co-Infection

TB is the leading cause of death for children living with HIV

CDC'S ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILDHOOD TB



FIND

Developing and implementing innovative, electronic tools to enhance contact tracing of household members of families with TB disease and developing child-friendly diagnostic methods to increase diagnosis of TB in children. **In Mozambique, Uganda, and in other PEPFAR-supported countries, CDC is working to improve TB diagnosis and linkage to treatment for children through household contact tracing.**



CURE

Linking every child screened through PEPFAR platforms to diagnostic evaluation and treatment for TB. **Through CDC and PEPFAR-supported programs, 80% of all children living with HIV (CLHIV) were screened for TB in 2020.**



PREVENT

Scaling-up TB preventive treatment to all eligible children, including household contacts of those with TB and children living with HIV. **In 2020, CDC, as part of PEPFAR, supported 87,000 eligible children to be initiated on TB preventive treatment (TPT) with 86% of those initiated completing treatment.**



SUSTAIN

Providing leadership and technical assistance to identify and address gaps that hinder childhood TB elimination. **CDC and the International Union Against TB and Lung Disease have established a global, virtual platform with 9 Ministries of Health to provide a community of learning and practice for childhood and adolescent TB in countries hardest hit by the epidemic.**

**Source: Annual Performance Results from The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)*

Significant strides have been made in advancing the fight against childhood TB, but there is still much left to do.

PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AGAINST CHILDHOOD TB

1. **Less invasive diagnostic methods discovered**, simplifying the diagnosis of TB in children.
2. **Child-friendly, fixed-dose combination TB treatment developed** and endorsed by WHO.
3. **Comprehensive roadmap for ending childhood TB developed** by CDC and WHO, using new knowledge about how TB presents in children under 15.

THERE IS MORE WORK TO BE DONE TO END CHILDHOOD TB

1. **Slow adoption and uptake of child-friendly diagnostic tools** create a lag in TB diagnosis.
2. **Child-friendly TB treatment has not been optimized**, slowing access to timely and life-saving treatment for children with TB.
3. **Additional research is needed to close the gaps** in diagnosis, treatment and prevention of TB in children.

To learn more, visit:
cdc.gov/GlobalHIVTB

