Update from the chair and vice-chair

Ben Marais, Vice-Chair
Annual meeting of the Child and Adolescent TB Working Group
Paris, France, 14 November 2023
Outline

• Roadmap towards ending tuberculosis in children and adolescents - 2023 update
• Update on the activities of the core team
• Selected activities in 2023 as reported by core team members
• Participation of working group members in programme reviews
• Dissemination of 2022 WHO guidance
• Selected new and forthcoming publications and materials
• Selected sessions during the 54th Union Conference
• Plans for 2024
Development of 2023 Roadmap

• Process led by WHO
• First full draft developed by Martina (EGPAF)
• Core team call in February 2023 to collect input and suggestions
• Stakeholder consultation on 27 April 2023 to obtain additional input from working group members (a wide variety of stakeholders)
• External review in July 2023
• Alignment with the Political Declaration of 2023 UN HLM in September
• Launched today, 14 November 2023!
Core team

• **Quarterly core team calls** in February, June & September & timely **quarterly reports** to UNOPS

• **Elections of next Chair and Vice Chair** in July and August with outcome shared with core team at the end of September and with the full working group in October (following a call between outgoing and incoming leadership). **Handover** later this morning.

• **Survey among members of the core team** to critically reflect on strategic priorities for the next period, under the new chair and vice-chair
Selected activities in 2023 as reported by the core team

- **UN HLM on TB 2023**: public consultation from 6 January – 6 February; multi-stakeholder consultation on 8-9 May; and UNHLM on TB on 22 September 2023

- Increased **attention to TB-associated disability**:
  - a second symposium on post-TB health organized by DTTC/SUN in April 2023 (Marieke Van Der Zalm)
  - a working group on post-TB lung health established in Kenya (Elisabeth Obimbo)
  - a WHO policy brief on TB associated disability (Ernesto Jaramillo, Marzia Calvi)

- **TB-IPD hosted at UCL**: Ongoing curation and entry of data on the treatment of DR-TB/RR-TB in children (20,000 records entered as of June 2023) – Anneke (DTTC/SUN)

- **WHO** convened a Committee in April to review applications to the **23rd EML** (addition of Pretomanid) and **9th EMLc** (amikacin and some formulations of linezolid and PAS removed; and removal of age restrictions for bedaquiline and delamanid)
Selected activities in 2023 as reported by the core team

- **Rome 6 action plan** launched on 28 May & monitoring webinars on 15 June; 3 October and 20 November 2023

- **CHEETA Task force for Expediting Paediatric Investigation of new TB drugs** met with industry partners and conducted a survey among 150 contacts in over 35 countries to explore capacity for conducting trials on new TB drugs

- **1/4/6 x 24 campaign** -ongoing (Lindsay McKenna)

- **Union/CDC sub-Saharan CoE** expanded with 3 countries (Cameroon, Lesotho, and Rwanda) to 12 countries; meeting in Kampala, Uganda from 1-4 August 2023

- WHO convened the **PADO TB 2 meeting** from 3-5 October 2023 with participation of many working group members & set up a **Technical Advisory Group on dosing of medicines** for children and adults
Selected activities in 2023 as reported by the core team

- **Capacity building on the new approaches to diagnosis and treatment including the roll out of the 4m regimen for DS-TB):**
  - Kenya national paediatric conference (Elisabeth Obimbo); Ghana district-level training (Anthony Enimil);
  - Brazil State Level Training starting at the end of October 2023 (Betina/Andrea);
  - Symposium on TB in children and adolescents during national conference in Indonesia from 31 August to 2 September (Steve);
  - International paediatric TB training course by SUN at Goudini, South Africa in September 2023 (Anneke and colleagues & Sabine)

- More attention to TB during pregnancy and the post-partum period: Roadmap 2023; SMART4TB, IMPAACT network and WHO convened a meeting on TB in pregnancy in Washington DC on 26-27 October 2023

- Sharing of new publications, papers and other interesting information with members
Programme reviews & review of draft GF FRs

- Programme reviews with child and adolescent TB component
  - January/February 2023: Myanmar (Annemieke Brands remotely); Viet Nam (Shakil Ahmed); UR Tanzania (Moorine Sekadde); Sierra Leone (Sabine Verkuijl, Tiziana Masini); Ethiopia (Simon Sentumbwe)
  - March 2023: Ghana (Anthony Enimil) & eSwatini (Kerri Viney)
  - April 2023: Uganda (Robert Makombe, and Sabine Verkuijl remotely)

- GF Peer review workshop with 12 countries, 2-4 May, Dar Es Salaam, UR Tanzania
Further dissemination of 2022 WHO guidance

- **Annual meeting of the Working Group** - recordings, report and presentations of meeting on 29 November 2022 available on WG pages on Stop TB website

- **Corrigenda box 5.3** of the WHO operational handbook on the eligibility criteria for the 4m regimen for children and young adolescents with non-severe TB developed & translated into Arabic, French, Russian, and Spanish

- **STAG-TB**: Moorine Sekadde (member), 3-5 July 2023

- **Regional meetings with NTP representatives and rGLC members on MDR-/RR-TB**
  - Bangkok (25-27 April) for SEA and WPR
  - Istanbul (16-18 May) for EUR
  - Cairo (5-7 June) for the EMR region

- **WHO AFRO TB and HHS programme managers meeting** from 31 October – 3 November in Kigali, Rwanda.

- **National TB workshop Russian Federation** organized by the WHO Collaborating Centre Novosibirsk, 20 October 2023 – Kerri, Sabine, Saltanat Yegeubayeva

- Support to **updating of national guidelines** including to Myanmar, South Africa and Sierra Leone - ongoing
Selected publications & materials by WHO & WG members


https://www.pedaids.org/resource/fight-for-what-counts/

Selected publications & materials by WHO and WG members


https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240074286
https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240074309

https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-MHP-HPS-EML-2023.02
Selected resources under development/forthcoming

KNCV Benchmarking Tool for Childhood TB Policies, Practices and Planning


https://openwho.org/channels/end-tb

https://tbtrialtrack.who.int/
Selected sessions on TB in children and adolescents (not exhaustive!)

- **Post-graduate course**: Use of Stool for diagnosis of TB in children; social protection (14 Nov)
- **Workshop**: Introduction and scale up of stool-based testing (14 Nov)
- **Symposia**: Child-friendly TB medicines (15 Nov); Accelerating investigations of TB drugs for children (16 Nov); Introducing shorter regimens (16 Nov); Reaching agreement on inclusion of pregnant and lactating persons in TB research (17 Nov); advances in evidence-based approaches to CAD software to support TB diagnosis in children (17 Nov); Closing the gaps in paediatric TB - Optimizing diagnosis (17Nov); Shorter versus safer- perspectives on shorter regimens for adults and children (17 Nov); Another cursed duet of afflictions- TB & SAM (17 Nov); Into the unknown- Dr-TB in pregnancy (18 Nov)
- **Meet the expert**: TB and HIV in children and adolescents (17Nov)
- **Plenary session**: Accelerating progress towards ending TB in children and adolescents - 2023 Roadmap (17 Nov)
- **Satellite session**: Benefit Kids (16 Nov)
- **Community Connect**: Roadmap (16 Nov); a new approach to accelerating research and close gaps in access to new TB drugs for children (18 Nov); SMART4TB: Engaging
Selected sessions on TB in children and adolescents (not exhaustive!)

- **Community Connect:** Roadmap (16 Nov); a new approach to accelerating research and close gaps in access to new TB drugs for children (18 Nov); SMART4TB: Engaging Communities to Enhance Research and Access to Leading Tools for TB Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment (18 Nov)

- **Oral abstracts:** Moving Paediatric TB Forward (15 Nov); abstracts to share results of Benefit Kids trials (TB CHAMP trial, ChilPref tast panel study, Catalyst Trial PK and safety, sociobehavioural studies, reflections from the CAB); Paediatric TB from determinants to outcomes (15 Nov); meaningful collaboration to End TB with experiences from care givers of children with MDR-/RR-TB (15 Nov); TPT how far are we? (15 Nov); Finding the missing children (15 Nov); PK for better TB treatment including palatability findings (16 Nov); Diagnosis of TB in children (16 Nov); Breathe easy (16 Nov); Operational and clinical studies including decentralization of TB services for children (16 Nov); Validation of diagnostics covering experiences with the use of TDAs in 3 African countries (16 Nov); Gender, TB and Pregnancy (16 Nov); Evidence based interventions to influence policies (16 Nov); Clinical trials and OR for new treatment for adults and children (16 Nov); Epi across the life course (17 Nov); Implementation of TPT in PLHIV (17 Nov); Finding TB cases among vulnerable populations (17 Nov); Person-centered care (17 Nov); Achieving results through community intereventions (17 Nov); Rapid tests for all (17 Nov); Drug sensitive TB treatment and care including socec impact of C-19 on HH with children with RR-TB (18 Nov); From diagnosis to treatment (18 Nov); Improving TB diagnosis and care (18 Nov); Discrimination is the crime (18 Nov)

- **ePosters:** many interesting posters from CAWG members around the world e.g. TB diagnosis including experiences with stool testing in DRC (15 Nov); One breath at a time (15 Nov); How we can improve TB detection (16 Nov); TB management with 3HP demonstration project in Pune, India (16 Nov); M&E of AEs and outcomes (16 Nov);
Planned activities for 2023-2024

• **Further dissemination** of 2022 WHO guidelines and implementation guidance; exploring options for other regional consultations; **assist countries in uptake and roll out of the new recommendations**

• Follow-up to **PADO TB 2**

• Dissemination of the **Roadmap towards ending tuberculosis in children and adolescents – third edition** & implementation of key actions

• Support to to NSP development, GF funding applications and grant making

• **Roster of Consultants** – will become the mechanism to provide and coordinate TA

• **Update terms of reference of the core team and working group** and explore modern options for membership management and update website

• Continue to **highlight challenges and opportunities** in all relevant fora

• **Promote research and development**

• Share proceedings of the 2023 annual meeting on the website and prepare for an **annual meetings of the Child and Adolescent TB working group in 2024** with engagement of all relevant stakeholders
Acknowledgements

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- WHO secretariat: Kerri Viney, Sabine Verkuijl and Annemieke Brands
- Core team members
- Implementation partners
- Funding agencies
- National TB Programmes
- Paediatricians
- Healthcare workers
- Community volunteers
- Child and adolescent TB advocates
- Researchers

If you would like to join, please write to Annemieke Brands at brandsa@who.int or Sabine Verkuijl at verkuijls@who.int