



World Health
Organization



Child & Adolescent TB Working Group

Update from the chair and vice-chair

Moorine Sekadde, Chair & Chishala Chabala,
Vice-Chair

*Annual meeting of the Stop TB Child and
Adolescent TB Working Group*

Bali, Indonesia, 11 November 2023



Outline

- Our mandate
- The 2023 Roadmap
- Management and membership
- Strategic areas and activities for 2024 prioritized by the core team
- Selected activities as reported by working group members
- Selected new publications and materials
- Plans for 2025



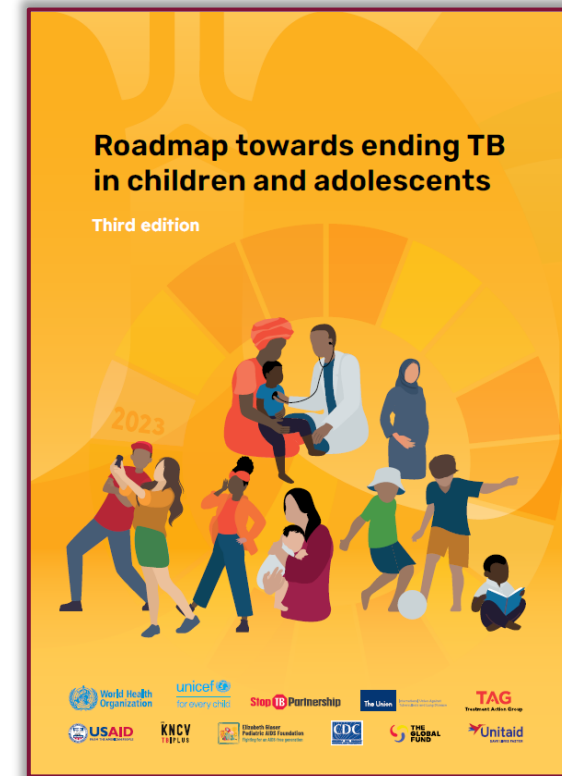
Our mandate

“The mandate of the Stop TB Child and Adolescent TB working group is to advocate for and promote research, policy development, the formulation and implementation of guidelines, the mobilization of human and financial resources, and collaboration with partners working in relevant fields (including maternal and child health, the extended programme on immunization, nutrition and HIV) to achieve the goal of decreasing childhood TB morbidity and mortality.”



Update on the 2023 Roadmap

- Launched on 14 November 2023 in Paris
- Widely disseminated during and following the Union conference in Paris and promotion of uptake of the ten key actions
- Now translated into **Spanish** and **French** available at <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240084254>
- EGPAF and WHO are organizing **Union Community Connect session** on “the vital role of communities and civil society organizations in implementing the ten key actions of the 2023 Roadmap towards ending TB in children and adolescents” on Tuesday 12 November from 3-4 pm

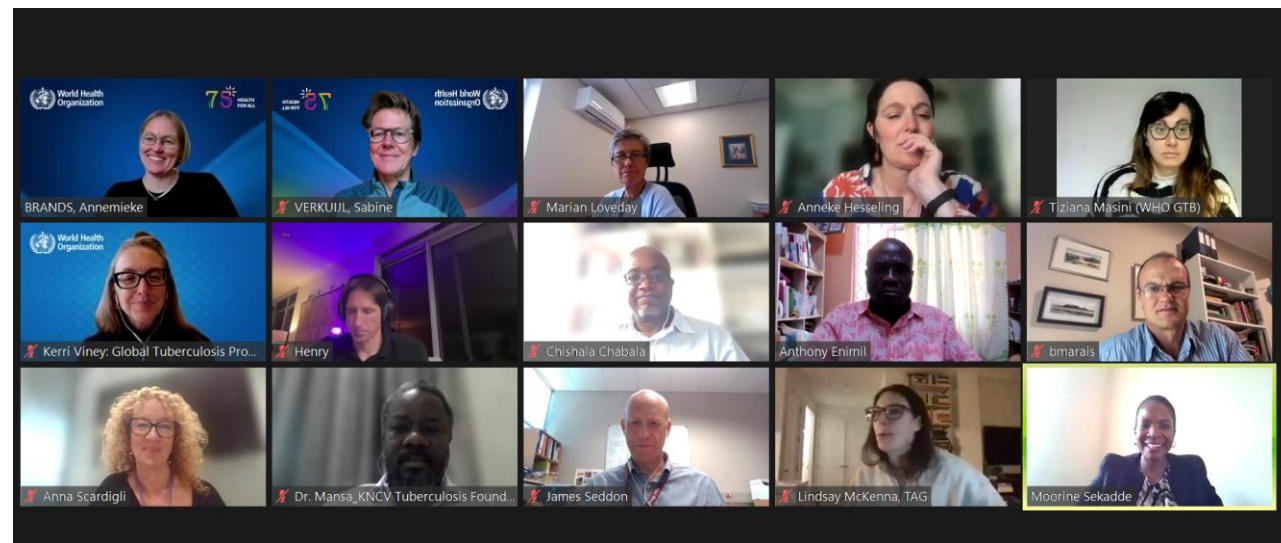


Membership & management

- Membership has grown to **over 500 members**
- New **community representative** on the core team: Gloriah Kerubo Moses from Kenya joined in March 2024
- Email distribution list no longer used -> use of **campaign monitor platform** with bi-monthly messages to share announcements and interesting papers
- Updated **website**: <https://www.stoptb.org/stop-tb-working-groups/child-and-adolescent-tb-working-group>
- **Quarterly core team calls** on 12 December 2023, 23 January, 16 April & 9 July 2024
- Timely **quarterly reports** to UNOPS (January, April, July and September)

Core team: strategic areas and activities for 2024

- In December 2023, the core team met to brainstorm on **activities to address the policy-practice gaps**
- This was followed by a **survey** among core team members to identify **strategic areas and possible activities for 2024**
- Dedicated **planning sessions** were organized in January and April to select activities for 2024



Core team: strategic areas

The strategic areas selected :

- (i) (Facilitate) implementation of the **key activities of the Roadmap** towards ending TB in children and adolescents;
- (ii) Dissemination and implementation of the 2022 WHO policy recommendations;** and,
- (iii) Prioritization of research principles and priorities** with the aim to advocate and mobilize additional resources to conduct research that can contribute to future policy recommendations and implementation guidance

Core team: activities for 2024

Activities for 2024 that were selected:

- Development of a **repository of useful tools** -> available at:
<https://www.stoptb.org/child-and-adolescent-tb/repository-of-resources>
- **Prioritization of research principles and priorities** (ongoing) – a consensus-based process leading to a peer reviewed publication to call for continuing and targeted investments (more on this today after the tea break)
- **Annual meeting prior to the 55th Union conference** – to highlighting experiences with the implementation of the 2023 Roadmap and the 2022 WHO policy recommendations
- **A dashboard to track policy implementation** (open access/online) – to be done

Selected activities in 2024 reported by working group members

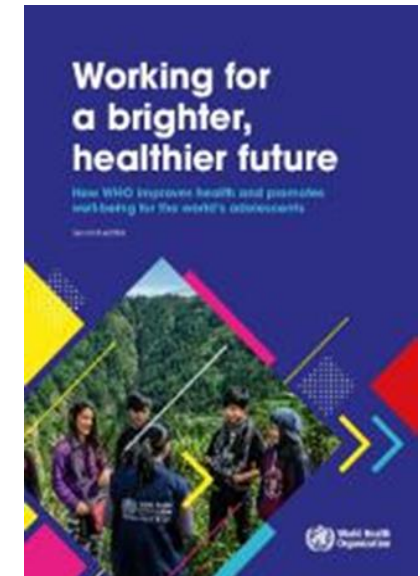
- **The European network for research in childhood tuberculosis (PTBNet)** convened the 4th International Meeting on Childhood Tuberculosis on 15-16 February 2024 in Barcelona, Spain
- **TBCON24 meeting by the Indian Respiratory Society/Pediatric Respiratory society** was organized by Prof Sangeeta Sharma on 17 March on the occasion of World TB Day
- WHO convened a **Talk Show on World TB Day** highlighting that TB can be ended with increased leadership increased investments and faster uptake of new WHO recommendations, 19 March 2024
- **The Kenya paediatric association** organized a **conference** from, 16-20 April 2024 – Dr Elisabeth Maleche Obimbo
- **The International Pediatric Association (IPA)** organized a **webinar on TB disease burden, the roadmap and in-country challenges** on 25 April 2024 – Prof Rajeshwar Dayal and Dr Sabine Verkuijl

Selected activities in 2024 reported by working group members

- The Desmond Tutu TB Centre at Stellenbosch University launched a **BENEFIT Kids social media toolkit** that can be accessed at: <https://blogs.sun.ac.za/dttc/benefit-kids-conferences/> - Tina Sachs
- In March, the **SMART4TB Pregnancy and TB report** from the TB in pregnancy meeting which took place in Washington DC in October 2023 was published at jhu.edu – Dr Nicole Salazar Austin
- A **statement on Community Consensus on the Earlier Inclusion of Pregnant Women and Persons in TB Research** was published at treatmentactiongroup.org - Lindsay McKenna
- On 17 April, the Aurum Institute in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Clinton Health Access Initiative, the World Health Organization and Unitaid convened an **IMPAACT4TB project webinar on the Early Market Access Vehicle (EMAV) for the new paediatric formulation of Rifapentine for TB Prevention** (recording available on YouTube)

Selected activities in 2024 reported by working group members

- In May during the WHA, WHO released the **second edition** of its biennial report, **“Working for a brighter, healthier future: how WHO improves health and promotes well-being for the world’s adolescents”** featuring the work on TB and adolescents
- The **Union/ CDC Centre of Excellence** conducted a **training of trainers** on the management of TB in children, during the first week of August in Lesotho
- In September, the **Desmond Tutu TB Centre (DTTC) at Stellenbosch** convened the **annual international paediatric TB training** in Rawsonville, South Africa – Prof Simon Schaaf, Prof Anneke Hesselning and colleagues
- DTCC also convened three Unitaid-funded **Benefit Kids project workshops on the management of drug-resistant TB** in **South Africa** (September), **India** and the **Philippines** (October)– Prof Anneke Hesselning , Dr Anthony Garcia, Tina Sachs and colleagues



<https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/376861/9789240093966-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Selected activities in 2024 reported by working group members

- In October, the **TACTiC project (Test, Avoid, Cure TB in Children)** by MSF convened a webinar to share the outcome of an extensive **survey of policies** on the management of TB in children and adolescents in 14 countries will be shared- Stijn Deborggraeve
- In October, WHO, after consultation with partners, submitted an **application to the 24th WHO Essential Medicines List (EML) and 10th Essential Medicins for Children (EMLc)** for inclusion of the new Rifapentine 150 mg scored dispersible tablet in both the EML and EMLc and to remove the distinction between “core” and “complementary” lists
- **Rome6 monitoring webinars** in February, June and October and **preparations for Rome7** on 3-4 February 2025



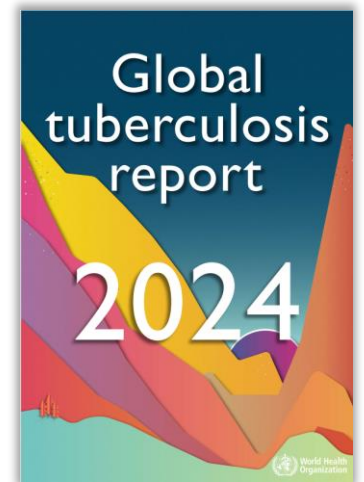
Selected activities in 2024 reported

- The **committee of experts on TB in childhood and adolescence of the Ministry of Health in Brazil** updated the **guidance on the Clinical Management of TB in children and adolescents** with the inclusion of new preventive tuberculosis treatment, primary chemoprophylaxis in newborns and shortened tuberculosis treatment, prepared **information notes** published by the Ministry of Health on these new treatments, and **conducted training** in different states: Maranhão, Sergipe, Amapá, Minas Gerais – Dr Betina Mendez Alcântara Gabardo and Dr Andrea Rossoni



Selected activities in 2024 as reported by WG members

- In October, WHO convened a Second Expert Consultation for the development on **WHO guidance on the management of TB-associated disabilities: respiratory conditions**
- **TB-IPD hosted at UCL:** throughout the year, the DTTC/SUN established data sharing agreements and continued the curation and transferring of cohort data on DR-TB in children and pregnant women
- WHO and the SMART4TB consortium are leading a **process to reach consensus on the earlier inclusion of pregnant and post-partum women in TB trials** and established five working groups (covering pre-clinical trials, TB drug clinical trials, maternal TB surveillance, TB vaccines and advocacy)
 - Many CAWG members contributing, CAWG chair co-chairing the maternal TB surveillance WG
 - Final consensus meeting planned for 25- 26 February 2025
- A **featured topic on TB and pregnancy** in the **Global TB Report 2024** launched on 29 October available at: <https://www.who.int/teams/global-tuberculosis-programme/tb-reports/global-tuberculosis-report-2024/featured-topics/tb-and-pregnancy>



Planned activities for 2024-2025

- **Further dissemination** of 2022 WHO guidelines and implementation guidance; exploring options for other regional consultations; **assist countries in uptake and roll out of these and newer recommendations** published since 2022
- Dissemination of the **Roadmap towards ending tuberculosis in children and adolescents – third edition** & implementation of key actions
- Support to **Programme reviews** e.g. Uganda (March), Myanmar (April/May), **development of National Strategic Plans (NSPs), Global Fund funding applications and grant making**
- Update **terms of reference of the core team and working group** and keep website up to date
- Continue to **highlight challenges and opportunities** in all relevant fora
- **Promote research and development**
- Share proceedings of the 2024 annual meeting on the website and prepare for an **annual meeting of the Child and Adolescent TB working group in 2025** with engagement of all relevant stakeholders

Acknowledgements

- Farhana Amanullah, past chair; Steve Graham, past chair; Ben Marais, Past vice-chair
- WHO secretariat: Kerri Viney, Sabine Verkuijl, Tiziana Masini and Annemieke Brands
- Core team members
- Implementation partners
- Funding agencies
- National TB Programmes
- Paediatricians
- Healthcare workers
- Community volunteers
- Child and adolescent TB advocates
- Researchers



CHILD AND ADOLESCENT TB WORKING GROUP

The Child and Adolescent TB Working Group is one of the seven working groups of the Stop TB Partnership. It supports the Partnership in its goal of eliminating tuberculosis (TB). The Working Group works with the objective to promote research, policy development, the formulation and implementation of guidelines, the mobilization of human and financial resources, and collaboration with partners working in relevant fields (including maternal, child and adolescent health, the extended programme on immunization, and HIV) to achieve the goal of decreased childhood TB mortality and morbidity.



**Child
& Adolescent
TB Working Group**

<https://www.stoptb.org/stop-tb-working-groups/child-and-adolescent-tb-working-group>

If you would like to join, kindly self-subscribe at:

<https://confirmsubscription.com/h/d/641ACBE2148AECE9>

or write to the secretariat at: CAWG@who.int