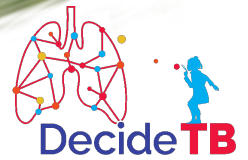


DECIDE TB NEWSLETTER N°1

MARCH 2024



Improve the diagnosis of Tuberculosis in children with treatment decision algorithms

EDITORIAL

On this 2024 World TB day, the Decide TB project team is happy to share its first newsletter!

The Decide TB project focuses on childhood tuberculosis (TB) detection and care provided by healthcare workers at lower levels of the health care system, such as District Hospitals (DH) and Primary Health Centres (PHC).

Built on a strong partnership between national TB programs (NTPs) in Mozambique and Zambia, and researchers from both countries - Instituto Nacional de Saude (INS) in Mozambique and University of Zambia (UNZA) - and elsewhere (France, Germany, South Africa, United Kingdom), this 4-year project has been officially launched in April 2023.

The first year of the project was dedicated to preparatory work and now Decide TB is ready to begin implementation of programmatic pilots of new TB diagnostic algorithms for children in Zambia and Mozambique.

The newsletter, to be published every 6 months, will be an opportunity to keep you informed of its progress.

Together with the whole TB community, Decide TB teams are proud to claim "Yes, we can end TB!"

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 decide-tb.com

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NEWS FROM THE FIELD



Technical workshops in Zambia & Mozambique

In July 2023, the NTPs of Zambia and Mozambique organized country consultative workshops with support from UNZA, INS, and other Decide TB consortium members.

Participants were Ministry of Health representatives, paediatric TB stakeholders and international project partners, as well as TB experts. Discussions were held on current recommendations and practices in terms of childhood TB screening, diagnosis and treatment.

The workshop resolved to pilot Child TB treatment decision algorithms in a manner tailored to each country's context.

Formative phase

The "Decide TB formative phase" started mid-February in Zambia, and will last for approximately two months, ending before the start of the trial. Consisting of a rapid assessment of health facilities, districts and communities, it focuses on the local health & social systems, and specially existing services related to child health and TB. The results of this work will be used to make the best decisions for the implementation of the project in each district.

Data are collected by a team of NTP representatives and two trained social science research assistants (SSRAs) from UNZA. This included individual and group interviews with key informants, health care workers and parents/caregivers as well as self-administered questionnaires and observation of the facilities and the community settings. This field team was trained in January by members of the Decide TB team from Stellenbosch, Bordeaux and Zambia universities.



Selection of the sites

The Decide TB project will be implemented in four districts in each country, and within each district, in one district hospital and six primary health centres.

In the last quarter of 2023, the NTPs conducted a site selection survey at national and district level, with support from researchers to identify the districts and health facilities where the project will take place.

The survey included the review of existing child health and TB data in national databases and specific data collection at district-level.

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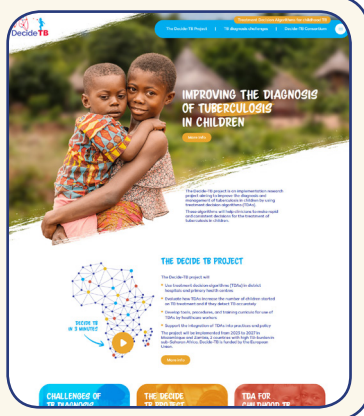
COMMUNICATION

Decide TB website is online!

Decide-TB has developed its first communication tools. The project website is already online at the following address:

www.decide-tb.com

X, Bluesky & Facebook accounts are accessible from the website.



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