

# DECIDE TB NEWSLETTER N°2

NOVEMBER 2024



Improve the diagnosis of Tuberculosis in children with treatment decision algorithms

## EDITORIAL

It was a busy year for Decide TB!

We prepared the start of the Decide-TB trial, we designed job aids and training curricula, developed tools for implementing the Treatment Decision Algorithms (TDAs), collected formative data to tailor the implementation to contexts, and progressed on the IPD meta-analysis phasis.

Since June 2024, the Decide TB project has entered an active phase of data collection in districts participating in the trial in Mozambique and Zambia, and switched to the intervention. The deployment of TDAs at lower levels of health care has started!

Dr Chishala CHABALA

Dr Olivier MARCY



[decide-tb.com](https://decide-tb.com)

### WRITING TEAM

Natasha Namuziye  
Clementine Roucher  
Nicolas Koskas

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## NEWS FROM THE FIELD



SOC Training Jangamo Inhambane Mozambique

### Trial start in Mozambique

In Mozambique, Q3 2024 was dedicated to the formative phase research, carried out by a multidisciplinary team from INS (Instituto Nacional de Saúde) Maputo CISPOC, INS CIOB, DPSI Inhambane and UBx. The Decide-TB trial started on July 21 in all 4 districts, with training on Standard of Care (SOC) data collection conducted among the TB focal points and the clinicians from each selected facilities. Health Care workers were trained to enter individual data from the current practices of TB management in a digital tool. Buzi district was randomized to be the first to switch to the intervention phase on October 21st.

### Individual Patient Data (IPD) Meta-analysis

In parallel with the Decide TB trial, an IPD meta-analysis protocol was finalised and submitted for peer-review by a scientific journal. Data from previous cohort studies of children with presumptive TB were merged. Thanks to this IPD, the external evaluation of the WHO-recommended TDAs described in the operational handbook is almost complete. Preliminary analyses have been carried out for the evaluation of the TB-Speed SAM and PAANTHER algorithms.

### Starting TDAs implementation in Zambia

First country to start the Decide TB trial in June 2024 with the SOC phase in all 4 selected districts, Zambia Chirundu district (Southern Province) was the first randomly selected to switch to the intervention phase on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and to start implementing TDAs as part of routine child TB screening, diagnosis and management services.

The intervention phase started in Chirundu with the training of the selected district hospital and PHCs health care workers:

- how to use TDAs for childhood TB screening & diagnosis
- how to collect individual clinical data using a digital tool
- how to integrate TDAs in existing child health management practices
- how to take and interpret a Chest X-Ray
- how to collect and analyse microbiological samples for TB diagnostic

The training was provided over 5 days, by provincial-level and district level NTP staff, who had themselves been trained in July by NTP Zambia, UNZA and IRD.

The trainees returned to their health facilities to share with their colleagues. The NTP national pediatric TB coordinator then visited each healthy facility to support implementation and integration of the TDAs within routine practice.



TDAs Training Chirundu Southern Zambia

## COMMUNICATION / DISSEMINATION

Decide TB project shares its first presentations at **Union Conference 2024** (Nov 12 to 16 in Bali):



- "TDA validation using data from established cohorts: The Decide-TB experience" **Marieke van der Zalm** - **SP03-419-13** - **Wednesday Nov 13** - **10:21-10:35**
- "The performance of WHO-recommended child TB TDAs in an individual participant dataset from multi-centre diagnostic accuracy studies" - **Leyla Larsson** - **OA32-361-15** - **Friday Nov 15** - **10:28-10:37**
- "Diagnostic capacity for childhood TB before introduction of TDAs at decentralized levels of healthcare in Zambia" - **Alan Kachuka** - **SOA09-684-15** - **Friday Nov 15** - **10:19-10:28**
- "Optimizing district selection for implementing child TB TDAs: insights from a hybrid study in Mozambique and Zambia" - **Natasha Lebrun** - **OA39-409-15** - **Friday Nov 15** - **14:25-14:34**

### 2 films accessible on the links

The project produced two short educational films, available on the website:

- [Improving the diagnosis of Tuberculosis in children by using treatment decision algorithms \(4 min\)](#)
- [The Decide TB project \(3 min\)](#)



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