

DECIDE TB NEWSLETTER N°6

NOVEMBER 2026

DecideTB

Improve the diagnosis of tuberculosis in children with treatment decision algorithms

EDITORIAL

Decide TB is entering a new stage after progressive implementation of Treatment Decision Algorithms (TDAs) for children tuberculosis in Mozambique and Zambia over the last two years. As field implementation and endline activities conclude, project teams are focusing on consolidating data, analysing it, and interpreting the findings from the pragmatic trial and its complementary studies.

This transition reflects the sustained commitment of the National TB Programmes, healthcare workers, communities, researchers and partner institutions who have supported the use of TDAs in routine care.

The Union World Conference on Lung Health in Rio de Janeiro, 17–20 November 2026, will be a major opportunity to share the first Decide TB findings. The project will contribute 3 oral presentations and 5 e-posters to the official scientific programme, as well as a one-hour satellite symposium bringing together complementary perspectives on TDA-based childhood TB management.

These contributions mark the beginning of a broader dissemination effort, leading to the final Decide TB symposium in Lusaka, Zambia, in March 2027. Our ambition remains to translate rigorous evidence and field experience into practical guidance to improve childhood TB care.

Dr Chishala CHABALA Dr Olivier MARCY

decide-tb.com

FUNDER

This project 101103283 - Decide-TB - HORIZON -JU-GH-EDCTP3-2022-01 is supported by the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking.

Global Health EDCTP3

Co-funded by the European Union

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Project implementation: district status

Over the last two-years, Treatment Decision Algorithms (TDAs) were gradually rolled out in five districts in each country. This roll-out was strengthened through clinical mentoring, refresher training, supportive supervision and community mobilisation activities.

The implementation phase of the Decide TB stepped-wedge, cluster randomised trial was concluded in June in Zambia and in July in Mozambique. However, follow-up of the children who received anti-tuberculosis treatment is ongoing for up to six months after the conclusion of the implementation phase.

Endline assessments for the acceptability, feasibility & implementation research components were carried out during the final months of the trial period, alongside the final clinical mentoring and supervision visits.

The project is now focused on consolidating and cleaning the collected data in preparation for in-depth analysis and the dissemination of the research findings.



Data monitoring field visits, Request Mutanga DH, Kalomo

Funded by the European Union under the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking. Neither of the aforementioned parties can be held responsible for them

DISSEMINATION HIGHLIGHTS

The Union WORLD CONFERENCE ON LUNG HEALTH 2026 RIO DE JANEIRO NOV 17-20

Decide TB @ Union Conference 2026

Decide Decide TB will present its first findings at the Union World Conference on Lung Health in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (17–20 November 2026), with three oral presentations and five e-posters covering effectiveness, acceptability, feasibility & health economics.

The project will also host a one-hour satellite symposium on 20 November, chaired by Sabine Verkuijl (Medical Officer at WHO) and Olivier Marcy (Principal investigator), exploring the use of TDAs in childhood TB management, from clinical practice to implementation, policy and digital tools.

See the next page for the full programme

Final dissemination symposium - 15/16 March 2027

The Decide TB consortium is preparing its final dissemination symposium, which will take place in Lusaka, Zambia.
This international meeting will bring together National TB Programmes, researchers, clinicians, policymakers and partners to share the main trial findings and discuss their implications for future policies, clinical practice and TDA implementation.
Further details will be shared in the next newsletter.

Scientific Writing Workshop - 17/19 March 2027

Immediately following the symposium, a three-day scientific writing workshop will bring together the lead authors of upcoming Decide TB publications.
Through collaborative working sessions, participants will advance the preparation and writing of scientific papers analysing the trial's findings, with the aim of accelerating their publication and dissemination.

PARTNERS

université de BORDEAUX IRD Institut de Recherche pour le Développement Stellenbosch University LMU University of Sheffield

DECIDE TB @ UNION CONF 2026

Union World Conference on Lung Health - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil · 17–20 November 2026

ORAL PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

THU 19 NOV
09:26 – 09:34
Europa II
OA27-325-19

Dr Akshita GUPTA
Added value of CAD4pTB in a novel prediction score for radiological severity of pulmonary tuberculosis in children

THU 19 NOV
14:34 – 14:42
Oceania VI/VII
OA31-359-19

Joanna ORNE-GLIEMANN
Effect of introducing treatment decision algorithms on the acceptability and feasibility of childhood tuberculosis diagnosis at decentralised levels of care in Mozambique and Zambia

THU 19 NOV
14:50 – 14:58
Oceania VI/VII
OA31-361-19

Marc d'ELBÉE
Within-trial cost-effectiveness of using treatment decision algorithms for child tuberculosis in Mozambique and Zambia

E-POSTERS

TUE 17 NOV
13:15 – 13:20
E-P Screen 2
EP02-652-17

Dr Olivier MARCY
Effect of using treatment decision algorithms on childhood TB treatment initiation in Mozambique and Zambia: Results from a pragmatic stepped-wedge cluster-randomised trial

WED 18 NOV
13:20 – 13:25
E-P Screen 3
EP19-817-18

Dr Akshita GUPTA
Including CAD4pTB in the WHO treatment decision algorithms for children with presumptive pulmonary TB

WED 18 NOV
13:25 – 13:30
E-P Screen 4
EP20-828-18

Carla MONIN
Acceptability of treatment decision algorithms for TB diagnosis in children among healthcare workers in decentralised routine care: A mixed-methods study in Mozambique and Zambia

THU 18 NOV
12:20 – 12:25
E-P Screen 4
EP28-901-19

Marc d'ELBÉE
Household costs before and after implementation of paediatric TB treatment decision algorithms in Mozambique and Zambia

FRI 20 NOV
12:35 – 12:40
E-P Screen 8
EP48-1093-20

Dr Akshita GUPTA
Performance of CAD4pTB in children with presumptive pulmonary TB: An individual participant data meta-analysis

DECIDE TB SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM

FRIDAY 20 NOV / 08:00 - 09:00 / SS11 Satellite Session / Americas II

Treatment Decision Algorithms (TDAs) a comprehensive approach for childhood TB management

Chairs | Sabine VERKUIJL - Olivier MARCY

08:00 – 08:05	**Introduction** Sabine VERKUIJL & Olivier MARCY
08:05 – 08:15	**How can TDAs help clinicians in the management of TB in children?** Dr Chishala CHABALA
08:15 – 08:25	**Are TDAs accurate in detecting TB in children and can they include severity prediction?** Laura OLBRICH
08:25 – 08:35	**Are TDAs feasible, acceptable, equitable and cost-effective at decentralised levels of care?** Joanna ORNE-GLIEMANN
08:35 – 08:45	**How can National TB Programs implement TDAs and transfer research findings into policy and funding decisions?** Dr Angel MUBANGA
08:45 – 08:55	**Are digital tools the way forward for TDA use at decentralised levels of care?** Dr Celso KHOSA
08:55 – 09:00	**Questions & Answers** Sabine VERKUIJL & Olivier MARCY