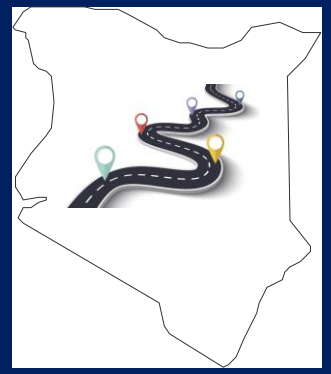
Introducing the 4-month regimen for children and adolescents with non-severe TB in Kenya: implementation experiences



Elizabeth Maleche Obimbo

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University of Nairobi, Kenya

Committee of Experts for Child TB, Kenya NTLP

University of Nairobi

Co-authors: Jacqueline Kisia, Immaculate Kathure, Kenya NTLP

Lorraine Mugambi-Nyaboga, CHS

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Ministry of Health

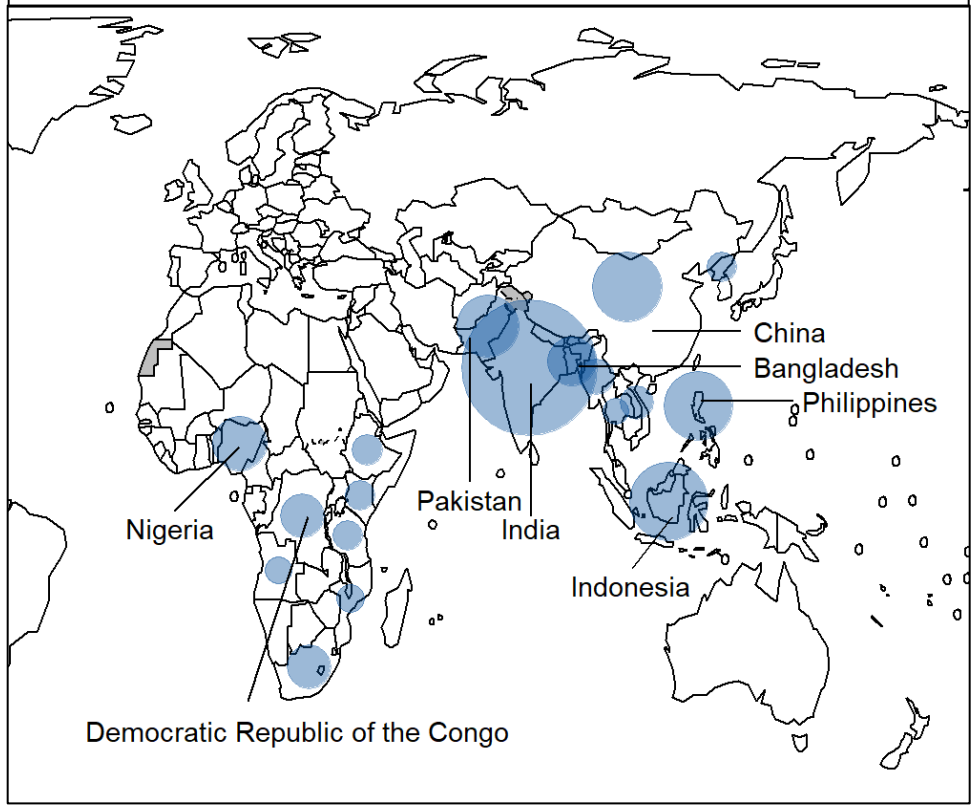
National Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Lung Disease Program

Annual meeting of the Child and Adolescent TB Working Group.

14th November 2023. Paris, France

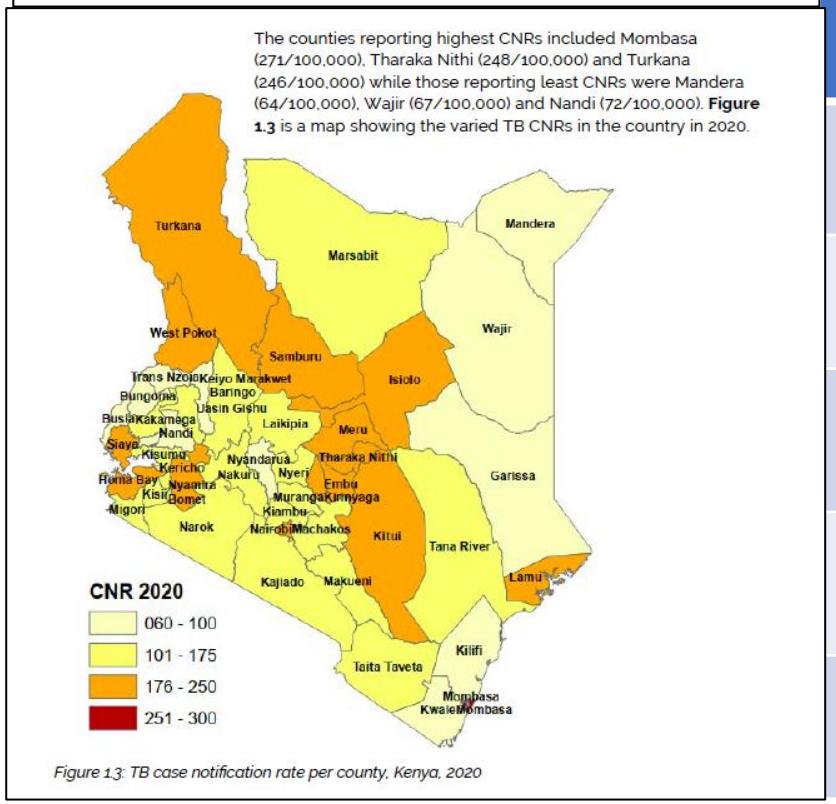
This is Kenya – Demographics, TB burden

Gobal TB Report 2022. No. of incident TB cases in top 30 countries globally.



Among top 30 TB burden countries in the world
EIGHT ARE IN AFRICA, INCLUDING KENYA

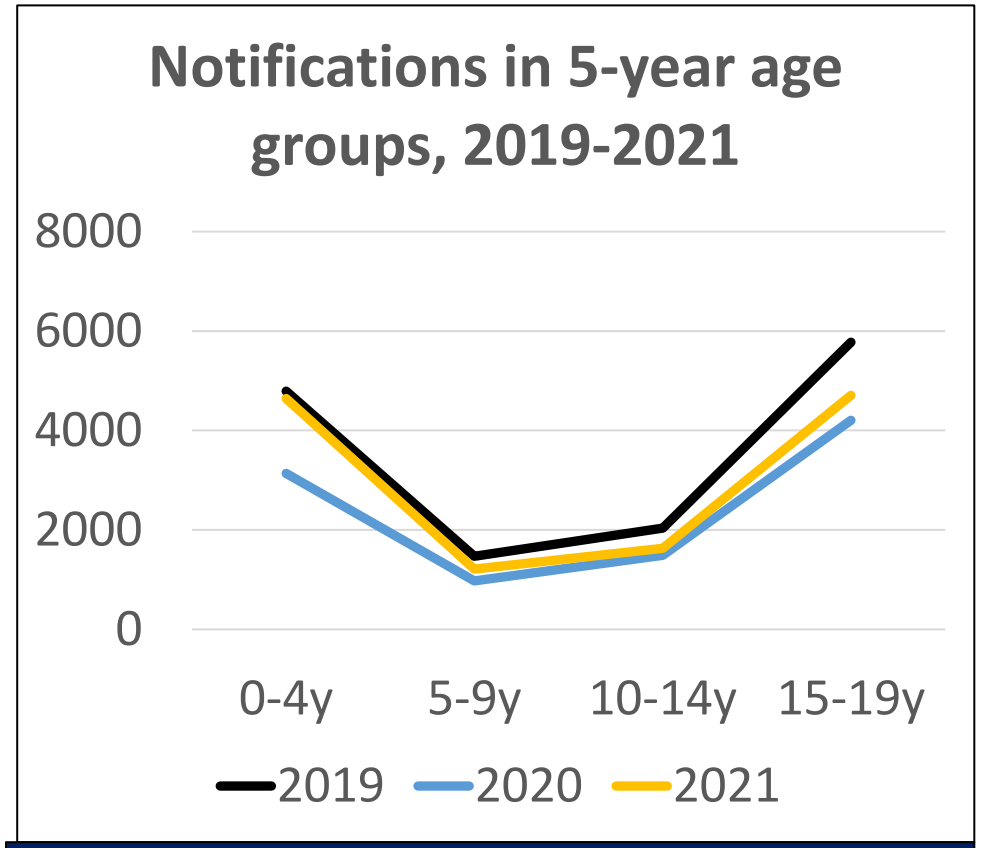
Kenya TB case notification rate 2020.
251 (152-373) per 100,000



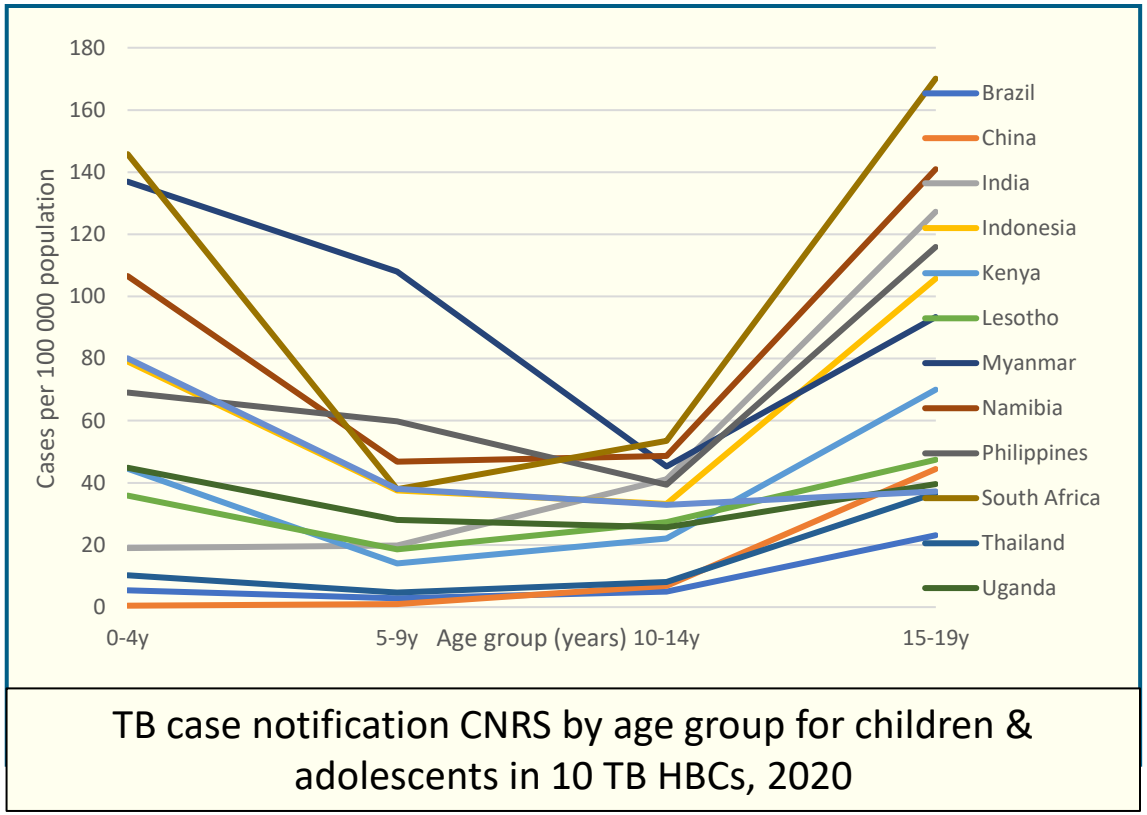
High level of TB in most counties in Kenya

Demographic Characteristic	Detail
Population	54 million
Median Age	19 years
Life Expectancy	63 years
Fertility rate	3.2 live births per woman
Under 5 mortality rate	36 per 1000

TB in children and adolescents in Kenya
Highest hit age groups: children <5yr, older teenagers 15-19



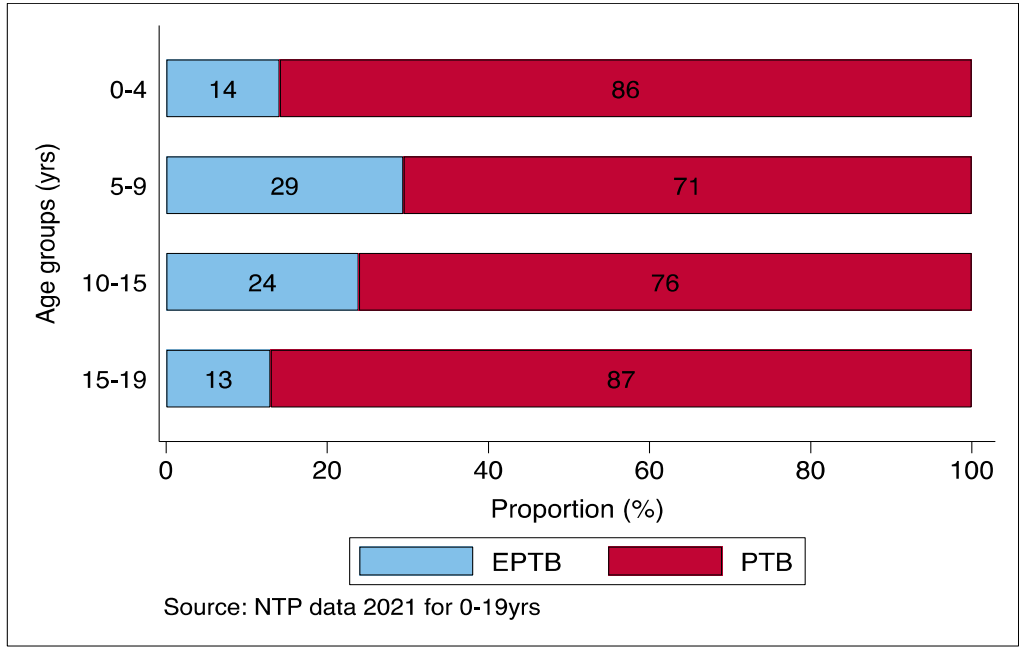
In Kenya, highest no cases 0-5yr and 15-19yr old

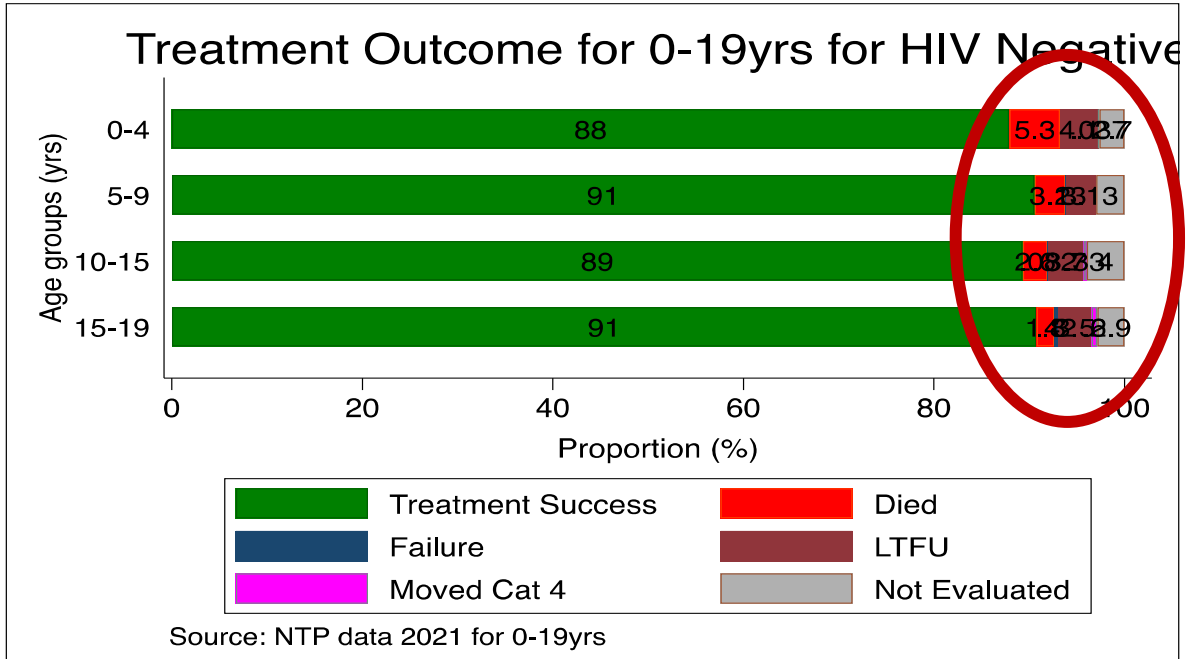


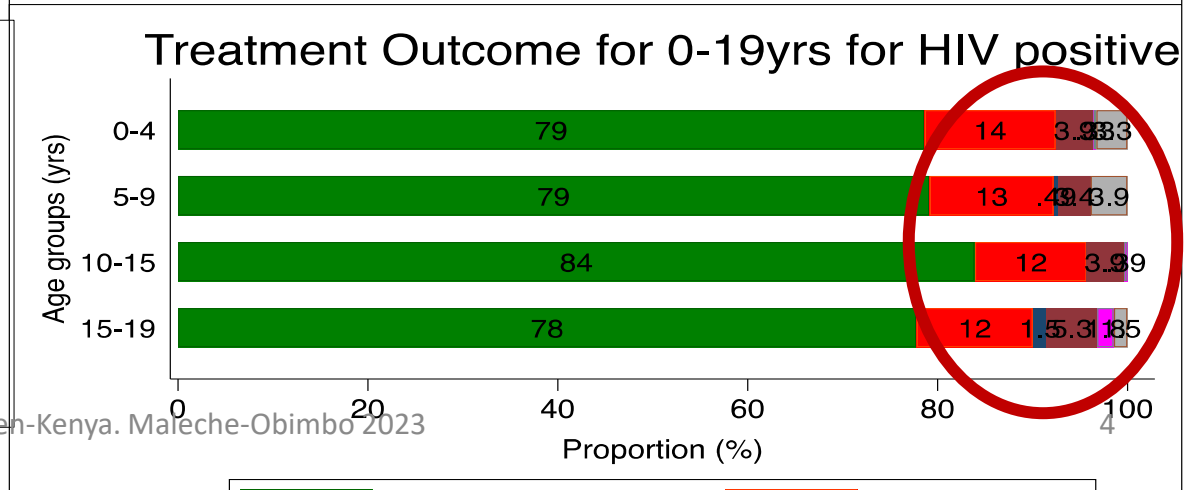
TB case notification CNRS by age group for children & adolescents in 10 TB HBCs, 2020

10 high burden TB countries globally: highest no cases: U5yr and older teens

Type of TB, Treatment Outcomes: 0 – 19 years, Kenya 2021







Pulmonary TB: 71% to 87%

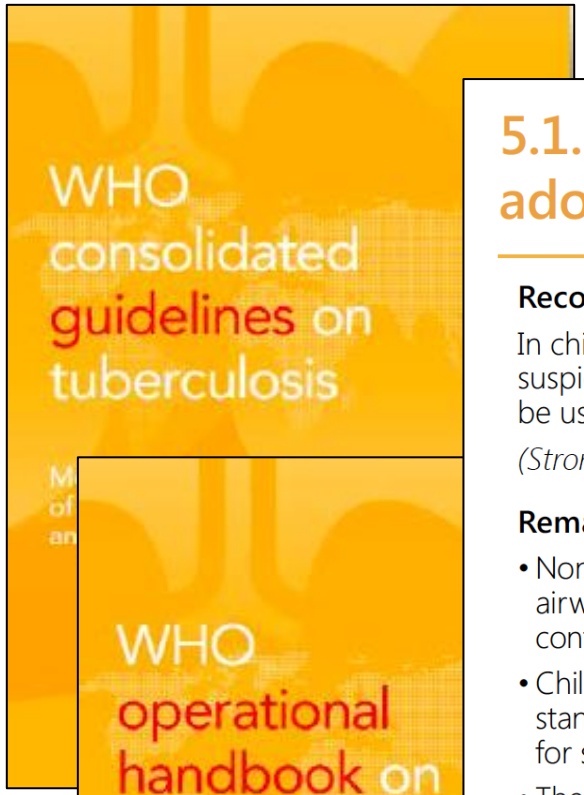
Treatment success <15 yrs

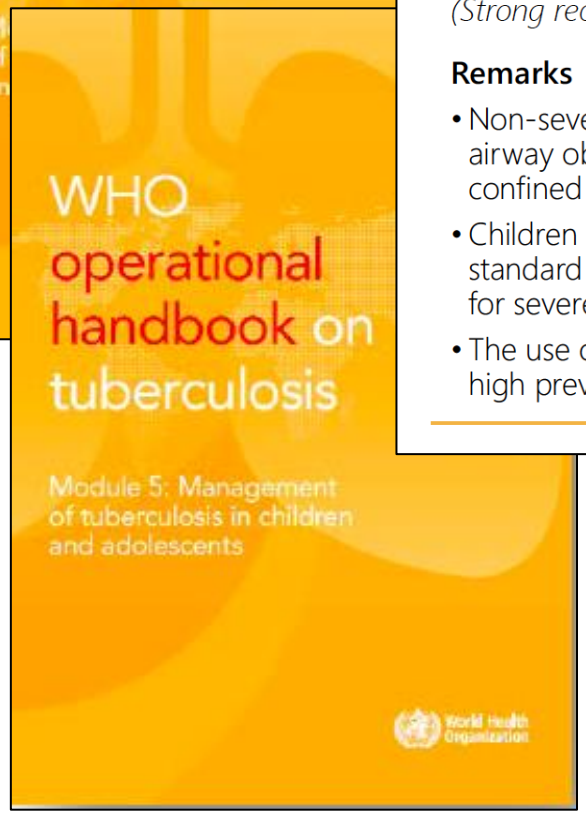
All: 87.5%. HIV+: 80.9%

Death HIV neg: 1.4 (15yr+) to 5.3% (U5s)

Death HIV pos: 12.1 (15y+) to 14.0% (U5s)

Updated Guidelines on Management of TB in Children & Adolescents: *W.H.O. 2022*





5.1. Treatment shortening in children and adolescents with non-severe TB

Recommendation:

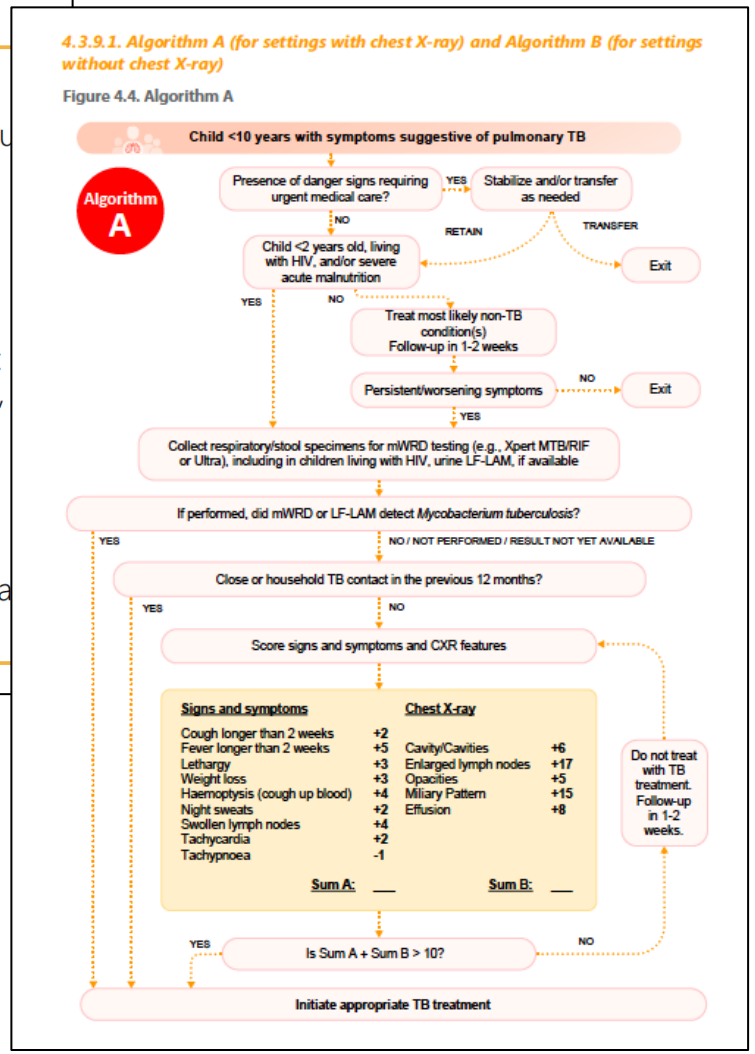
In children and adolescents between 3 months and 16 years of age with non-severe TB (without suspicion or evidence of MDR/RR-TB), a 4-month treatment regimen (2HRZ(E)/2HR) should be used.

(Strong recommendation, moderate certainty of evidence)

Remarks

- Non-severe TB is defined as: Peripheral lymph node TB; intrathoracic lymph node TB without airway obstruction; uncomplicated TB pleural effusion or paucibacillary, non-cavitary disease, confined to one lobe of the lungs, and without a miliary pattern.
- Children and adolescents who do not meet the criteria for non-severe TB should receive the standard six-month treatment regimen (2HRZE/4HR), or recommended treatment regimens for severe forms of extrapulmonary TB.
- The use of ethambutol in the first two months of treatment is recommended in settings with a high prevalence of HIV,[26] or of isoniazid resistance.[27]

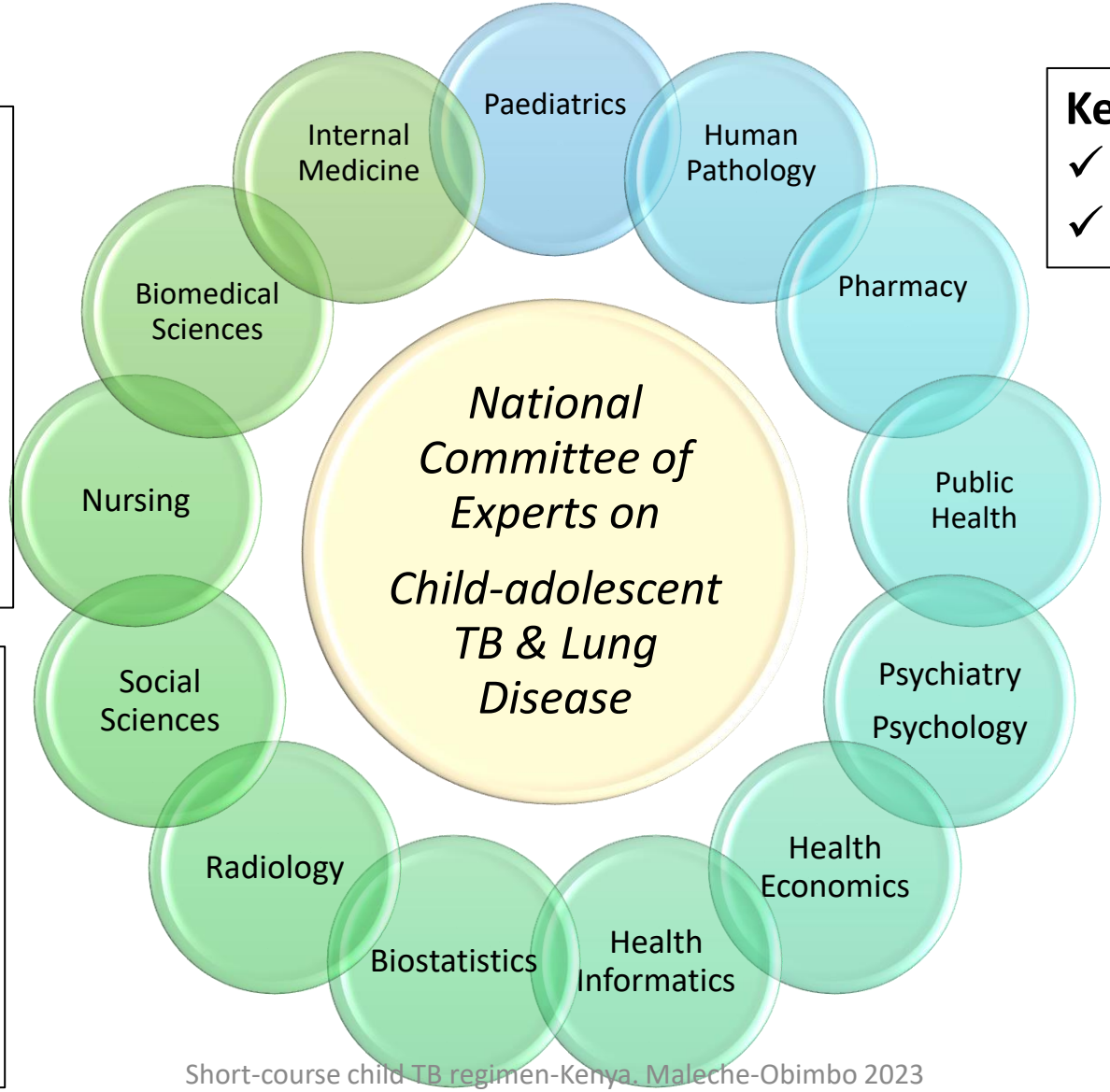
https://www.who.int/health-topics/tuberculosis



Kenya National Committee of Experts (CoE) on Child-adolescent TB & Lung Disease: Driver of Adaptation

National TB / Lung Program
- ✓ Head NTLP
- ✓ Paed focal person (Dr)
- ✓ Commodity
- ✓ Laboratory
- ✓ M & E
- ✓ Logistics

Academia - Universities
- ✓ Paediatric Pulmonologist,
- ✓ Implementation Scientist
- ✓ Infectious Dx specialists



Kenya Ministry of Health
- ✓ National AIDS Program
- ✓ Division of Child/Adol Health

Kenya Medical Research Institute
- ✓ Researchers in Child TB (Paed IS)

Development Partners
- ✓ CHS-TB ARC (CHS)
- ✓ Global Fund
- ✓ WHO – TB focal person

Overview of the steps taken in review new WHO guidelines, and adaptation for Kenya paediatric guidelines

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July to August 2022

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Experts & Implementers

3-day on-site workshop

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Adapted Kenya guideline

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Sensitised wider stakeholders new algorithms & short-course TB treatment for children

Half day meeting (on-site + virtual) Oct 2022

Presentation of the algorithm and proposed short-course TB treatment regimen to wider audience of stakeholders

- County representatives TB, TB-HIV
- Other MoH units – child health
- Faith based & Private Health Providers
- TB/lung Experts
- Patient communities, CSOs
- Professional associations
- Private Health Providers
- Other partners

Data Synthesis & Guideline adaptation
Experts & Implementers
3-day on-site workshop

Paediatricians from CoE, Academia
Prof Maleche-Obimbo *(Pulmonologist)*
Dr Jacquie Oliwa *(Implememtation scientist)*

- Reviewed evidence for new guidelines
- Analysed Local National Data
- Examined local relevant guidelines
- **Adapted Kenya paediatric TB guidelines**

WHO guide: How to decide which child gets 4 vs 6 mth TB regimen:

Box 5.3 Eligibility criteria for the 4-month regimen (2HRZ(E)/2HR) in children and adolescents aged between 3 months and 16 years with non-severe pulmonary or peripheral lymph node TB in various settings

In children and adolescents who have undergone bacteriological testing and CXR, a 4-month treatment regimen should be started in children and adolescents meeting all of the following three criteria:

- CXR findings consistent with non-severe TB (CXR should ideally be done at baseline, but it can be performed at any point during the treatment course):
  - intrathoracic lymph node TB without significant airway obstruction; or
  - PTB confined to one lobe with no cavities and no miliary pattern; or
  - uncomplicated pleural effusion (without pneumothorax or empyema);
- TB that is negative, trace, very low or low using Xpert MTB/RIF or Ultra, or sputum smear-negative (if Xpert MTB/RIF or Ultra not available);
- the child or adolescent has mild TB symptoms that do not require hospitalization. [a]

Microbiologic tests

Ability to classify as…

- "Paucibacillary" Xpert or ultra (trace, very low, low)
- or bacteriologic negative by sputum smear or xpert

INVESTIGATIONS TO DECIDE (WHO 2022)

Chest x-ray

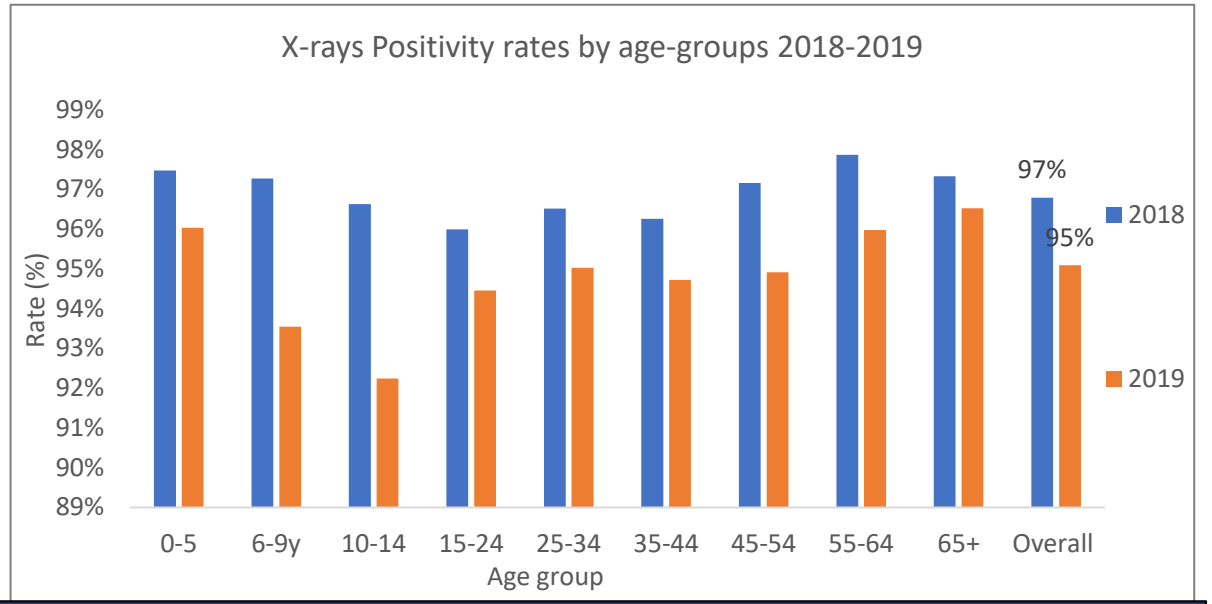
Ability to identify the following pathology in the child's CXR….

- Intrathoracic LN no airway compression
- Pleural effusion "uncomplicated",
- No of lobes with pathology – one
- Rule out miliary pattern
- Be sure no cavitation

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

How useful was CXR for TB diagnosis in Children & Adolescents in Kenya? Kenya 2019 CXR Data



Age group	Total Patients 2019	X-rays Done 2019	X-ray Uptake (%)	Positivity rate (%)
0-5	5118	3380	**66%**	**96%**
5-9	1141	589	**52%**	**94%**
10-14	2057	851	**41%**	**92%**
15-24	15056	4039	27%	94%
25-34	21945	6329	29%	95%
35-44	18479	6058	33%	95%
45-54	10842	3953	36%	95%
55-64	5645	2309	41%	96%
65+	5537	2735	49%	97%
Overall	**85820**	**30243**	**35%**	**95%**

What % of children with presumed TB got CXR?

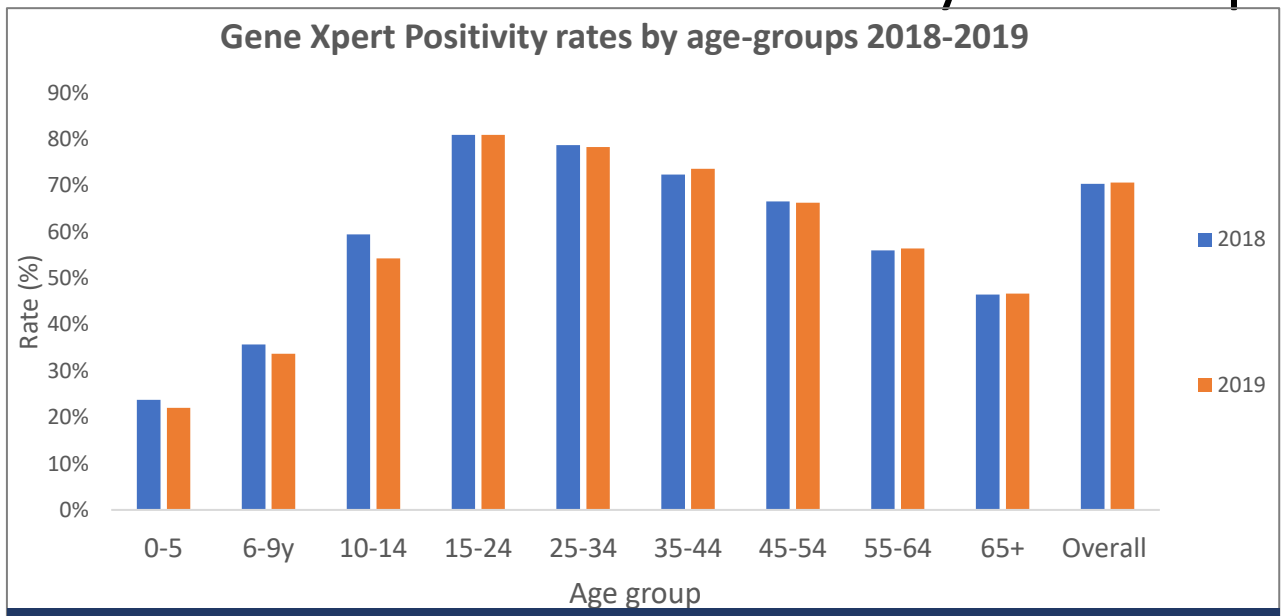
<5 yrs: 66%

5 – 9 yrs: 52%

10 – 14 yrs: 41%

Half to one-third of children & adolescents <15 yr with presumed TB DID NOT HAVE CXR ACCESS. This may delay TB treatment decision

How useful was Xpert for TB diagnosis in Children & Adolescents in Kenya? Kenya 2019 Xpert Data



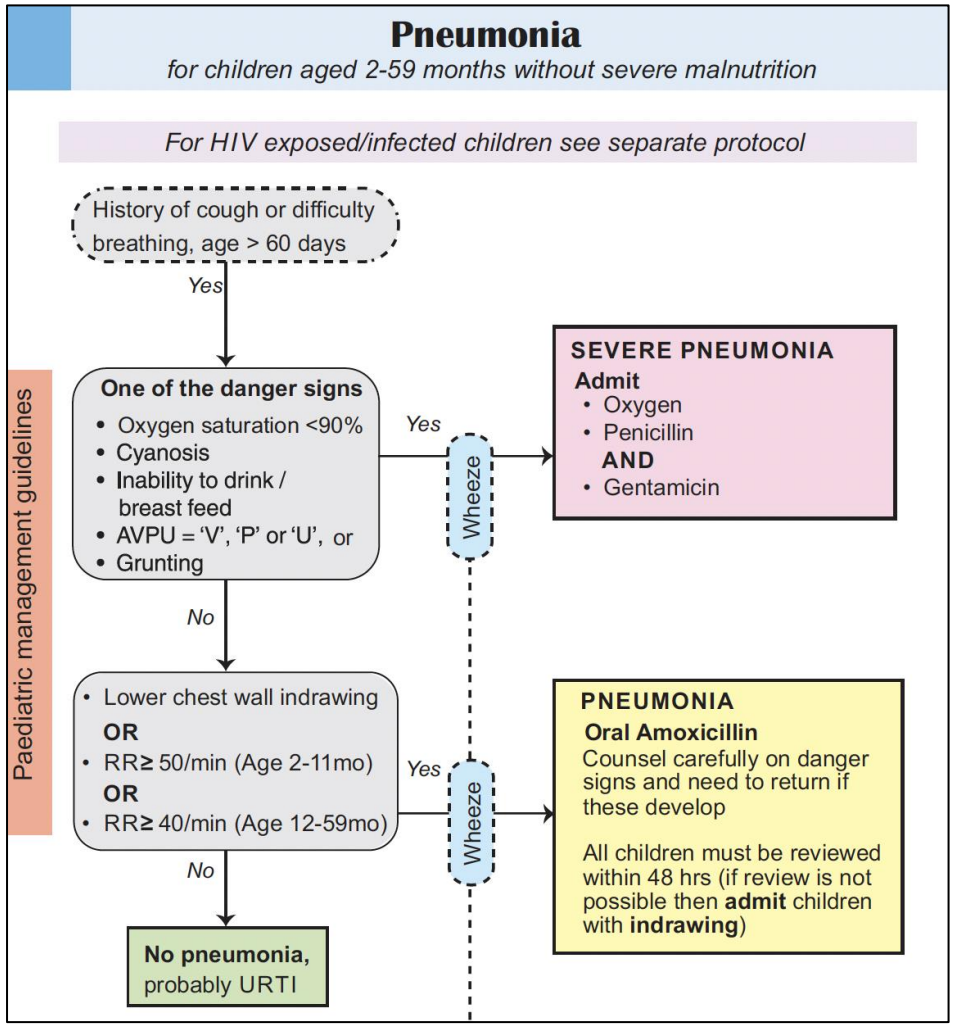
What % of children with presumed TB got an Xpert test?

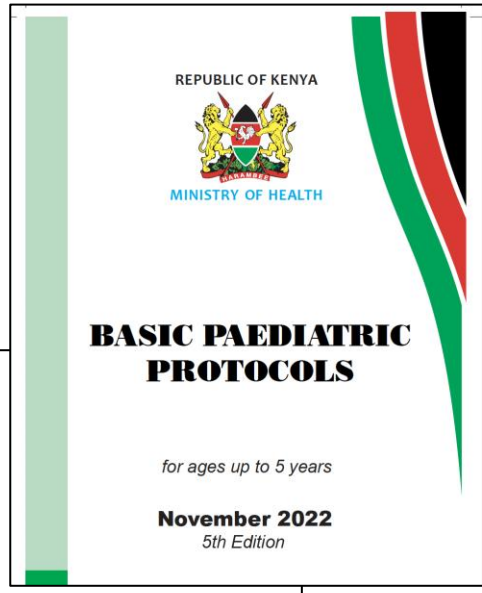
<5 yrs:	22%
5 – 9 yrs:	42%
10 – 14 yrs:	55%

Age group	Total Patients 2019	Xperts Done 2019	Xpert Uptake (%)	Positivity rate (%)
0-5	5118	1103	**22%**	**22%**
5-9	1141	481	**42%**	**34%**
10-14	2057	1126	**55%**	**54%**
15-24	15056	9770	65%	81%
25-34	21945	14658	67%	78%
35-44	18479	12380	67%	74%
45-54	10842	7007	65%	66%
55-64	5645	3529	63%	56%
65+	5537	3389	61%	47%
Total	**85820**	**53443**	**62%**	**71%**

50 to 80% of children & adolescents <15 yr with presumed TB NOT ABLE TO GET SPECIMEN TO XPERT LAB. MTB DETECTION LOW (14% BC overall).
TB treatment decision based on clinical +/- CXR for majority

Classifying severe respiratory disease in child Kenya MoH paediatric protocols – IMCI/ETAT





Severe respiratory disease:

- Cyanosis, SPO2 <90%
- Chest wall indrawing
- Grunting, increased work of breathing

Other danger signs indicating severe illness:

- Unable to drink/breastfeed
- Drowsy/reduced consciousness (AVPU <A)
- Signs of shock

Kenya 2023: Proposed treatment regimens for children 10 years and below

**** All children 11 years and above will require the 6 month regimen***

	Eligibility for 4 month regimen	Eligibility for 6 month regimen	Eligible 12 month regimen
Type of TB	Non-severe Pulmonary TB Peripheral LN TB	Severe Pulmonary TB Extra Pulmonary TB *(excluding TB meningitis, Osteoarticular and peripheral LN TB)*	TB Meningitis Osteo-articular TB
Indicators of severity	Stable enough to be managed as an outpatient	All hospitalised patients	Any setting
	No danger signs	A sick child at diagnosis with any danger sign **Respiratory danger signs:** In respiratory distress (oxygen saturation <90%, cyanosis, grunting, chest in-drawing)	
Immune status	Is HIV negative, not severely malnourished, not immune suppressed	Infants < 1yr (immature immune system), HIV positive, severe malnutrition, any immunosuppressed child	
Bacteriologic status *(where available)*	Bacteriologically negative OR Clinically diagnosed TB	Bacteriologically confirmed Drug-susceptible TB	
Treatment regimen	**4 month regimen: 2HRZE/2HR**	**6 month regimen: 2HRZE/4HR**	**12 month regimen 2HRZE/10HR**

- ***If the child has known contact with a person with drug-resistant TB, this table does not apply….***
- ***Start the child on treatment as per the Drug-Resistant TB guidelines***

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Implementation Steps: Short-course TB regimens for children (& revised clinical diagnostic algorithm)

Addendum to TB guidelines **Revise tools, training material** **Commodity planning**	**Endorsement by TB Interagency Coordinating Committee**	**Sensitisation & Dissemination** **Professional Societies via Conferences, Webinars**	**Piloting new algorithm** **Training HCWs** **Launch & Roll-Out Country-wide**
Workshops *Q4 2022 to Q2 2023*	*Meeting* *Nov 2022*	*Conferences, webinars* *Q4 2022 to Q4 2023*	*Piloting Q4 2022 to Q2 2023* *Launch & Roll out Q4 2023*
Incorporate input from the COE/stakeholder forum to the algorithm and regimen proposals Draft an addendum to the current guidelines Review reporting tools Develop training material for sensitisation and dissemination Commodity planning	Endorsement by the TB ICC Adoption of the guideline addendum & revised tools	Respiratory Society of Kenya - November 2022 (400) Pan-African Thoracic Society - June 2023 (500) Paediatric Association Congress – April 2022 (500) Infectious Disease Society Conference – October 2023 (600) **TOTAL: 2000 pax**	Pilot diagnostic algorithm selected counties Q4 2022 – Q2 2023 Lessons used to fine-tune tools. CoE final review Q3 2023 Trainer of trainers, cascade to health teams country-wide Official launch, nationwide awareness Nov 2023 **Roll out of the shorter regimen December 2023**

A Call to ACTION!

It's time to WIN THE BATTLE and END TB in children and adolescents!!

Courtesy of NTLP. FAQs child TB. www.chskenya.org

Acknowledgements & Appreciation

To the guidelines adaptation team

Special appreciation

Kenya NTLP team

- Dr Jacqueline Kisia
- Dr Immaculate Kathure
- Ms Druscilla Nyaboke (M&E)

CHS TB-ARC

Dr Lorraine Mugambi-Nyaboga

Dr Irungu Karuga

University of Nairobi/KEMRI

Dr Jacqueline Oliwa

- Courtesy of NTLP. FAQs child TB. www.chskenya.org

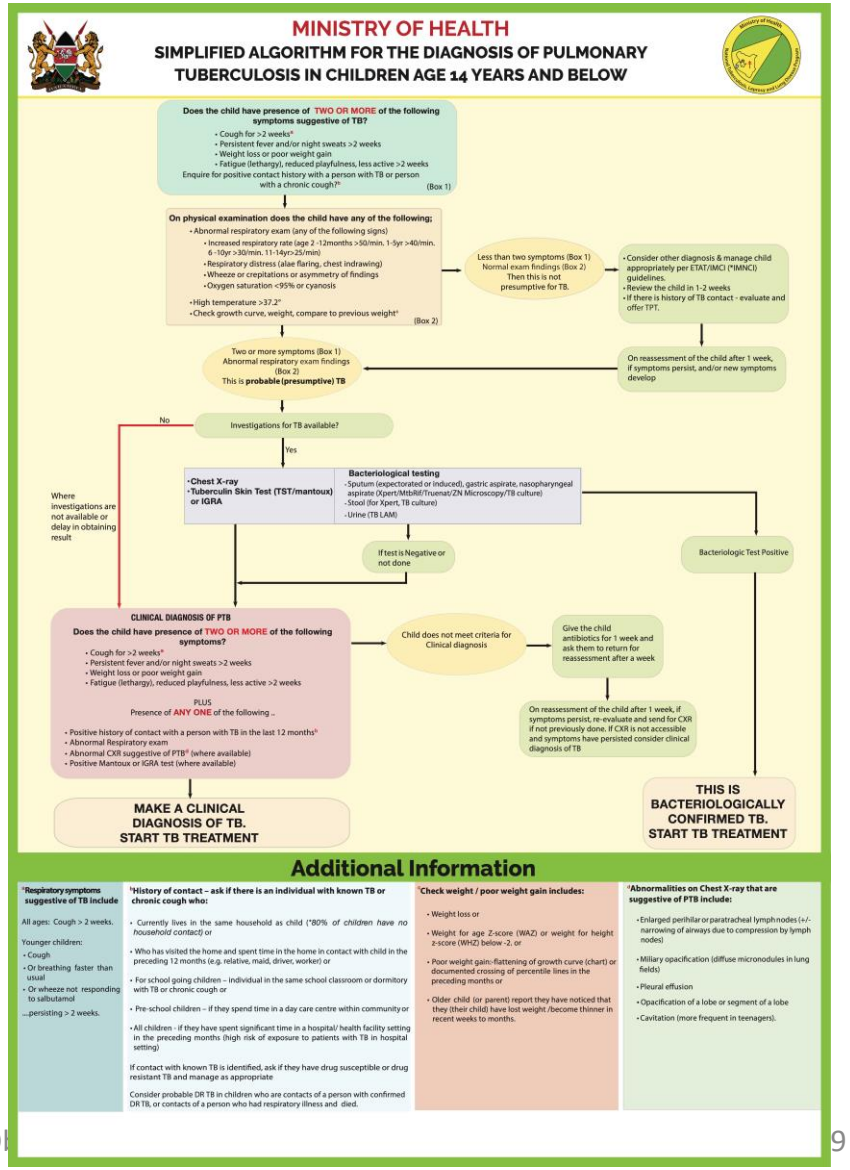
Thank you! Asanteni! Merci! Gracias! Obrigado!

SUPPLEMENTAL SLIDES

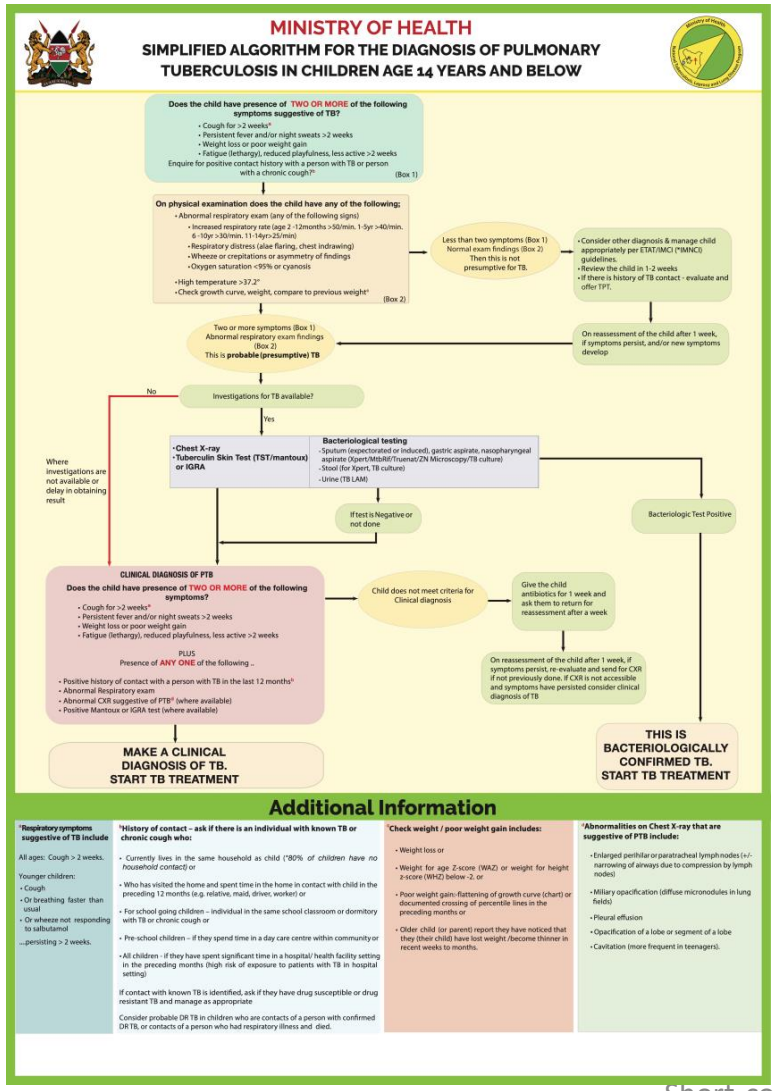
Kenya child TB diagnostic algorithm 2022

Kenya decision

- Strengthen existing diagnostic approaches.
- Empower Health Care Workers to make clinical diagnosis in children, and make TB treatment decision
- Recognise that TB progresses faster and is more severe in children



Kenya simpilified algorithm for diagnosis of PTB in children <15yr



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

SIMPLIFIED ALGORITHM FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS IN CHILDREN AGE 14 YEARS AND BELOW

Does the child have presence of TWO OR MORE of the following symptoms suggestive of TB?
- Cough for >2 weeks[a]
- Persistent fever and/or night sweats >2 weeks
- Weight loss or poor weight gain
- Fatigue (lethargy), reduced playfulness, less active >2 weeks

Enquire for positive contact history with a person with TB or person with a chronic cough?[b] (Box 1)

On physical examination does the child have any of the following;
- Abnormal respiratory exam (any of the following signs)
  - Increased respiratory rate (age 2 -12months >50/min. 1-5yr >40/min. 6 -10yr >30/min. 11-14yr>25/min)
  - Respiratory distress (alae flaring, chest indrawing)
  - Wheeze or crepitations or asymmetry of findings
  - Oxygen saturation <95% or cyanosis
- High temperature >37.2°
- Check growth curve, weight, compare to previous weight[c]

(Box 2)

Less than two symptoms (Box 1) Normal exam findings (Box 2) Then this is not presumptive for TB.

- Consider other diagnosis & manage child appropriately per ETAT/IMCI (*IMNCI) guidelines.
- Review the child in 1-2 weeks
- If there is history of TB contact - evaluate and offer TPT.

On reassessment of the child after 1 week, if symptoms persist, and/or new symptoms develop

Two or more symptoms (Box 1) Abnormal respiratory exam findings (Box 2) This is **probable (presumptive) TB**

No

Investigations for TB available?

Yes

Where investigations are not available or delay in obtaining result

- Chest X-ray
- Tuberculin Skin Test (TST/mantoux) or IGRA

Bacteriological testing
- Sputum (expectorated or induced), gastric aspirate, nasopharyngeal aspirate (Xpert/MtbRif/Truenat/ZN Microscopy/TB culture)
- Stool (for Xpert, TB culture)
- Urine (TB LAM)

If test is Negative or not done

Bacteriologic Test Positive

CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS OF PTB

Does the child have presence of TWO OR MORE of the following symptoms?
- Cough for >2 weeks*
- Persistent fever and/or night sweats >2 weeks
- Weight loss or poor weight gain
- Fatigue (lethargy), reduced playfulness, less active >2 weeks

PLUS

Presence of ANY ONE of the following ..
- Positive history of contact with a person with TB in the last 12 months[b]
- Abnormal Respiratory exam
- Abnormal CXR suggestive of PTB[d] (where available)
- Positive Mantoux or IGRA test (where available)

Child does not meet criteria for Clinical diagnosis

Give the child antibiotics for 1 week and ask them to return for reassessment after a week

On reassessment of the child after 1 week, if symptoms persist, re-evaluate and send for CXR if not previously done. If CXR is not accessible and symptoms have persisted consider clinical diagnosis of TB

MAKE A CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS OF TB. START TB TREATMENT

THIS IS BACTERIOLOGICALLY CONFIRMED TB. START TB TREATMENT

Additional Information

[a]Respiratory symptoms suggestive of TB include

All ages: Cough > 2 weeks.

Younger children:
- Cough
- Or breathing faster than usual
- Or wheeze not responding to salbutamol

...persisting > 2 weeks.

[b]History of contact – ask if there is an individual with known TB or chronic cough who:
- Currently lives in the same household as child (*80% of children have no household contact*) or
- Who has visited the home and spent time in the home in contact with child in the preceding 12 months (e.g. relative, maid, driver, worker) or
- For school going children – individual in the same school classroom or dormitory with TB or chronic cough or
- Pre-school children – if they spend time in a day care centre within community or
- All children - if they have spent significant time in a hospital/ health facility setting in the preceding months (high risk of exposure to patients with TB in hospital setting)

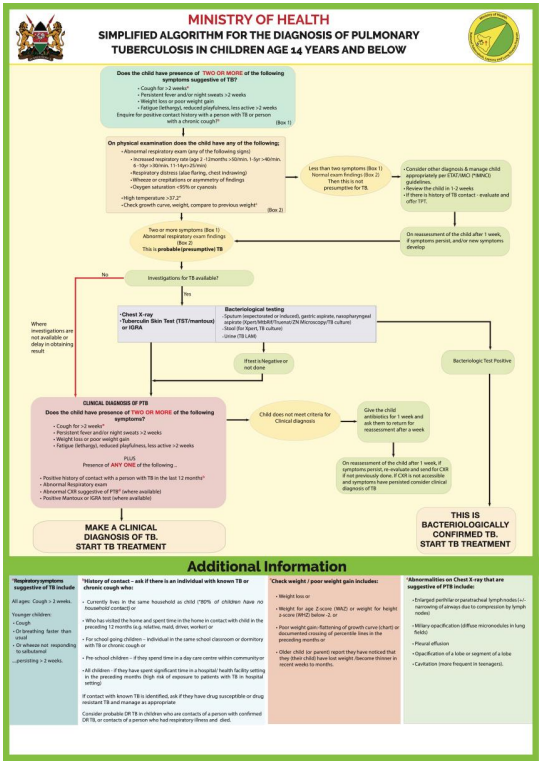
If contact with known TB is identified, ask if they have drug susceptible or drug resistant TB and manage as appropriate

Consider probable DR TB in children who are contacts of a person with confirmed DR TB, or contacts of a person who had respiratory illness and died.

[c]Check weight / poor weight gain includes:
- Weight loss or
- Weight for age Z-score (WAZ) or weight for height z-score (WHZ) below -2, or
- Poor weight gain: flattening of growth curve (chart) or documented crossing of percentile lines in the preceding months or
- Older child (or parent) report they have noticed that they (their child) have lost weight /become thinner in recent weeks to months.

[d]Abnormalities on Chest X-ray that are suggestive of PTB include:
- Enlarged perihilar or paratracheal lymph nodes (+/- narrowing of airways due to compression by lymph nodes)
- Miliary opacification (diffuse micronodules in lung fields)
- Pleural effusion
- Opacification of a lobe or segment of a lobe
- Cavitation (more frequent in teenagers).

Kenya Simplified diagnostic algorithm for Pulmonary TB in children <15 yr



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- Stool (for Xpert, TB culture)
- Urine (TB LAM)

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PLUS
Presence of **ANY ONE** of the following ..

- Positive history of contact with a person with TB in the last 12 months[b]
- Abnormal Respiratory exam
- Abnormal CXR suggestive of PTB[d] (where available)
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MAKE A CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS OF TB. START TB TREATMENT

THIS IS BACTERIOLOGICALLY CONFIRMED TB. START TB TREATMENT

Simplified Algorithm for the Diagnosis of Pulmonary TB in Children Age <= 14 years. Kenya 2023

Presence of TWO or more of the following symptoms…

- Cough > 2weeks (or wheeze, fast breathing, DIB)
- Weight loss or poor weight gain
- Persistent fever and/or night sweats > 2 weeks
- Fatigue, reduced playfulness, less active > 2 weeks

PLUS

Presence of any ONE of the following….

- Positive contact history with person with Tb or chronic cough in past 12 months
- Abnormal Respiratory exam (tachypnoea, wheeze/creps, resp distress, SPO2 <95%)
- CXR suggestive of PTB (where available)
- Positive Mantoux or IGRA test (where available)

MAKE A CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS OF PTB, START TB TREATMENT