CHILD TUBERCULOSIS (TB) FACT SHEET

1 MILLION
An estimated one million children under the age of 15 develop active TB each year.

234,000 DEATHS
Around 234,000 children die from TB each year. This represents 15% of TB deaths globally.

> 1 IN 5
Low- and middle-income countries bear the greatest burden of child TB, representing over a fifth of all cases.

90% UNTREATED
Children with TB rarely die when they receive standard treatment – but 90 percent of children who die from TB worldwide went untreated.

CHILD-FRIENDLY
Child-friendly treatments flavoured and dispersible in liquid have been available since 2015.

LOWER PRIORITY
Children with TB are less infectious than sick adults, prompting healthcare providers in many countries to classify them as lower priority.

HARDER TO DIAGNOSE
Children with active TB tend to have relatively few bacteria in their system, and compared to adults this makes them harder to diagnose.

COMMUNITY CASE-FINDING
Helps identify at-risk children and refers them to local clinics for active TB screening and medicines to prevent or treat the disease.

BETTER DIAGNOSTICS
New machines increase TB test accuracy and speed – detecting TB and drug-resistance to common treatments in under two hours.

The first ever United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB will be held on 26 September 2018. Child TB must be a priority area for urgent action. Equal access to medical care is a human right.