CHILD TUBERCULOSIS (TB) FACT SHEET

KEY FACTS

1.1M
More than one million children under the age of 15 develop active TB each year.

205K
Around 205,000 children die from TB each year. This represents 11% of TB deaths globally.

27%
27% of children under 5 who need it, received TB preventive treatment in 2018.

NEGLECT OF CHILD TB

IT GOES UNTREATED
Children with TB rarely die when treated, but 90 percent who die from TB went untreated.

LOWER PRIORITY
Children with TB are less infectious than sick adults, so they are often given lower priority.

HARDER TO DIAGNOSE
Children with active TB are harder to diagnose as they have relatively few bacteria in their system.

NEW TOOLS

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

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

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.

4M
At the United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB in 2018, Member States committed to providing TB preventive treatment to over 4 million children. In 2018, treatment was give to only 350k of the 1.3 million estimated to be eligible.

SOURCE: World Health Organization Global Tuberculosis Report 2019