

[WHO WE ARE ▾](#)[WHAT WE DO ▾](#)[PUBLICATIONS ▾](#)[MEDIA CENTRE ▾](#)[GET INVOLVED ▾](#)[CHS INSTITUTE](#)[Home](#) » [WHAT WE DO](#) » [Fikia](#)

WHAT WE DO

Fikia



TB continues to be a major global health problem and is worse in children as they develop severe forms of the disease. A substantial number of children with TB seeking services at health facilities are not diagnosed due to the low index of suspicion by health care workers. TB in children indicates an ongoing transmission in the community because most cases occur in children who have had contact with a close relative or caregiver with TB.

What signs to look for



A cough



Loss of weight



Fever or night sweats



Irritability and reduced playfulness

Children can get TB at home, at school, or any other place children spend their time. If you, anyone in the house, at work, or at school have TB, your child might have it too. Some children with TB seem sick, but others do not. If you're not sure, the best way to protect your child is to [ask for a TB check-up](#).

Search



Quick Facts

Project Duration: April 2017 – June 2019

Donor: STOP TB Partnership's' TB REACH Initiative

Location: Nairobi, Machakos, Makeni, Mombasa, Kirinyaga, Garissa, Meru, Siaya and Kericho Counties

Partners: CHS, NTLD-Program, County Departments of Health

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Our Response

In 2016, there were a total 75,894 TB cases notified, 6,652 (8.7%) of whom

were children. Great strides have been made in TB management in Kenya including being the first country to nationally roll out child-friendly TB formulations.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 10-15% of total cases notified should be children; hence Kenya must improve efforts to find children with TB. TB in children can be prevented by screening all children in close contact with persons with TB and providing preventive therapy to those among them without TB symptoms below the age of five (5) years.

Fikia is a 14-month project that aims to increase case finding among children across selected high-volume health facilities in Nairobi, Machakos, Makueni, Mombasa, Kirinyaga, Garissa, Meru, Siaya and Kericho counties respectively. The project is supported by Stop TB Partnership's TB REACH initiative funded by the Government of Canada and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

In March 2019, the project received an extension to test a concept on the accuracy of using mobile phones for purposes of reading chest x-rays in the diagnosis of TB in patients.

The project aims to:

1. Increase case finding in children.
2. Increase initiation onto Isoniazid Preventive Therapy (IPT) for all eligible children under five years.
3. Improve cohort outcomes for both children on TB treatment and IPT.
4. Test the performance of using mobile phone images in reading chest X-rays

Achievements to Date

- A total of 126,543 children have been screened. Out of these, 673 new TB cases have been detected
- A total of 8,060 bacteriologically positive index cases, 2,011 child contacts < 5 years have been identified during the course of the project. Out of the contacts identified, 1,848 (91%) were screened, 1,610 (87%) were initiated on IPT, 119 (6%) were initiated on TB treatment and 119 (6%) were lost or were still undergoing an evaluation
- Built capacity of over 200 health care workers from Nairobi, Siaya, Meru, Kirinyaga, Machakos and Makueni in the management of paediatric TB
- Employed innovative approaches such as the use of a mobile screening app and use of Project ECHO for capacity building of health care workers
- The successes and findings from the FIKIA Project have contributed to the development of Kenya's current National Strategic Plan for TB to ensure scale-up of the successful interventions across the country

Childhood TB Resources

National Guidelines on Management of Tuberculosis in Children

Standard Operating Procedures for Management of TB in Children

Child-Friendly TB Medicines Fact Sheet

Regimen for Treatment of TB in Children

Care Giver Brochure on Childhood TB – English

Care Giver Brochure on Childhood TB – Swahili

Health Care Worker Brochure on Childhood TB – English

Health Care Worker Brochure on Childhood TB – Swahili

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Afiya Info
TB-ARC
Tegemeza
Shinda
Fikia
Tegemeza Plus
ALHIV Adherence Initiative
TB ARC II
Naishi

Media Centre

News
Blogs
Events
Personal Stories
Image Gallery
Video Gallery
News

Who We Are

Our Board
Strategic Goals
Our Leadership Team
Our Partners

Publications

Annual Reports
Best Practice Case Studies
Papers
Newsletters
Meeting Reports
Health Factsheets
Job Aids and Tools
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