

# CENTRE FOR HEALTH SOLUTIONS KENYA

**Globally, childhood tuberculosis (TB) is a major cause of morbidity and mortality.** In 2017, over one million children suffered from TB, leading to 230,000 deaths. Children, 5 years and under, are at risk for severe TB disease. Adoption of isoniazid preventive therapy (IPT), well-recognized for preventing TB, has been slow. Kenya is a high burden country for TB, multidrug resistant TB, and TB/HIV. In 2016, Kenya notified 75,894 TB cases of which 6,619 (8.5%) were paediatric. Only 5.5% of eligible children initiated IPT. Kenya's National TB Program has prioritized paediatric TB and was the first to rollout new paediatric formulations; however, the question remains, how to reach Kenyan children who need treatment?

To address this question, TB REACH awarded Centre for Health Solutions (CHS), a Kenyan NGO, a Wave 5 grant, "FIKIA: Finding the Children" to bridge the TB identification, diagnosis, and treatment gap for children under 5. The project focused on household exposures to identify children at risk and to improve TB diagnosis and IPT uptake. Additional activities included rolling out a national child contact register and HCW TB trainings, in-person and through Project ECHO (a web platform). ECHO sessions reinforced learning and provided a forum to discuss challenging cases. Other activities included screening children at paediatric outpatient and Maternal and Child Health departments using an app developed by another TB REACH grantee, IRD Bangladesh.



In this project, adults with TB were asked to bring children for screening. 8060 adults with TB identified 2,022 children under 5 in their homes. 1848 (91%) of these children were screened; 1610 (87%) initiated IPT and 83% completed IPT; and 119 (6%) were diagnosed with TB and started on treatment. For other case finding activities, 124,695 children were screened; 44,582 had two TB symptoms; and 554 had TB and initiated treatment. Because of the project success the Kenya National TB Program committed to support Project ECHO -Paediatric TB country wide, to promote universal use of child contact registers, and incorporate lessons learnt into the new National Strategic Plan.

In March 2018, baby Blessing's health was deteriorating. The child's mother was HIV positive and living on the street. The mother defaulted ART and had TB in pregnancy, which was treated. Baby Blessing had an HIV test at 6 weeks with a negative result, but at month 9, the HIV test was positive. Both child and mother were not on any HIV treatment. The child had difficulties in breathing, poor weight gain, and no cough. The clinician shared the case on the Pediatric TB ECHO session for guidance. Experts in the session advised for a chest x-ray. The x-ray was suggestive of TB and the child was given treatment and has since improved. The mother was grateful to the clinician for saving Blessing's life.





Each year, roughly 10 million people around the world will fall ill to Tuberculosis (TB). Of these people, about one third will fall through the cracks and fail to receive an accurate diagnosis, or worse yet – effective treatment. These people are far more likely to die from this completely curable disease.

The TB REACH initiative was established in 2010 in an effort to reach the millions of people with TB who are missed by the current systems. With generous funding contributions from Global Affairs Canada, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID, and the Indonesia Health Fund, TB REACH has provided financial and technical support to hundreds of partner organizations working in the poorest and most vulnerable communities in the world.

To date, TB REACH has funded projects in over 50 countries, where more than 33 million people have been screened for TB. More than 2 million people have been diagnosed and nearly 90% of those were provided with appropriate treatment.

More than 1 million lives have been saved in the areas where TB REACH works.

# TB REACH

**FINDING AND TREATING PEOPLE WITH TB IN THE WORLD'S POOREST COMMUNITIES**

## Stop TB Partnership

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TB REACH combines fast-track, results-based financing with rigorous, external monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to produce effective results. As a direct result, many national governments and/or other donor agencies such as The Global Fund have chosen to scale-up successful approaches and maximize their own investments.

TB REACH awards grants up to US one million dollars to institutions or organizations that have put forward innovative solutions to find, treat, and stop the spread of TB.

At its conception, TB REACH focused on demonstrating how active case finding can improve TB case detection, and now has expanded to promote state of the art technologies and approaches to improve treatment outcomes, TB prevention and product innovation.



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