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Implementation of treatment-decision algorithms for children with pulmonary tuberculosis: cross-cutting lessons for operational scale-up

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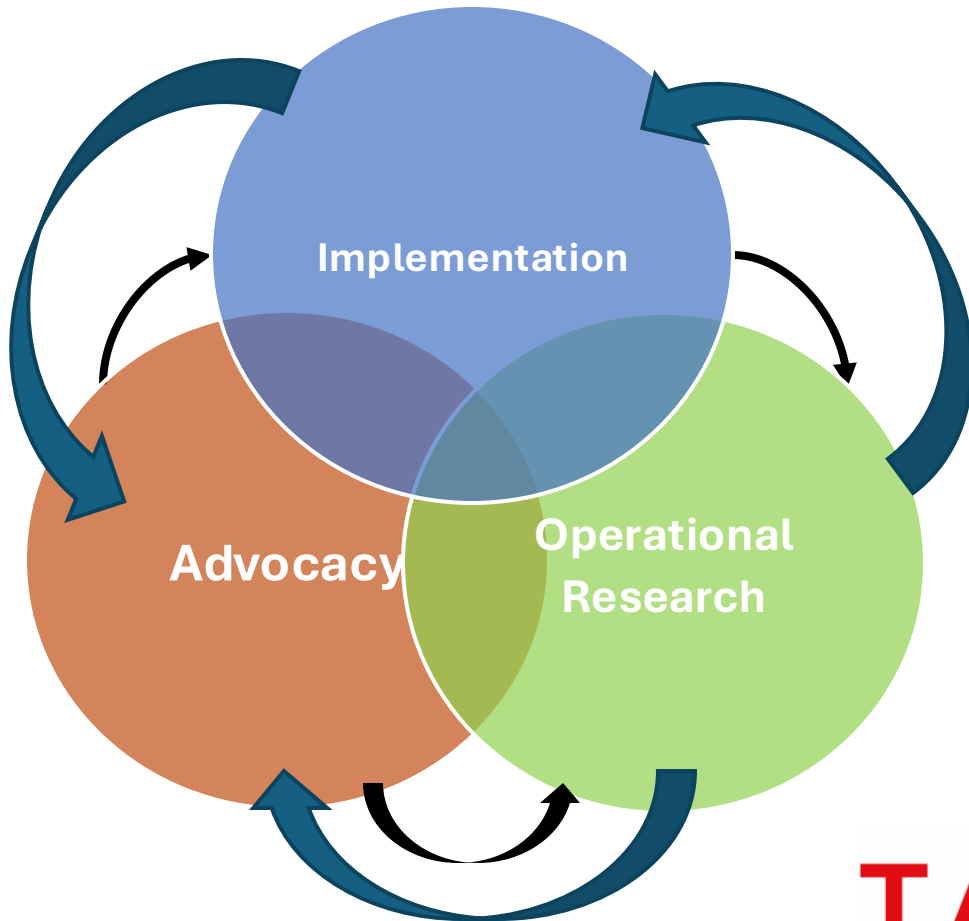
Ethics

This study was approved by the MSF Ethics Review Board, as well as by the respective national Ethics Committees.

Conflicts of Interest

All authors declare no competing interests.

Introduction

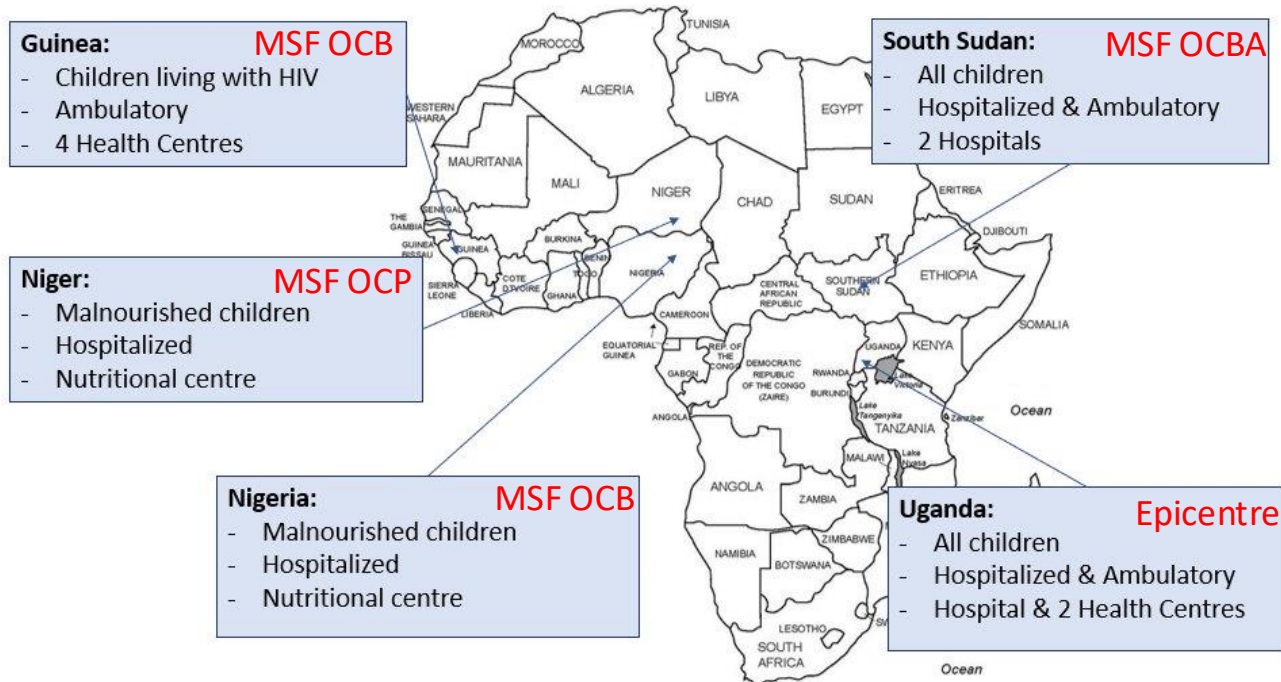


TACT C
Test Avoid Cure TB in Children



Methods

TB ALGO PED Study



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Prospective diagnostic accuracy study

Feasibility and acceptability study

Documentation of the implementation experience

Implementation April 2023 - January 2024

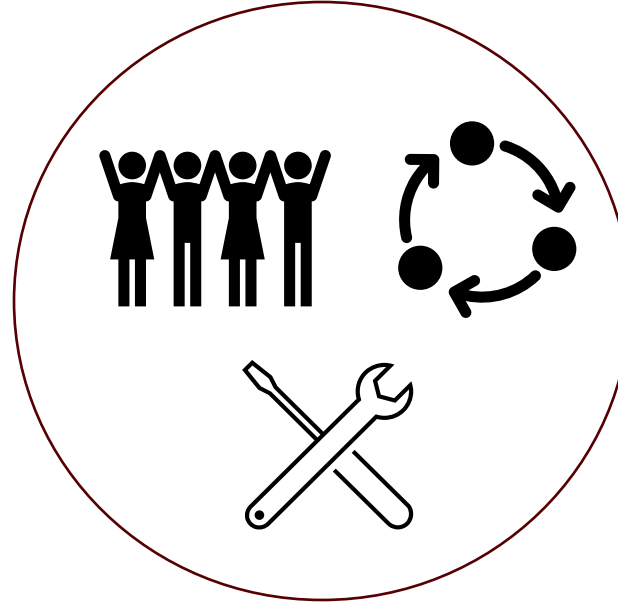
Structured questionnaire for programmatic implementers

Focus group discussions with Implementers, researchers and MSF medical advisors

Results

People (Actors)

- Leadership (multi-level) and TB focal points
- Sufficient human resources
- Informal opinion leaders, caregivers and community



Process

- Planning
- Management of timelines and tasks
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Circular adaptation and improvement

Tools

- Forms
- Reference documents for treatment decision algorithms
- Training materials
- GeneXpert and laboratory supplies (as available)
- Radiology machine and servicing (as available)
- Data collection and analysis tools

Conclusions

Treatment decision algorithm implementation is a **multi-layered** health intervention

Focus on implementation planning and step-by-step task co-ordination

Prioritise generic implementation principles:

- ❖ Assess and adapt to context and the local healthcare system
- ❖ Strengthen the local health system (*e.g. HR capacity, transport logistics, follow-up processes*)
- ❖ Ensure clear local leadership and multi-disciplinary engagement
- ❖ Integrate the child TB care pathway with other care pathways for the facility
- ❖ Commit to implementation as a long-term process - pilot, re-evaluate, refine and change

Collaborative inter-sectional operations and research:

- ❖ Identify common themes and challenges to implementation
- ❖ Generates actionable change that reflects the realities of projects and facilities

Many thanks to our study participants,
research team, and partners



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