

ADVANCING CHILDHOOD TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL IN VIETNAM



CHILDHOOD TB IN VIETNAM: GAPS IN DETECTION AND PREVENTION

- 1,300 new childhood TB cases detected in 2011
- Up to 90 percent of new childhood TB cases are currently undetected
- Limited childhood TB diagnosis and management capacity at primary and secondary health care levels
- Low isoniazid preventive therapy uptake (less than 50 percent) among eligible at-risk children
- Limited prevention and treatment of MDR-TB in children
- Inadequate recording and reporting of TB cases in children

LINKING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERS TO REDUCE TB BURDEN AMONG CHILDREN

Tuberculosis (TB) is a leading cause of illness worldwide and the number one cause of death in people living with HIV. The World Health Organization ranks Vietnam as the 15th highest TB-burdened country in the world. In 2016, over 100,000 new cases of TB were identified in Vietnam, of which more than 11,000 were repeat cases requiring re-treatment. Approximately 17,000 people died of TB that year.

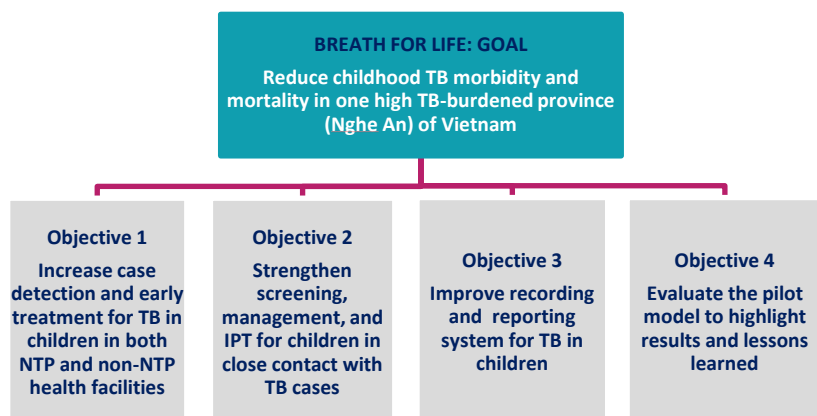
Since 2008, PATH has been working with national and international partners to improve TB case detection and treatment in Vietnam; harnessing the power of a mix of public and private sector partners to identify and treat people with TB. By 2015, over 12,000 cases of TB had been detected through this successful approach.

In 2016, PATH joined with Johnson & Johnson to address the high TB burden among children in Vietnam. Recent data indicates that up to 90 percent of new childhood TB cases are undetected in Vietnam. TB progresses more rapidly in children, but can be much harder to detect than in adults. The significant gap in diagnosis means that tens of thousands of children are suffering unnecessarily, and infection is left to spread.

BREATH FOR LIFE

PATH and Johnson & Johnson Vietnam initiated Breath for Life in recognition that cross-sector collaboration can play a powerful role in reducing childhood mortality and morbidity caused by TB.

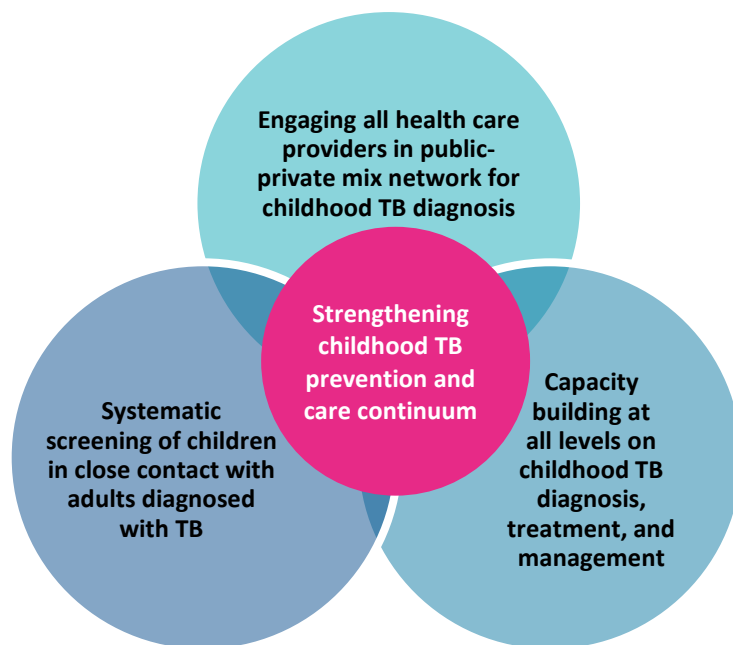
The overall goal of Breath for Life is to demonstrate a model that strengthens the detection, treatment, and management of pediatric TB, thereby decreasing childhood TB morbidity and mortality in Nghe An—a province heavily burdened with TB and HIV. Breath for Life leverages the capacity of both the National TB Control Program (NTP), and the public and private non-NTP system. Key project collaborators include the Nghe An Provincial Health Department (PHD) and the Nghe An Provincial Tuberculosis and Lung Disease Hospital (PTLH).



TECHNICAL APPROACH

Breath for Life increased the availability of pediatric TB services by:

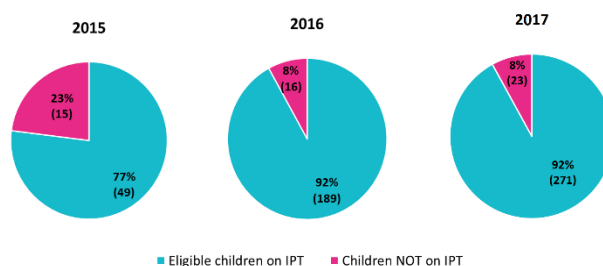
- **Strengthening the capacity of 204 health workers** at primary, secondary, and tertiary health care levels to diagnose, treat, prevent, and manage TB cases in children.
- **Engaging 22 non-NTP health facilities to collaborate with the NTP on pediatric TB management**, leveraging the public-private mix network previously developed by PATH in Nghe An.
- **Working with the Nghe An PHD and PTLH to establish four pediatric TB consultation units at district level**, which are implementing a collaborative procedure for childhood TB diagnosis at the district level (rather than referring to the provincial level by default).
- **Introducing 135 (100 percent) communes to a systematic approach for identifying and screening children in close contact with adults diagnosed with TB** to actively detect new cases and enroll eligible children in isoniazid preventive therapy (IPT).



KEY RESULTS

- In one year, **Breath for Life doubled the number of children diagnosed with TB in four districts of Nghe An**, from 74 to 148, and the project contributed to an overall increase in case-detection in the entire province. In 2016, the largest number of new pediatric TB cases diagnosed in Vietnam was in Nghe An.
- **In under two years, the number of eligible children in the four project districts enrolled in IPT multiplied by almost five times:** growing from 49 in 2015 to 271 by the end of 2017. Breath for Life also contributed to an overall increase in IPT enrollment in Nghe An province.
- **The proportion of eligible children enrolled in IPT versus those who were not enrolled in the four project districts also increased by over 20 percent:** from 77 percent in 2015 to 92 percent in 2016 and sustained for 2017 (right).

Proportion of eligible children from Breath for Life project districts enrolled in IPT



The National TB Control Program and the Nghe An Provincial Health Department are committed to working with PATH and Johnson & Johnson Vietnam to implement and evaluate the model piloted by Breath for Life, using the findings to inform recommendations for application across other provinces of Vietnam.

Implemented by PATH, Breath for Life is supported by Janssen Pharmaceutica NV, one of the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson.