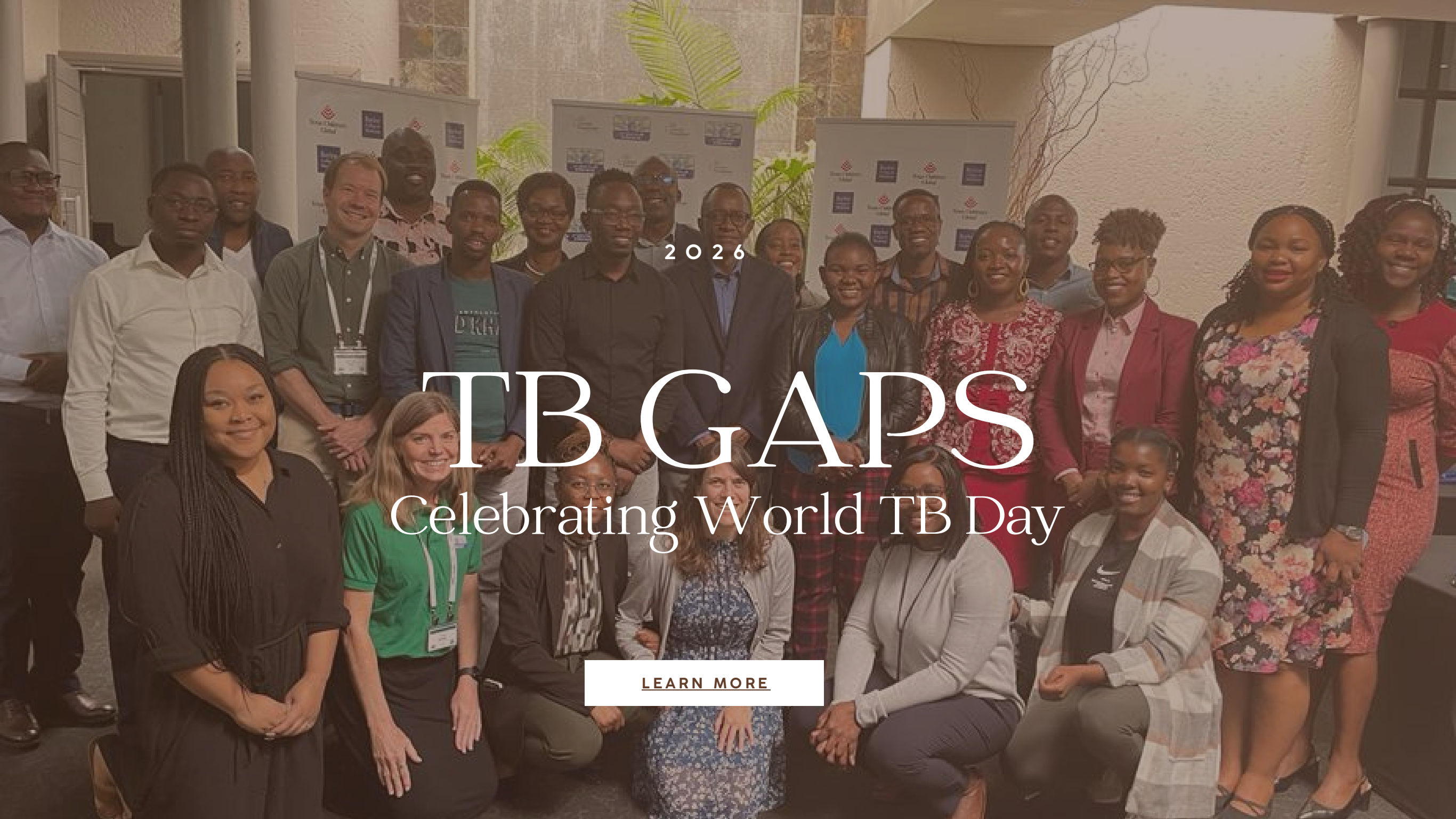




2026

TB GAPS

Celebrating World TB Day

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It's Time to End TB

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



From a US national health
authority

WORLD TB DAY



MARCH 24



Watch on



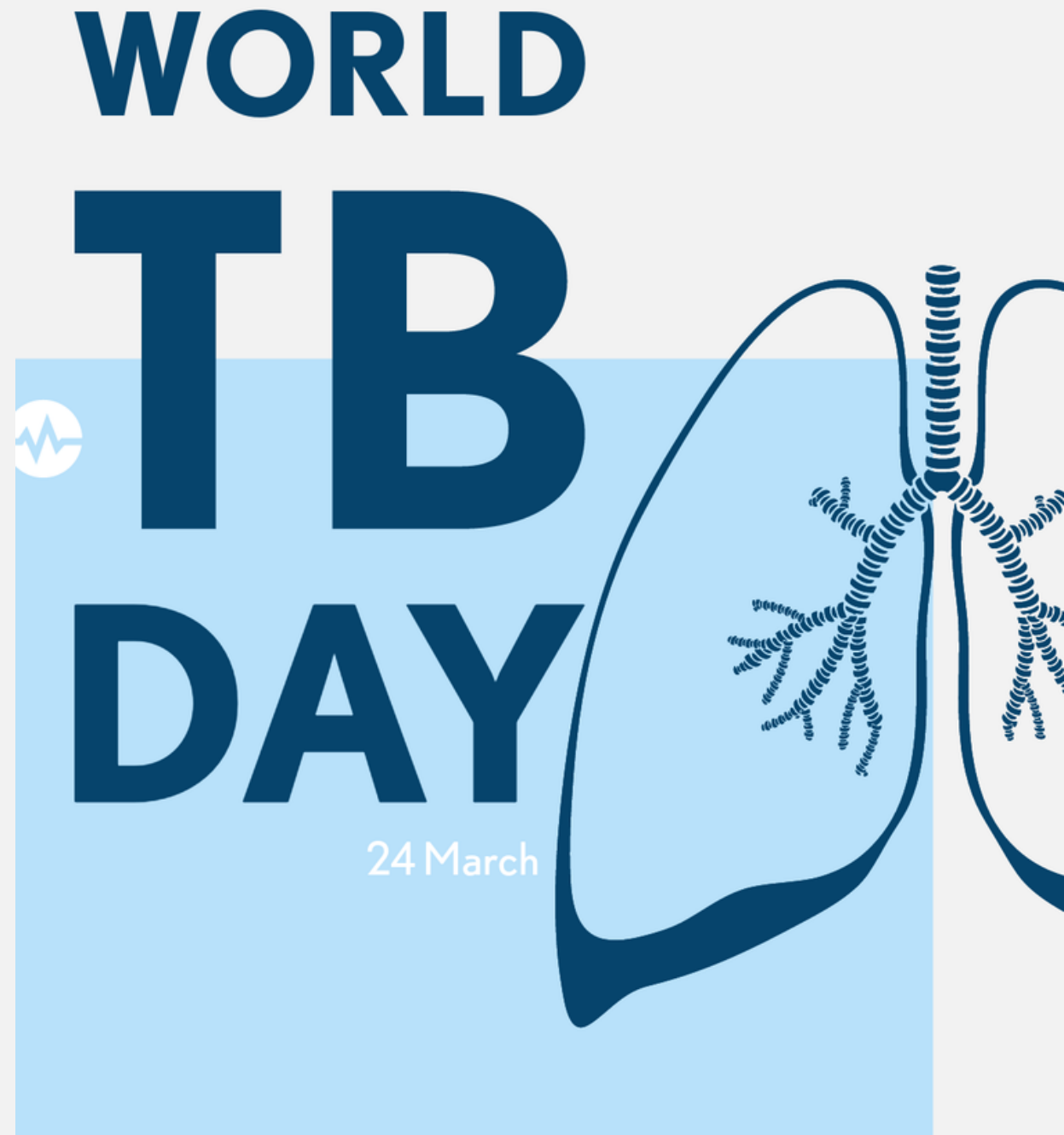
YouTube



World TB Day commemorates the date in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacillus that causes tuberculosis (TB). We recognize this day as an opportunity to provide education and raise awareness of the impact of TB worldwide.

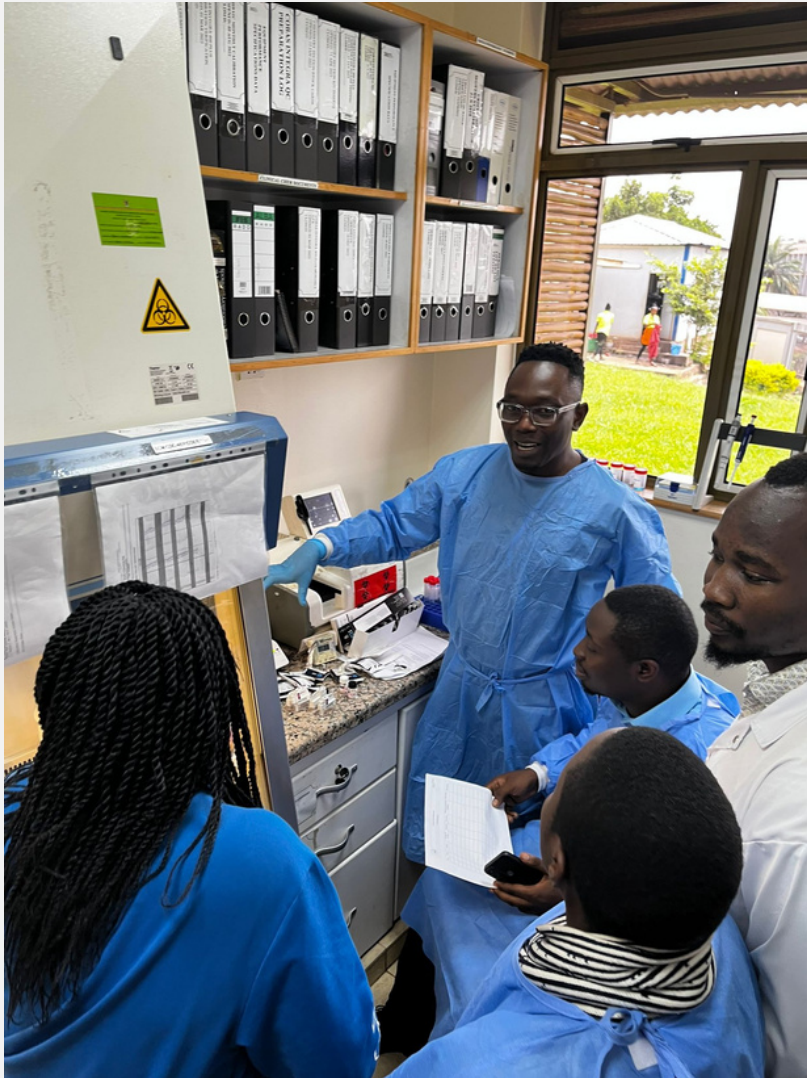
TB occurs in every part of the world and is the leading infectious disease killer globally.

This year, the theme for World TB Day is "Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver." This theme highlights the importance of reaching the global goal to end the TB epidemic by 2030.



TB GAPS

With support from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), and Texas Children's Hospital (TCH), the Global TB Program has launched the Tuberculosis Guidance for Adaptable Patient-centered Service (TB GAPS) program – which aims to find and prevent TB in children and youth. BCM and TCH's Global TB Program and BCM Children's Foundation partners are working to determine the most cost-effective prevention strategy and promote best practices to sustain impact.



Regional Lab Manager, Durbbin Mulengwa, demonstrates how to prepare samples in the Biosafety cabinet at Baylor Uganda



Group discussion on patient flow and documentation at Baylor Malawi

Through 2026

TB GAPS is working in five CDC-priority Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries with high TB, and increased HIV burden: Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Tanzania, and Uganda. This project is generating substantial evidence to advocate for robust care to improve outcomes for those who are diagnosed with TB and people living with HIV who are also diagnosed with TB. In addition, TB GAPS impacts the broader population as it aims to prevent the spread of TB and HIV in communities and countries most impacted by these infectious diseases.



Sample flow demonstration at Baylor Uganda

“ TB GAPS four aims define the project's course of action to provide an accurate and feasible TB screening and testing strategy for success and sustainability.

COSTING

Evaluate the cost-effectiveness of comparative TPT regimens for the prevention of TB disease among children, adolescents and adults living with HIV.

SUSTAIN

Support dissemination and promote uptake of evidence based best practices targeting CDC priority countries.

TB GAPS

PREVENT

Compare the proportion of PLHIV who initiate and complete TPT with 3HP or 6H within the context of a patient centered differentiated service delivery model allowing selection of TPT regimen and randomly providing enhanced adherence support versus the standard of care for TPT and adherence support.

FIND

Assess the performance of novel TB screening algorithms among children, adolescents, and adults living with HIV and presenting for routine care across a network of family centered HIV clinics in five SSA countries as compared to the current WHO recommended symptom based screening strategy.



TB GAPS at The Union World Conference on Lung Health



The Union World Conference is a critical gathering of clinicians, public health workers, health program managers, policymakers, and researchers from around the world. The event serves as a pivotal platform for advocating for efforts to alleviate the suffering caused by lung diseases, especially in low- and lower-middle-income populations, who face unique challenges in accessing care and resources.

At the 2025 conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, the TB GAPS team contributed to this mission through two key presentations showcasing ongoing work and emerging insights from the project. **Dr. Suvesh Shrestha** delivered an oral abstract titled “*Estimating Healthcare Worker Time for Tuberculosis Preventive Treatment Activities in High TB-HIV Burden Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.*” His presentation highlighted key findings from Aim 3 of the TB GAPS project, a critical factor in optimizing implementation of TB preventive treatment across high-burden settings. **Kai Lockhart**, Senior Coordinator for Research Operations, presented “*Sustaining Best Practices: An iECHOHub Model,*” an exploration of Aim 4 of the TB GAPS project. The session emphasized sustainable strategies for knowledge dissemination and capacity strengthening, illustrating how digital learning networks can support long-term improvements in TB program performance.

These contributions underscored the depth and breadth of expertise within the TB GAPS team and provided valuable opportunities for dialogue with colleagues and partners worldwide. The exchange of ideas throughout the conference strengthened collaborative networks and reinforced the shared commitment to advancing innovative, practical solutions in tuberculosis research and implementation. By highlighting both scientific insights and programmatic strategies, the TB GAPS presentations helped drive forward the global conversation on improving lung health—momentum the team looks forward to building upon in the coming year.

End of Enrollment

We are pleased to share that study enrollment was successfully completed at the end of December 2026, marking a major milestone for the project. In total, 5,733 participants were enrolled in Aim 1, reflecting strong engagement across study sites, and an additional 953 participants were enrolled in Aim 2, ensuring a robust cohort for forthcoming analyses. This accomplishment positions the team well as we shift our focus toward follow-up activities, data cleaning, and the next phases of study implementation.

Aim 1

Screening

Diagnosis

Aim 2

Eligible for TPT

TPT Enrolment

Aim 3: Costing

The collaborative efforts between our partners at the University of Ottawa (uOttawa) and the Baylor Global TB team have resulted in significant advancements toward achieving our cost-effectiveness objectives. In support of Aim 3, the University of Ottawa team—led by Professor Alice Zwerling and Dr. Suvesh Shrestha—continues to collaborate closely with participating country sites as they finalize data analysis and interpretation.

Costing data collection for health worker-related activities and laboratory inputs has now been successfully completed across all sites, marking an important milestone for the aim. Preliminary analyses have been shared with country teams, generating valuable feedback that is currently being incorporated into the revised costing manuscript. In parallel, development of a Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (CEA) model is progressing, with an initial trial run completed using a simplified, literature-based framework.

Together, we are making significant strides towards achieving our objectives in a cost-effective manner.



Aim 4: Sustain

TB GAPS
IECHO
HUB



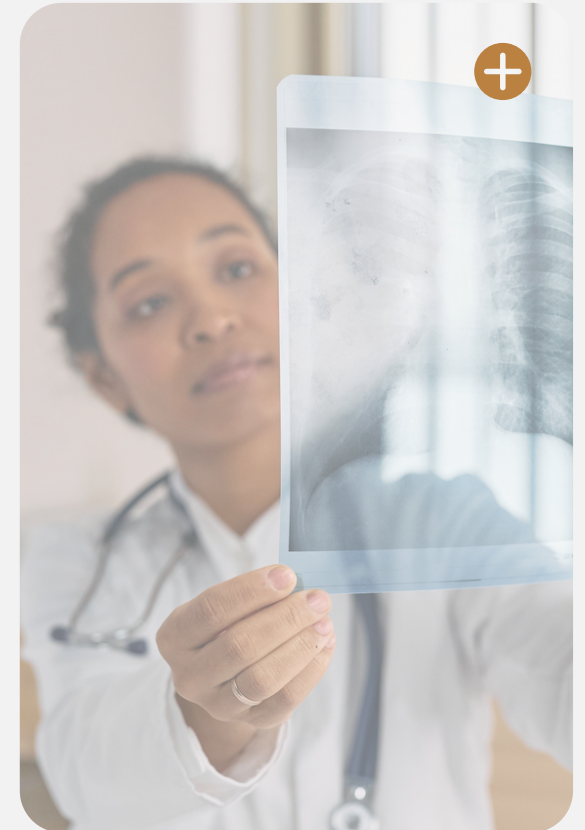
Current
Strategies For TB
Prevention



Making A
Diagnosis Of TB
In Children



What Is The
Right TB
Diagnostic
Specimen?



TPT in children:
Reaching the 1
month TPT
threshold and
going beyond



CXR For
Diagnosis And
Treatment
Decision Making

With over 200 active participants, the TB GAPS iECHO hub continues to serve as a vital platform for sharing knowledge and improving practices in the fight against TB.

We encourage you to join the ECHO sessions alongside MOH colleagues from TB and HIV, CDC partners, and clinicians!



[Join Here!](#)

Getting Started: Setting Your iECHO Account

The TB GAPS ECHO Hub is Open registration: anyone with the program link can view program details and register.

1. You Will Be Taken To iECHO

Follow the registration steps by entering your details such as First & last name, etc.

2. Check Your Email

Check your email for an invitation email from "**ECHO Institute <no-reply@iecho.org>**" and click on the button Register for program. If you didn't receive the e-mail invite, try **checking your spam folder**.

3. Create A Secure Password

Create a secure password that will be easy for you to remember, but hard for an attacker to guess. Setting a secure password is very important to ensure your account stays safe and protected.

4. Select the Checkbox

Select the checkbox next to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy, and click on **Agree & Continue**.

On completion of the above steps, the platform will promptly ask users to fill in professional profile details such as Occupation, Organisation & fields of interest.

Welcome to the TB GAPS ECHO Hub!

