Campaigns make noise to raise awareness

Mulika TB! Maliza TB! is Swahili for: Find TB! Treat TB! This innovative campaign is being carried out nationwide to increase awareness and the number of people tested for TB until people with TB are cured. Symbolic TB Torches were released to 10 high-burden counties across Kenya to symbolise the commitment of the government and its partners towards ending TB.

Learn more at http://ntlp.co.ke/the-mulika-tb-maliza-tb-concept or look for Mulika Maliza on Facebook.

LOUDER THAN TB is a global campaign sparked by the TB Alliance, uniting private and public partners to raise awareness and noise around this silent killer. Forty organizations are part of #LouderThanTB, including UNITAID, UNICEF, WHO, Médecins sans Frontières, Save the Children, Stop TB Partnership, and dozens more. Its mission: to raise awareness of childhood TB, and to find and cure children with TB with the best solutions available.

Learn more at LouderThanTB.org, or search #LouderThanTB on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.
Helping cure TB in Kenya, one child at a time

According to the World Health Organization, at least 1 million children around the world suffer from tuberculosis (TB) each year. About 210,000 die of this curable and preventable disease; that’s 2 children every 5 minutes. In Kenya, nearly 7,000 cases of TB were reported in infants and children in 2015. Our youngest are at the highest risk.

Now available: child-friendly medicines

- Quality-assured TB medicines in the correct doses
- Dissolve in water in a few seconds
- Fruit flavor makes them easier for you to administer, and for children to take

These are improved formulations of existing medicines, making them simpler for health providers and caregivers to administer, and easier for children to take.

The good news: we can cure TB

‘Now, with the appropriate treatments, we can make rapid progress in finding and treating children with TB so we can achieve a TB-free generation.’ — Dr. Cleopa Mailu, Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary of Health

TB is an infection that affects the lungs and can spread to other parts of the body. Some people have active TB, while for many others TB hides in a latent stage, and may make them sick later. All too often, children with TB remain in the shadows, undiagnosed and untreated.

If someone in a household has TB, all of the people close to that person should get tested

An attempt should be made to obtain a specimen for bacteriological confirmation from every child. However, a diagnosis can be made for the majority of children with careful history and a thorough physical examination

Be caring, but be vigilant: insist that a person with TB bring their children with them to be tested as soon as possible

Talk with each other – offer advice and ideas, and encourage health care team members to ask about children who may have been exposed to TB

TB in children can present with symptoms similar to other childhood illnesses; you need a high index of suspicion to find it

Get the children tested. IF WE CAN FIND THEM, WE CAN CURE THEM!

Parents and caregivers need to know what to look for:

- A cough of any duration
- Children who feel tired and weak
- Loss of weight
- Fever or night sweats

REMEMBER: A persistent cough is a primary symptom, but a person with TB may feel healthy or may only cough from time to time.

Do your TB patients have children at home? Then ask them to bring their child for their next visit. Testing is the key, and it is easier than ever at decentralized testing sites across Kenya.