

Zu Neu projekt Brooklyn Chest Hospital
für TB-Kranke Kinder

CAPE TIMES THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2015

R222 FOR 6-MONTH COURSE

Cheap TB treatment for kids offers hope

Presse notiz
über die TB-
situation in
Süd-Afrika

Lisa Isaacs

A NEW tuberculosis (TB) medication – which simplifies, improves and makes treatment cost affordable for one million children sufferers in the world – was launched yesterday.

The treatment is the first to meet dosage guidelines set by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2010.

Yesterday the TB Alliance, comprising health practitioners from around the globe, said the medication was “palatable, simple to administer and affordable”. It will cost about R222 for a six-month course of treatment.

The role of the alliance is to discover and develop better, faster-acting, and affordable drugs to fight TB.

The three-year project was largely funded by UNITAID, which raises new funds for global health and complements existing initiatives targeting HIV/Aids, TB and malaria.

According to the Stop TB partnership, at least one million children fall ill with TB each year.

In a statement WHO says the urgency of the problem of TB in children cannot be underestimated.

The TB Alliance said because children need differ-

ent doses of TB-medicines to adults, their medication was always “approximated, by crushing or chopping medication”.

The new medicine comes in fixed-dose combinations so tablets no longer need to be cut or crushed

It is hoped the drug will be available by 2016, but each country must go through their own processes to adopt it.

TB Alliance president Mel Spigelman said: “The availability of “correctly dosed medications will improve treatment for children everywhere”.

“This is an important step towards ending the neglect that has characterised the care of children with TB for far too long.”

WHO’s Global TB Programme director Mario Raviglione said: “If we are to end the TB epidemic by 2030, we must bring children with TB out of the shadows and ensure they are properly diagnosed, treated and cured.

“The new fixed-dose formulations for children will offer hope for the 400 children who needlessly die of TB each day. Urgent action is needed to ensure these medicines reach those in need and rapidly improve child survival.”

lisa.isaacs@inl.co.za
@lisa_isaacs