

# The No To NTD Civil Society Network Speaks Up **AGAINST COVID-19**

The current global situation calls for an effective and comprehensive response, aimed at both mitigating and containing the pandemic. Between May 13 and 20, 2020, the number of Coronavirus cases have increased by 34% in WHO's African Region<sup>1</sup>. The coronavirus (Covid-19) risks overshadowing and compounding the already severe food and nutrition crisis in the Sahel and West Africa that threatens millions of people. Access to water, social distancing and hand washing are the most effective measures to stem the spread of the virus. However, in West Africa, more than a third of the population has no access to handwashing facilities<sup>2</sup> and more than 68% have no access to improved water sources<sup>3</sup>.

Many innovative and local initiatives to fight Covid-19 are being created. However, as countries work to control the epidemic and minimize its health and social consequences, it must be done in an inclusive manner with participation from all stakeholders from decision makers to the community.

As Civil Society Organisations, we understand the pivotal role we can play in contributing to the design of public policies, including health policies, and in conducting awareness raising activities aimed at stopping the spread of misinformation, encouraging good practices, slowing down and ultimately preventing the spread of Covid-19 across Africa.

The Civil Society Says No to NTDs Coalition calls upon other civil society organizations, governments and partners to ensure that NTDs are not overlooked during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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1. <https://www.afro.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus-covid-19>

2. Joint Monitoring Programme Report : 2017 Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

3. <https://www.coalition-eau.org/wp-content/uploads/chiffres-cles-eau-mai-2017.pdf>

## **LISTE OF SIGNATORY CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION**

- Alliance Nationale des Jeunes pour la Santé de la Reproduction et de la Planification Familiale (ANJ-SR-PF) | Senegal
- Contribution au Développement Rural (CDR) | Niger
- Environnement, Communautés, Santé et Sécurité (ECOSS) | Senegal
- Hope for African Children Initiative (HACI) | Senegal
- Jeunesse Secours | Guinea
- Speak Up Africa | Senegal
- Union pour le Développement et la Coopération (UDEC) | Guinea

# THE NO TO NTDs NETWORK CALLS FOR:

1

## HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

We call on governments to strengthen health systems through adequate allocation of human, financial and technical resources to fight epidemics and pandemics such as COVID-19.

Building robust and resilient health systems leads to concrete results in terms of improved access to and quality of medical care, health information systems, health financing and coordination of actors involved at all levels, through data-based solutions that reflect local realities.



2

## AVAILABILITY OF AND ACCESS TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

We call on governments, donors, technical and financial partners, the private sector and NGOs to ensure the continued functionality of health systems by facilitating access, care and availability of products to its citizens, especially women and children. We ask governments to reinforce and equip medical staff with personal protective equipment (PPE) and to design in concert with medical personnel an improved strategy to deal with health emergencies.

We call on governments and partners to ensure funding to restore mass drug distribution campaigns in the fight against neglected tropical diseases once deemed safe to do so.



## PARTNERSHIP

We call on governments, technical and financial partners and all actors to engage in a dynamic of collaboration with civil society organisations.

This will involve collecting and analysing the feedback from communities, especially the social and economic consequences, to develop more appropriate strategies for managing the pandemic with additional crisis management measures, and to reduce the spread of misinformation.

3

4

## ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

We call on governments to promote a process of mutual accountability to all stakeholders, emphasizing the sharing of timely and comprehensive information and the production of evidence for resilient management of the pandemic.

We call on African governments to include civil society representation in the monitoring committee for the implementation of Covid-19 operations.



5

## A COMMUNITY FOCUS

We call on governments and partners to involve communities in the fight against COVID-19 from planning to the evaluation of activities.

Early engagement of communities helps to ensure acceptance of communication messages and implementation of local initiatives against COVID-19.



**NO**

NEGLECTED  
TO TROPICAL  
DISEASES