

**NO**  
TO  
NEGLECTED  
TROPICAL  
DISEASES

# FOR AN AFRICA FREE OF NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

## THE NTD BURDEN

**1.5  
BILLION  
PEOPLE**

in the world are affected by Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), a group of communicable diseases.



**600 million people** still require treatment.



These dangerous and destructive diseases can be prevented and treated, yet they continue to cause severe disfigurement and other long-term disabilities that create obstacles to education, employment, economic growth and overall development.



Only 0.6% of global healthcare funding goes to controlling NTDs.



**39%**

of the global NTD burden occurs in Africa.

**47 countries**

in the African Region are endemic for at least one NTD.

**79%**

of African countries are co-endemic for at least 5 of these diseases.



Africa will not reach its Sustainable Development Goals while 600 million people in Africa are affected by NTDs.

## PREVENTABLE AND TREATABLE

### THE 5 MOST COMMON NTDs



**Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)**



**Onchocerciasis (ONCHO)**



**Schistosomiasis (SCH)**



**Soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH)**



**Trachoma (TRA)**

**They are all amenable to preventive chemotherapy treatments, they are called the PC-NTDs.**

#### Mass Drug Administration (MDA)

is a strategy consisting of a campaign-style approach to deliver preventive chemotherapy treatments to all eligible people in at-risk communities, usually once or twice per year depending on the specific, targeted NTDs.



Thanks to the pharmaceutical sector's drug donation program, large-scale integrated treatment of people in high-risk areas with **these safe and effective medicines costs less than US \$ 0.50 per patient to administer**, making it one of the best buys in global health.

# PREVENTIVE CHEMOTHERAPY (PC)

involves reaching entire at-risk communities annually with safe and effective medicines to treat and prevent NTDs.



To accelerate the elimination of PC-NTDs to protect 600 million people in Africa, the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa created in 2016, the **Expanded Special Project for Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (ESPEN)**.

With country ownership and leadership of their control and elimination programs as a guiding principle, ESPEN contributes to the broader WHO target of universal health coverage, long-term sustainability and strengthening of health systems.

## KEY SUCCESS DRIVERS FOR NTD CONTROL AND ELIMINATION

- 1** High-level engagement with government, private sector and civil society leaders.
- 2** Increased external and domestic resources for sustainable funding.
- 3** Strengthened capacities of national NTD programs and civil society organizations to implement sustainable strategies.
- 4** Strong partnerships working in synergy.

## NTD ELIMINATION IS WITHIN OUR REACH



From 2010 to 2016, the number of people at risk for NTDs **fell by 25%**, meaning that **over 400 million people** no longer require NTD treatment.



**In 2016**, NTD programs reached **1 billion people** with treatment for at least one NTD.



**Togo** was the first nation in sub-Saharan Africa to be certified, in April 2017, for the successful elimination of lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem.



**Ghana** eliminated trachoma in June 2018, freeing millions from suffering and blindness. Ghana is the first, in the WHO's African Region to achieve this milestone.