

# ESPEN

THE EXPANDED SPECIAL PROJECT  
FOR ELIMINATION OF  
NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES



# WHAT ARE NTDs?

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a group of destructive mostly communicable diseases. They affect the world's poorest people and are especially common in tropical areas, where people have little access to clean water or proper ways to dispose of human waste.

Women and children who live in unsanitary environments face the biggest threat of NTDs. Although they can be prevented and treated, they continue to cause severe disfigurement and other long-term disabilities that create obstacles to education, employment, economic growth and overall development.

## APRIL 2017

### LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS IS NO LONGER A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM IN TOGO.

Togo is the first nation in sub-Saharan Africa to be certified for the successful elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis as a public health problem.

## JUNE 2018

### GHANA ELIMINATED TRACHOMA, AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM FREEING MILLIONS FROM SUFFERING AND BLINDNESS.

Ghana is the first country in the WHO African Region, to achieve this milestone.

## THE 5 MOST COMMON NTDs



LYMPHATIC  
FILARIASIS



ONCHOCERCIASIS



SCHISTOSOMIASIS



SOIL-TRANSMITTED  
HELMINTHIASES



TRACHOMA

## ARE ALL AMENABLE TO PREVENTIVE CHEMOTHERAPY TREATMENTS, THEY ARE CALLED THE PC-NTDs

## THE NTD BURDEN

- ▶ **1,5 billion people** are affected by NTDs worldwide.
- ▶ **39% of the global NTD burden** occurs in Africa.
- ▶ Only **0.6% of global healthcare funding** goes to controlling NTDs.

## MASS DRUG ADMINISTRATION (MDA)

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 programme, 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.



# 1995

## APOC

(African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control) was a unique global public-private partnership aiming at eliminating onchocerciasis as a public health problem throughout Africa.



APOC  
a unique PPP



# 1974

WHO launched the **Onchocerciasis Control Programme (OCP)** in collaboration with the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and Food and Agriculture Organisation. The programme stretched over 1 200 000 Km<sup>2</sup> to protect 30 million people in 11 countries from the debilitating effects of river blindness.

# 2012

A coalition of philanthropic organisations, donor countries, governments of NTD endemic countries and pharmaceutical companies signed the London Declaration, committing to control, eliminate or eradicate 10 NTDs by January 2020. Pharmaceutical companies have pledged more than US \$17.8 billion in drug donations, providing an unparalleled opportunity to achieve the 2015 G7 Leaders' Declaration and the 2020 NTD goals and fulfill related commitments to progress on NTDs and Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

1<sup>ST</sup> GLOBAL PARTNERS MEETING

LONDON DECLARATION

\$17.8 billion in drug donations

26 African countries signed the Addis Ababa Commitment

# 2007



1<sup>st</sup> Global Partners Meeting on NTDs held at WHO headquarters in Geneva, April 2007.

# 2014

Ministers of 26 African countries gathered in Ethiopia to sign the Addis Ababa Commitment on Neglected Tropical Diseases. Through this commitment, they pledged to increase domestic investments, strengthen NTD programme goals, work towards global control and elimination targets and use their NTD work to strengthen their overall health systems.

# 2016



In an unprecedented organisational move to reduce the burden of NTDs, WHO AFRO established ESPEN in collaboration with Member States and NTD partners.



# 2017

- ▶ In 2017, out of the 590.8 million people requiring preventive chemotherapy in the African Region, **409.1 million of them were treated**, representing a **69.2% coverage** on the continent.
- ▶ **7 countries** recovered **132 million tablets** through ESPEN supported supply chain analysis.

# 2018



**ESPEN supported 21 countries** to scale up treatments targeting over **70 million people** with essential medicines to prevent and treat PC-NTDs.

**October 2018,** 57 countries across the world committed to eliminating NTDs through the adoption of a resolution at the XVIII Summit of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) in Armenia.

# WHAT IS ESPEN?

The Expanded Special Project for Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (ESPEN) was established in the spirit of a public-private partnership between WHO Regional Office for Africa (AFRO), Member States and NTD partners in an effort to mobilize political, technical and financial resources to accelerate the elimination of the five most prevalent neglected tropical diseases in Africa :



## LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS

- In 2017, 217.9 million people were treated in Africa and 346.3 million people still required preventive chemotherapy worldwide.



## ONCHOCERCIASIS

- In 2017, 204.6 million people required preventive chemotherapy treatments in Africa, 142 million of them were treated across 23 countries on the continent.



## SCHISTOSOMIASIS

- In 2017, estimates showed that at least 220.7 million people required preventive treatment worldwide and at least 199.6 million of them live in Africa.



## SOIL-TRANSMITTED HELMINTHIASIS

- Over 97 million preschool-age children and over 179 million school-age children live in areas where these parasites are intensively transmitted and are in need of treatment in 2017.



## TRACHOMA

- Trachoma is the leading infectious cause of blindness worldwide.
- Based on April 2018 data, 139 million people live in trachoma endemic areas in the African Region and are at risk of blindness from trachoma.

## VISION

African people free of NTDs.

## MISSION

Accelerate the elimination of PC-NTDs to protect 600 million people in Africa.

## VALUES



### COUNTRY-OWNED INITIATIVE

Countries strengthen their health systems and build integrated and tailored approaches, leading the efforts to reach NTD elimination with the support of their partners.



### TRANSPARENCY

Timely information sharing.



### PARTNERSHIPS

We are a group of like-minded partners from both public and private sectors fighting for the elimination of NTDs in Africa.



### LEADERSHIP

As part of WHO AFRO, ESPEN stands ready to provide technical expertise to countries and partners.



### VALUE FOR MONEY

**Economy:** Quality interventions at a minimum cost.

**Effectiveness:** A flexible project for rapid in-country responses, adapting to a changing environment.

**Efficiency:** Use quality data for smarter decision-making.

**Equity:** Provide equitable access to NTD interventions for all.

# ESPEN GOALS



## SCALE UP TREATMENT/INTERVENTIONS

Reaching 100% geographical coverage of 5 PC NTDs.



## SCALE DOWN

Supporting countries to stop treatment and achieve WHO validation as soon as elimination is reached.



## INCREASE EFFICIENCY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF DONATED MEDICINES

to reach those who need them.



## FOSTER PARTNERSHIPS AND STRENGTHEN ADVOCACY

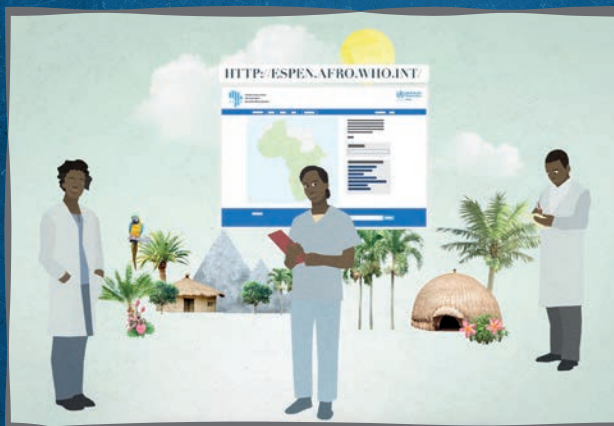
for increased resource mobilisation for NTD elimination.



## STRENGTHEN INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Enhance ESPEN portal: better data for higher impact.

## THE ESPEN PORTAL



**ESPEN aims to equip all stakeholders with the evidence they need to successfully tackle each disease, mobilize resources more efficiently and target interventions appropriately.**

- The ESPEN Portal is an electronic platform designed to enable health ministries and stakeholders to share, and exchange subnational programme data, in support of the NTD control and elimination goals.
- Through this Portal, ESPEN illustrates, in the form of maps, site and district level data that can be aggregated by disease and country.
- These maps, along with the downloadable underlying data, are tools designed to aid health officials and their partners in boosting and developing NTD interventions and strategies to reach key targeted communities.



[HTTP://ESPEN.AFRO.WHO.INT](http://ESPEN.AFRO.WHO.INT)

To learn more about partnership opportunities, please contact ESPEN's Team Leader, Dr. Maria Rebollo Polo: [rebolopolom@who.int](mailto:rebolopolom@who.int).

# UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

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.

*If we are serious about universal health coverage, we must intensify our efforts and our commitments to control, eliminate or eradicate NTDs by 2020.*

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus  
World Health Organisation, Director General

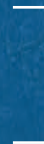
NTDs community-based interventions ensure nobody is left behind

Building capacity for African Ministries of Health strengthens their health systems and provides the NTD quality services populations deserve

No out of pocket expenditure is needed when accessing donated NTD medicines



Equity in access



Quality of health services



Financial risk protection



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Universal Health Coverage



World Health Organization  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Africa



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