

Regional Action Plan for **NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES** in the Western Pacific Region (2012–2016)



ABBREVIATIONS

ALB	albendazole
AZI	azithromycin
DEC	diethylcarbamazine (citrate)
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
FBT	foodborne trematodiasis
GNNTD	Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases
HMIS	health management information system
IMCI	integrated management of childhood illness
IVM	integrated vector management
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LF	lymphatic filariasis
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MDA	mass drug administration
MEB	mebendazole
NTD	neglected tropical disease
PC	preventive chemotherapy
PZQ	praziquantel
SCH	schistosomiasis
STH	soil-transmitted helminthiasis
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WCBA	women of childbearing age
WHO	World Health Organization

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Cover: Neglected Tropical Diseases such as schistosomiasis, foodborne trematodiasis and soil-transmitted helminthiasis are often associated with agricultural practices, poor sanitation and poverty. Photo credit: AFP

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FOREWORD



Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a public health issue in 28 countries and areas in the Western Pacific Region. Although some Member States have made remarkable progress in NTD control and elimination, there is a vital need to consolidate these successes and further reduce the burden of diseases. NTD elimination and control efforts are recognized as one of the most cost-effective interventions in global health today.

Based on the WHO NTD global road map, to achieve the targets of elimination of leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, trachoma and yaws by 2020 and to reduce morbidity from soil-transmitted helminthiasis and foodborne trematodiasis, interventions including intersectoral transmission-control measures must be scaled up.

To this end, Member States endorsed the Regional Action Plan for Neglected Tropical Diseases in the Western Pacific (2012–2016) through resolution WPR/RC63. R4 of the sixty-third session of the World Health Organization Regional Committee for the Western Pacific in September 2012. The plan is a product of extensive consultation among national programmes and a variety of stakeholders and partners within and outside the Region. The plan, which will serve as the Region's NTD road map towards the global 2020 targets, is a critical step towards securing sustained financial and human resources for NTDs in endemic countries, integrating disease-specific activities, measuring progress and improving coordination.

This plan also lays out many challenges. Extraordinary efforts will be required to mobilize the resources necessary to reach the 2016 regional NTD targets. WHO will strongly support national NTD programmes and those of other stakeholders in their continuing efforts to implement actions that will accelerate efforts to reach those targets.

I am convinced that if we succeed, this will make a big difference in the lives of a great number of people in this Region. Physical well-being will be improved, the cognitive development of children will be enhanced, and disabilities, disfigurements and stigma will be prevented. Indirectly, children's school attendance, nutrition, and food safety will be improved, and anemia, especially in pregnant women, will be reduced. This will contribute to the economic growth of this Region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shin Young-soo'.

Shin Young-soo, MD, Ph.D.
Regional Director
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