

The road to 2030

Ending the neglect to attain the Sustainable Development Goals: a road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030 (WHO, 2020) is a strategic blueprint to guide actions to control, eliminate or eradicate 20 diseases and disease groups (NTDs) over the next decade.



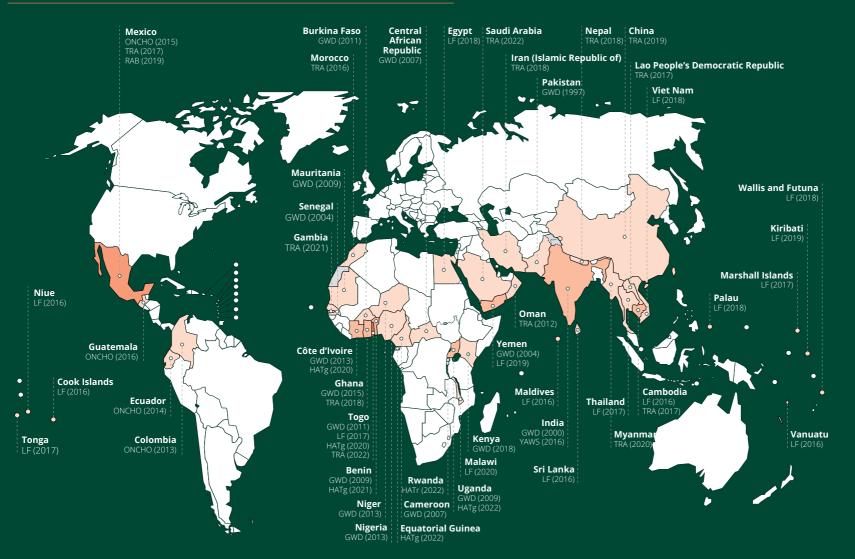
Progress at a glance

- By 6 June 2022, 46 countries had eliminated at least one NTD (Fig. 1).
- In 2021, 15 human cases of dracunculiasis were reported, the lowest total number ever reported worldwide in a single year (WHO, 2022a).
- In 2020, 1.73 billion people needed mass or individual treatment for NTDs, down from 2.19 billion people in 2010, and some 10 million fewer than in 2019 (Fig. 2, Fig. 3).
- Also in 2020, there was a 92% reduction in the number of cases of gambiense human African trypanosomiasis compared with 2010 (WHO, 2022b).

Fig. 1. Number of countries that have eliminated at least one NTD

Key challenges

- Research and development on diagnostic needs to cover all NTDs and upgrade existing tools. To guide this effort, WHO convened a Diagnostic Technical Advisory Group which has developed more than 15 target product profiles across 10 NTDs.
- Funding for NTD programmes is inadequate.
- Critical gaps persist for implementing the WHO strategic framework on monitoring and evaluation. (WHO, 2021b).
- Armed conflicts reduce capacities and disrupt implementation of NTD interventions.



GWD - Dracunculiasis (Guinea-worm disease) HATg - Human African trypanosomiasis (gambiense) HATr - Human African trypanosomiasis (rhodesiense) LF - Lymphatic filariasis ONCHO - Onchocerciasis RAB - Rabies TRA - Trachoma YAWS - Yaws (endemic

treponematosis)

1 disease

2 diseases

3 diseases

4 diseases

Not applicable

Note: Countries are those identified as endemic in the road map that have completed the designated validation/verification/ certification process and been acknowledged by WHO. China and the Republic of Korea were validated for having eliminated lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem and are no longer considered endemic.

Drivers of success

Increased support

• Pharmaceutical companies donate on average nearly three billion tablets of safe, quality-assured medicines annually, worth hundreds of millions of United States dollars (Fig. 4).

Better collaboration

 Multisectoral collaboration has been intensified with major advances in the integration of WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) and vector control in NTD programmes.

Continuous innovation

 New treatments and/or diagnostics are being developed for multiple NTDs including Buruli ulcer, human African trypanosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis mycetoma, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis and yaws.



Fig. 2. SDG indicator 3.3.5: Number of people requiring interventions against NTDs

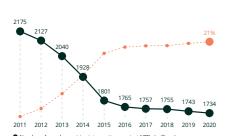


Fig. 4. Donated medicines (millions)

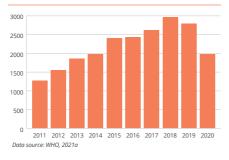


Fig. 5. Percentage of countries reporting

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Impact of COVID-19 on NTD services

- According to the third global pulse survey (WHO, 2022d), NTD services were among those most frequently affected, with nearly half of all responding countries reporting disruption and changes to health-seeking behaviour in targeted populations.
- Among NTD services, community-based activities including preventive chemotherapy campaigns were reported as those most severely disrupted by the pandemic.

Delays and gaps in mass drug administration (MDA) and active case-finding have the potential to cause NTDs to resurge. Rapid action and more frequent, intensified interventions are needed to recover from the disruptions.



WHO's mitigation measures against COVID-19 impact

- Guidance published on adapting NTD-related activities to the evolving pandemic.
- NTD medicine supply pathways modified to enable redistribution of medicines to areas that were able to implement interventions and thereby minimize wastage due to expiration.
- In some countries, important progress against NTDs registered despite the pandemic.

Actions required to meet interim 2023 milestones and 2030 targets

- Renew and extend high-level political commitment for all 20 NTDs and secure sufficient resources to enable programme implementation.
- · Foster greater country ownership.
- Mainstream NTD interventions into national health systems as an integrated part of primary health care.
- Encourage closer collaboration across all relevant sectors (One Health, skin NTDs, surveillance, WASH, etc.).
- Pursue research and development on innovative tools and methods to combat NTDs.

