



## ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL NTD PROGRAMME MANAGERS IN THE WHO AFRICA REGION

**November 29 to  
December 1, 2023**

BRAZZAVILLE, CONGO  
WHO AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE



**World Health  
Organization**

African Region



**UHC/CN**

Universal Health Coverage/Communicable  
and Non-communicable Diseases

WHO Regional Office for Africa



# ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL NTD PROGRAMME MANAGERS IN THE WHO AFRICA REGION, 29 Nov – 1 Dec 2023

**Session 2:** Global update on progress NTD 2021-2030 roadmap and disease specific updates towards achievements of targets and sub-targets for each PC-NTD and CM-NTDS

**Organizer:** Dr Didier Bakajika, Medical officer Onchocerciasis and Lymphatic filariasis

## Concept note

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### 1. Introduction/Context:

The World Health Organization Neglected Tropical Diseases (WHO/NTD) Road map outlines clear overarching, cross-cutting and specific targets for control, elimination, and eradication of NTDs by 2030. Overarching global targets include, 90% reduction of people requiring interventions against NTDs, 75% reduction in disability-adjusted life years related to NTDs, elimination of NTDs in 100 countries and the eradication of two diseases). Cross-cutting targets are grouped in integrated approaches (75% reduction in number of deaths from vector-borne NTDs, 75% integration), treatment coverage index for preventive chemotherapy, 40 countries adopting and implementing integrated skin NTDs), multisectoral coordination (100% access to at least basic WASH in endemic setting), universal health coverage (90% share of countries including NTDs in their package of essential services and budgeting, 90% share of countries with guidelines for management of NTDs related disabilities with) and country ownership (90% share of countries reporting on all relevant endemic NTDs, 90% share of countries collecting and reporting data on NTDs). Regarding diseases, each and every one listed in the NTD road map has specific targets, sub targets and milestones. The upcoming joint preventive and case management Programme Managers Meeting will be a great opportunity to update participants on global and disease specific progresses towards the achievements of targets and sub targets in the WHO African region as well as on issues and challenges encountered.

### 2. Objective and expected outcomes:

#### 2.1 General Objective:

- To provide updates on progress on Neglected tropical diseases road map 2021-2030.

#### 2.2. Specific objectives

- To provide updates on global progress on NTD 2021-2023 road map.
- To provide updates towards achievements of targets and sub-targets of six<sup>1</sup> case management neglected tropical diseases endemic in the WHO African region.

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<sup>1</sup> Buruli Ulcer, Guinea worm, Human African Trypanosomiasis, Leishmaniasis, Leprosy and Yaws

- To provide updates towards achievements of targets and sub-targets of seven<sup>2</sup> preventive chemotherapy neglected tropical diseases endemic in the WHO African region.
- To highlight major challenges and way forward.

### 2.3.Expected outcomes

- Updates on global progresses on NTD 2021-2023 roadmap targets shared.
- Progress towards the attainment of targets of sub-targets of six preventive and six case management neglected tropical diseases endemic in the WHO African region shared.
- Major challenges presented and discussed and suggestions/recommendations on way forward formulated.

### 3. Method of work (describe session format)

The session will consist of plenary presentations. Three facilitators have been identified to provide 25 minutes presentation each. The first facilitator from WHO/HQ will share updates on global progress on NTD 2021-2023 Road map targets and the key challenges followed by the presentation of two colleagues from WHO/AFRO who will share updates on eight case management (Buruli Ulcer, Guinea worm disease, Human African Trypanosomiasis, Leishmaniasis (Visceral & Cutaneous), Leprosy and Yaws), and seven preventive chemotherapy (Trachoma, Schistosomiasis, Soil transmitted helminthiasis, Taeniasis & cysticercosis, Onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis) neglected tropical diseases endemic in the WHO African region.

### 4. Session duration: 1hr 30 min

### 5. Detailed agenda (Please use the format below):

*All times Central African Time (CAT: UCT +1)*

Time (CAT)	Topic	Chair	Facilitator
11:00-11:05	Objectives and expected outcomes of the session	Dr Didier Bakajika	Dr Didier Bakajika
11:05-11:30	Global updates on progress NTD 2021-2030 roadmap		Dr D. Argaw Dagne
11:30-12:00	Updates towards achievements of targets and sub-targets for		Dr A. Korkor

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<sup>2</sup> Onchocerciasis, Lymphatic Filariasis, Schistosomiasis, Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis, Trachoma, taeniasis, cysticercosis.

	<b>CM-NTDs in the WHO African region</b>		
<b>12:00-12:30</b>	<b>Updates towards achievements of targets and sub-targets for PC-NTDs in the WHO African region</b>		<b>Dr D. Bakajika</b>

## 5. Presenters Bio:

**Dr Daniel Argaw Dagne** is currently the Unit Head for Prevention, Treatment and Care, in the Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases at the WHO, Geneva. Prior to this, he was coordinator of the Innovative and Intensified Disease Management Unit and Head of the global leishmaniasis control programme. He has worked as lead for the Disease Prevention and Control team in WHO Ethiopia and as director of disease surveillance, control and health programmes at various levels. Dr Argaw is a physician with specializations in tropical medicine and public health.

**Dr Andrew Seidu Korkor** is the Regional Focal Point for Dracunculiasis Eradication and Snakebite envenoming Programmes. Prior to joining WHO in July 2013, he was National Programme Manager of Ghana's Dracunculiasis Eradication Programme. He is Public Health Physician with over twenty-five years' experience in public health practice at national and international levels.

**Dr Didier Bakajika** is the regional focal point for onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis. Prior to joining WHO in May 2017, he was Programme Epidemiologist for NTDs at Sightsavers from 2014 to 2017, moxidectin principal investigator from 2008 to 2014 and medical officer at the NTD program in the Democratic Republic of Congo from 2003 to 2008. Didier Bakajika is a trained physician with specializations in epidemiology and biology and control of parasites and disease vectors.

## 6. Session Rapporteurs:

**The following are the two rapporteurs of the session**

- Dr Aliyu SULEIMAN, WHO/Nigeria
- Dr Dismas BAZA, MCAT/Burkina Faso
- Dr Sharmila LAREEF, MCAT/ Ghana.
- Dr Spes NTABANGANA, MCAT/Senegal.

## 7. List of Resources and background documents to be shared with participants (list titles of documents):

- World Health Organization 2023. [Global report on neglected tropical diseases 2023](#)

# ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL NTD PROGRAMME MANAGERS IN THE WHO AFRICA REGION, 29 Nov – 1 Dec 2023

**Session 3:** NTD country programmes joining forces: Kikundi CoP

**Organizer:** Dr Amir Kello, ESPEN Medical Officer for Trachoma & Kikundi CoP

## Concept Note

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### 1. Introduction/Context:

Kikundi is a community of practice through which African NTD Programme Managers can learn from one another in-person and online and collaborate in the pursuit of reaching national and global NTD benchmarks. The Kikundi online platform provides Programme Managers, specifically those who focus on preventive chemotherapy NTDs, access to up-to-date NTD professional development and training resources, group problem-solving forums, direct messaging, and other tools to advance their technical and professional goals. Through these resources, Kikundi fosters collaborative decision-making and network-building to solve common NTD implementation and management challenges.

Since its launch in 2021, the platform has expanded its membership to 72 NTD staff across 39 countries.

In the last two years, a total of six courses (Leadership and Management in Health, Economic Evaluation in Global Health, Monitoring and Evaluation in Global Health, Policy Development and Advocacy for Global Health, Project Management in Global Health, and Fundamentals of Implementation Science) were completed by 32 unique Programme Managers. Overall, 68 certificates have been awarded to those 32 Programme Managers.

Feedback from Programme Managers in a recent survey shows that Kikundi has supported them in improving their professional and programme goals.

### 2. Objective and expected outcomes:

#### 2.1 General Objective:

- The objective of this session is to share the progress of Kikundi with Partners and brainstorm ideas to support Programme Managers

#### 2.2 Specific objectives

- Share the progress of Kikundi for the last 2 years.
- Discuss Programme Manager priorities going forward.
- Discuss ways partners can collaborate with Kikundi going forward.

### 2.3 Expected outcomes

- This session presents a unique opportunity to highlight the main object of the first phase of Kikundi and share the achievements since it was launched. It also gives an opportunity to encourage other countries that are not yet on the platform to join and also to expand Kikundi's partnership scope.

### 3. Method of work

Participants will share a PowerPoint presentation on the progress of Kikundi followed by a Q&A session moderated by a Programme Manager.

### 4. Session duration: 30 minutes

### 5. Detailed agenda: *All times Central African Time (CAT: UCT +1)*

Time (CAT)	Topic	Presenter	Facilitator
12:30-12:35	<b>Features</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Website</li><li>• Mobile Application</li><li>• Translation</li></ul>	<b>Dr. Ndeye Mbacké Kane</b>	<b>Mr. Ball Jatta</b>
12:35-12:40	<b>Partnerships</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• List of partners</li><li>• Examples of successful partnerships</li></ul>	<b>Dr. Ndeye Mbacké Kane</b>	
12:40-12:45	<b>Progress to date</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Online courses</li><li>• Webinars</li><li>• Kikundi conversation</li><li>• Site visits</li></ul>	<b>Mr. Balla Jatta</b>	
12:45-12:50	<b>Evaluation of Kikundi</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monthly analytics</li><li>• Annual surveys</li></ul>	<b>Dr. Tuduetso Molefi</b>	
12:50-13:00	<b>Discussion &amp; Closing</b>	<b>Mr. Balla Jatta</b>	

### 6. Presenters Bio:

**Dr Ndéye Mbacké Kane** is MD and a Public Health specialist with a master's degree in medical Biostatistics and Epidemiology from the University of Dakar. Since September 2020, she has served as NTDs Programme Coordinator at the Ministry of Health (MOH) of Senegal. Prior to this position, Dr. Kane worked for 10 years at a decentralized level. Under her leadership, the MOH has made significant progress

towards increasing national ownership by integrating NTDs into national HMIS, including NTDs into the UHC policies and domestic resource mobilization for NTDs. Dr. KANE is co-author of the study “Human and animal health knowledge, attitudes and practices on rabies in Kaffrine” and on “data analysis at community level to optimize the use of Praziquantel in Senegal”.

**Mr. Balla Jatta (Cert, HND, BSc, PGD, MBA)** is the NTD Programme Manager at the Ministry of Health, The Gambia. Mr. Jatta spent 13 years working in the public health sector in The Gambia, having worked as a Public Health Officer in two Health Regions from 2010 to 2014 before moving to the central level as a National Surveillance Officer, Epidemiology and Disease Control Officer and Eventually NTD Programme Manager in May 2019. He provides strategic leadership as well as oversees the implementation of all Neglected Tropical Diseases control and elimination activities. He also has experience working with The Red Cross and WHO as a Consultant on Health Emergencies. Mr. Jatta is the current Co-Chair of Kikundi

**Dr Tuduetso Molefi (MBChB, DTMH)** is the NTD Programme Manager at the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Botswana. Dr. Molefi spent 13 years working in the public health sector in Botswana, 5 of which has been spent as NTD Programme Manager. She provides strategic leadership as well as oversees the implementation of all Neglected Tropical Diseases control and elimination activities. Dr. Molefi is the current chair of Kikundi.

## **7. Session Rapporteurs: Jusufu Paye and Agazi Fitsum**

## **8. Resources and background documents to be shared with participants:**

- [Kikundi 2022 annual report](#)

## ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL NTD PROGRAMME MANAGERS IN THE WHO AFRICA REGION, 29 Nov – 1 Dec 2023

### Session 4: Monitoring NTD resources, country ownership and domestic funding

**Organizer:** Dr Jorge Cano (WHO-AFRO), Dr Pamela S. Mbabazi (WHO-HQ), and Dr Abate M. Beshah (WHO-AFRO)

### Concept note

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#### 1. Introduction/Context:

Knowing and monitoring the availability of resources and funding to comply with planned interventions is crucial, as explained in detail in the background and justification section. Despite efforts to mobilize domestic investment for NTD interventions, many countries in the African region still heavily rely on financial and technical support from local and international partners. In the African region, there are 4,975 areas or implementation units that require interventions for at least one PC-NTD. In 2021, only 58.2% (2,894 areas) of these units were able to conduct interventions for at least one PC-NTD. Unfortunately, a significant portion of the remaining areas (42.8%) did not receive any interventions due to a lack of funding. A recent study conducted by ESPEN in 26 countries aimed to assess the availability of funding for planned MDA rounds scheduled in 2023. The study revealed that 12% of implementation units lacked funding to complete the required MDA rounds for LF, 11% for Oncho, 35% for STH, and 24% for SCH. To address this issue, ESPEN has partnered with organizations involved in the development and maintenance of the ESPEN Portal. Together, we have developed an online tool called the "IU Planner." This tool enables stakeholders to report and monitor the availability of funding and planned interventions. It serves as a centralized platform to track funding gaps and ensure transparency in resource allocation for PC-NTD interventions. By utilizing the IU Planner, stakeholders can better coordinate their efforts, identify areas in need of additional funding, and prioritize interventions accordingly. This tool aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of resource utilization, ultimately leading to a greater impact in combating PC-NTDs in the African region.

WHO recognizes the importance of national NTD programs as the primary source of information regarding funding availability for planned activities. In line with this, we are considering a review of the current tools utilized by NTD programs to report data to WHO. Our objective is to identify the most appropriate tool that can effectively collect sub-national level information on funding availability. To achieve this, we propose enhancing the existing tools to ensure a seamless flow of information from countries to WHO. By doing so, we can release the data through the IU Planner, allowing stakeholders to confirm their support and monitor the progress of planned MDA interventions. These actions aim to streamline the reporting process, improve data accuracy, and facilitate the tracking of funding availability at the implementation unit level. By enhancing the tools used by NTD programs and leveraging the IU Planner, we can promote transparency, collaboration, and effective resource allocation in the fight against NTDs.



The document titled "Ending the Neglect to Attain the Sustainable Development Goals: A Sustainability Framework for Action Against Neglected Tropical Diseases 2021–2030" was launched as a companion document to the established roadmap for addressing neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) from 2021 to 2030. The upcoming decade is crucial for not only safeguarding the gains made thus far but also for broadening our efforts to include all 20 identified diseases and disease groups, with the ultimate goals of eradication, elimination, and control of NTDs. The successful implementation of the road map hinges on the continuous and effective execution of strategies targeting NTDs. The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed the NTD road map as guiding document and its related companion documents to assist Member States, various stakeholders, and partners in coordinating their strategies and identifying sustainable methods to achieve the targets set for 2030.

Country ownership and the sustainability of interventions are pivotal in the fight against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). When countries take ownership of the health challenges they face, they are more likely to allocate the necessary resources, tailor strategies to local contexts, and integrate these efforts into their national health systems, ensuring that interventions are not only effective but also culturally and socially appropriate. Sustainable interventions require long-term commitment and adaptable strategies that can withstand political and economic changes. This sustainability is crucial for maintaining public health gains and preventing the resurgence of NTDs, which can quickly undermine decades of work if efforts are not continuous and supported by the domestic commitment. Moreover, country-led initiatives foster local expertise and strengthen health infrastructure, which are essential for the ongoing surveillance, treatment, and prevention of NTDs. In essence, the successful eradication, elimination, or control of these diseases hinges on the extent to which national governments can commit to and sustain the necessary interventions.

## **2. Objective and expected outcomes:**

### **2.1 General Objective:**

The general objective of the session is to foster a comprehensive understanding of the current landscape of resource monitoring, country ownership, and domestic funding for the control and intervention of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in the African region, and to identify actionable strategies to close the funding gap and strengthen the sustainability of NTD programs.

### **2.2 Specific objectives**

- To evaluate the current mechanisms in place for monitoring the availability of resources and funding for NTD interventions.
- To identify specific areas where funding shortfalls are preventing the execution of planned interventions for NTDs, using the illustrative example of PC-NTDs.
- To understand the impact of these funding gaps on the control and elimination of NTDs.
- To present the development of a new online tool called “IU Planner” for better resource tracking and intervention planning.

- To discuss the role of country ownership in ensuring sustainable NTD interventions and long-term commitment: learning from country experiences.
- To explore ways in which countries can increase domestic funding for NTD control.

### 2.3 Expected outcomes

- Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities in funding and resource allocation for NTD interventions.
- Development of a set of recommendations for enhancing the financial tracking and reporting mechanisms for NTD interventions.
- Formulation of a strategic framework to increase country ownership and mobilize domestic resources for sustainable NTD intervention.
- A commitment from participating countries and stakeholders to implement the recommendations and utilize the enhanced tools for better monitoring and action against NTDs.

### 3. Method of work (describe session format)

The session on "Monitoring NTD Resources, Country Ownership, and Domestic Funding" will unfold through a series of informative presentations, enriched by case studies in AFRO. These presentations will highlight the nuances of resource mobilization, the bolstering of domestic funding, and the expansion of country ownership in the context of NTDs. Representatives from countries that have made notable strides in these areas will share their successes and challenges, providing valuable insights into the practical application of WHO guidelines. A panel discussion with a diverse group of stakeholders will follow, offering a platform for dialogue and exchange of perspectives.

### 4. Session duration: 1h 30 min

### 5. Detailed agenda (Please use the format below):

*All times Central African Time (CAT: UCT +1)*

Time (CAT)	Topic	Chair	Facilitator
14:00 – 14:10	Monitoring Funding availability: anticipating funding gap for MDA and M&E implementation	Pamela Mbabazi WHO-HQ	Jorge Cano WHO-AFRO
	ESPEN IU Planner tool		
14:10 – 14:30	WHO Sustainability Framework	Jorge Cano WHO-AFRO	Pamela S. Mbabazi
14:30 – 14:40	Country experiences – Rwanda		Dr Ladislav Nshimiyimana
14:40 – 14:50	Country experiences – Togo		Dr Piham Gnessike
14:50 – 15:00	Country experiences – Ghana		Dr. Joseph Kwadwo Larbi Opere
15:00 – 15:10	Country experiences – Senegal		Dr Ndéye M'backé Kane

## 6. Presenters Bio: (one brief paragraph for each presenter)

**Dr Jorge Cano** is working as Surveillance Officer at the Expanded Special Project for the Elimination of NTDs in the WHO-AFRO regional office. He holds a PhD in Epidemiology and, MSc postgraduate training in Public Health and Parasitology and in Cartography, Remote sensing, and Spatial Analysis. Previously worked as an Assistant Professor at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in the field of geospatial modelling of NTD infections, focusing his research on lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, STH infections, schistosomiasis, and more recently on podoconiosis, Buruli ulcer and mycetoma.

**Dr Pamela S Mbabazi** is working as a Medical Epidemiologist in Strategic Information and Analytics unit of the Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases, at the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva – Switzerland. She is a physician with more than 25 years' of experience working for the United Nations to support national public health programmes to implement interventions against infectious diseases. She coordinates the Working Group on Monitoring, Evaluation and Research for neglected tropical diseases (WG MER) at global level for the Strategic Technical Advisory Group. Her research interests include strengthening monitoring and evaluation of neglected tropical diseases programmes particularly for vulnerable groups and marginalized populations.

**Dr Ladislav Nshimiyimana** is working as Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Research Senior Officer and currently coordinating the NTDs Program at Rwanda Biomedical Centre/Ministry of Health. He holds a Master of Public Health with focus in Epidemiology and Diseases Control, and Master of Art in Project Planning and Management. He is a public health expert, clinician, team and resources manager and researcher with more than 15 years in the Rwandan health system and, 6 years of experience in health research. He is the chairperson of the Eye NTD Elimination Committee (ENEC). He has extensive expertise in spatial-temporal analysis of diseases, design and implementing qualitative studies, as well as other epidemiological studies. His research focus is in Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis, Schistosomiasis, Podoconiosis, and Taeniasis/Cysticercosis, with willing to expand to other NTDs.

## 7. Session Rapporteurs: TBD

## 8. List of Resources and background documents to be shared with participants (list titles of documents):

- [Ending the neglect to attain the Sustainable Development Goals: A road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030](#), WHO.
- Illustrative examples of national NTD programme sustainability plans: [Tanzania](#) and [Uganda](#).
- News release features on sustainability of NTD programmes:
  - [Ethiopia Launches Third National NTD Strategic Plan and Sustainability Plan for Neglected Tropical Diseases](#).

- [Tanzania Launches New Master Plan and Sustainability Plan For Neglected Tropical Diseases](#)
- [Ugandan government launches a national sustainability plan for neglected tropical diseases](#)
- [USAID Guiding Principles to Support Government Sustainability Planning for NTD programmes.](#)

# ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL NTD PROGRAMME MANAGERS IN THE WHO AFRICA REGION, 29 Nov – 1 Dec 2023

**Session 5:** The NTD Master Plans, Sustainability Plans and Annual Work Plans

**Organizer:** Dr Augustin Kadima Ebeja

## Concept note

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### 1. Introduction/Context:

Based on the significant accomplishments achieved during the implementation of the 2012-2020 NTD roadmap, the new 2021-2030 roadmap heralds the beginning of a decade dedicated to controlling, eliminating, and eradicating Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). The results attained in the last three years (2020, 2021, and 2022) are indeed commendable and warrant recognition.

In 2021, there was a notable decline of approximately 80 million in the number of people requiring interventions for NTDs, marking a substantial milestone. Furthermore, ten countries have successfully eradicated NTDs as a public health concern. These countries include Benin, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Uganda, Rwanda, and Togo. For example, Togo, a French-speaking country in West Africa, and Rwanda, an English-speaking country in East Africa, have both made significant strides in NTD management and control.

Up to thirty-six countries in the African region have revised their NTD Master Plans to be in line with the goals and objectives of the NTD Road Map. There is now an urgent requirement to identify and prioritize specific actions for 2024 to ensure we are on course to effectively implement the NTD Master Plans and achieve the ambitious targets and milestones set out in the NTD Road Map.

### 2. Objective and expected outcomes:

#### 2.1 General Objective:

- Assess the achievements under the 2012-2020 NTD roadmap and to strategize for the successful implementation of the 2021-2030 roadmap, with a focus on aligning actions with the updated NTD Master Plans and setting clear priorities for 2024 and beyond to control, eliminate, and eradicate NTDs in the African region.

#### 2.2 Specific objectives

- Discuss and exchange experiences, opportunities, and challenges encountered in the implementation of the NTD Roadmap and Master Plans, including an assessment of

intervention impacts using tools such as the NTD Heatmap, the Preventive Chemotherapy NTDs Joint Application Package (JAP), Trachoma Elimination Monitoring Form (TEMF), and CM NTD reports.

- Share lessons learned and best practices, including those related to the integration of NTD programs.
- Present and review Sustainability Plans for ongoing NTD control and elimination efforts.
- Facilitate a discussion on the development of the Annual Work Plan for 2024, focusing on setting priorities and strategic objectives.

### 2.3 Expected outcomes

- A comprehensive sharing of country-specific experiences, opportunities, and challenges encountered in the implementation of the WHO NTD roadmap and master plans.
- Creation of a draft template for Annual Work Plans, along with the identification of key actions for the 2024 Annual Work Plan at the country level.

## 3. Method of work (describe session format)

The session will begin with a plenary PowerPoint presentation covering the session's topics, including experiences, challenges, and opportunities in implementing the WHO NTD roadmap and master plans. Following the presentation, there will be an interactive discussion phase where participants can engage in detailed dialogues, share insights, and collaborate on ideas. This discussion will facilitate knowledge exchange and the sharing of experiences from different countries, helping to address shared challenges and identify best practices. It will also lay the groundwork for drafting Annual Work Plans and strategic actions for the 2024 Annual Work Plan at the country level. The session encourages active involvement from all attendees to promote collaboration and participation.

## 4. Session duration: 120 minutes

## 5. Detailed agenda (Please use the format below):

*All times Central African Time (CAT: UCT +1)*

Time (CAT)	Topic	Chair	Facilitator
10 mins	Master Plans Status in The AFRO region		Titus Kioko
5 min	Expérience du Togo		Togo PM Piham Gnossiké
5 min	Expérience du Rwanda		Rwanda PM
10 mins	Status of Sustainability Plans		Denis and Pamela

15	Discussion		Kadima
10 Mins	Presentation on Annual Work Plans		Albis and Maria
30 mins	Break out groups on Annual work plans 2024: developing a template and identifying key actions for 2024		All
20 mins	Presentation on Plenary of different break out groups.		Rapporteurs
10 mins	Summary and next steps		Kadima, Mwinzi, Albis, Maria

**6. Presenters Bio: (one brief paragraph for each presenter)**

Chef PNLMTN Togo: Piham Gnossiké

Chef PNLMTN Rwanda

**7. Session Rapporteurs : TBD**

**8. List of Resources and background documents to be shared with participants (list titles of documents):**

- World Health Organization 2019. "NTD Roadmap 2021-2030."
- NTDs Joint application package (JAP), Trachoma elimination monitoring form (TEMF),

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**Session 6:** Available data tools to monitor the achievements towards control, elimination and eradication of NTDs.

**Organizer:** Mr Honorat Zouré / Dr Jorge Cano / Mrs Noemie NIKIEMA NIDJERGOU / Dr Pamela Sabina Mbabazi / Ms. AGUA, Junerlyn Farah Virrey / Mr Alex Pavluck

### Concept note

#### 1. Introduction/Context:

With the aim of making technical resources for planning and decision-making easily available to country NTD Programmes and stakeholders, ESPEN established the ESPEN portal in April 2017. This 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. In its first phase, the ESPEN NTD Portal made publicly available static endemicity and treatment status maps and related data at the level of the implementation unit (IU) and survey data conducted at community level. Since launching the portal, more NTD data has been made available, processed and included.

Between 2021 and 2022, the ESPEN Portal was significantly upgraded. With focus on reducing the burden of manual data entry and processing, new tools were developed and launched in the portal. These include the Joint Application Package (JAP) upload tool for online submission of data files, the implementation unit level projection of preventive chemotherapy (PC) activities, the Country Health Information Platform (CHIP), and the ESPEN Collect for mobile data collection.

Additionally, WHO launched the Global Neglected Tropical Diseases Programme Annual Reporting (GNARF). It is an integrated data collection form designed to enable WHO Member States to submit consolidated aggregate data summaries to WHO, notably on road map indicators. Its most immediate contribution would be towards the upcoming 2024 annual global report on NTDs and the progress report to the 77th World Health Assembly in May 2024.

Achieving the objectives of the NTD Roadmap 2021-2030 requires the availability of reliable and timely data and an appropriate management system at all levels of the health system. It is in this context that one of ESPEN's responsibilities to strengthen the information system for evidence-based decision-making and measuring progress towards elimination takes on its full importance.

To understand the information systems used by NTD programs, and to better target the technical support to be provided by ESPEN, a rapid online survey was conducted from 28 December 2022 to 02 February 2023.



**Important for the Africa region:** The development of this large repository is providing control programmes and stakeholders the evidence they need to successfully set targets, plan activities, mobilize resources more efficiently and target interventions appropriately in order to tackle each NTD disease. For making country programmes and stakeholders to be frequent users of the ESPEN data platform, they need to be properly informed on updates, improvements, and new resources available or in the pipeline.

During the last three years, several countries have setup a national DHIS2 platform as a national health information system to store on main indicators on the diseases of public health importance. However, there is insufficient information on the level of integration of NTD data into the national databases.

## **2. Objective and expected outcomes:**

### **2.1 General Objective:**

- Update country programmes and stakeholders on the most recent development on the WHO data platforms, including the new tools that have been developed to improve the data collection, data reporting processes and dissemination in line with the NTD roadmap.

### **2.2 Specific objectives:**

- Present existing visualization tools developed by WHO at regional and global level, highlighting the newly available ones:
  - ESPEN portal country page, analytical dashboards and CHIP: Example of a country using ESPEN portable to report on country progress.
  - NTD road map tracker, 2021 – 2030
  - NTD road map Country profiles, 2021 - 2030
- Update country programmes on the current WHO recommendations on data reporting tools to monitor progress, control and elimination of NTDs.
- Present the outcomes of a rapid survey on existing national information systems on neglected tropical diseases.
- Present the corporate WHO's routine health information system toolkit: for health facilities and community based NTD interventions.

### **2.3 Expected outcomes**

Participants will have been updated on:

- the existing data visualization platform available on WHO portals;
- the improvements on the Country Health Information Platform;
- data flow and existing national information systems on NTD

## **3. Method of work (describe session format)**

The session will consist of plenary presentations followed by Q&A. There will three presentations. The first consists of ESPEN portal products where a designated country will use the portal as unique information source to report control progress and inform programmatic decisions, and the third on the WHO recommended standard forms for annual reporting of preventive chemotherapy activities. Both

presentations will be 20 minutes followed by a 10-minute Q&A session. The moderator will interrupt the presenter at the end of the allocated time whether all slides have been presented or not. All the presentations will be made available to participants on the meeting portal the day before the session.

**4. Session duration:** 1h 45min

**5. Detailed agenda (Please use the format below):**

<b>Time UTC+1</b>	<b>Topic and session</b>	<b>Presenters and panellists</b>
11:00 -11:25	ESPEN portal: a country example of use for monitoring progress towards control	Zouré, Pavluck
11:25 - 11:40	Monitoring and Evaluation of NTD road map progress towards 2030 goals: guidelines, resources and tools.	Pamela
11:40 -11:55	Q & A	
11:55 -12:10	NTD road map tracker and country profiles: data collection, pathways and visualization	Farah
12:10 – 12:25	Results of the rapid survey on existing national information systems on neglected tropical diseases	Zouré, Noémie
12:25 -12:45	Q & A	

**6. Presenters Bio: (one brief paragraph for each presenter)**

**Mr Honorat G.M. Zouré** is Database administrator in the WHO/ESPEN since April 2017. Prior to joining ESPEN, he has worked fourteen years as Biostatistics and mapping officer for the WHO African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control (2001 – 2015), four years as Information Technology Manager for Catholic Relief Services in Burkina Faso (1997 – 2001) and three years as Biostatistician in the National Institute for environment and agricultural research of Burkina Faso (1994 - 1997). Mr Honorat Zouré holds an Advanced Degree in Agronomy of the High School of Agronomy of Rennes (France) with specialization in Livestock Sciences and Techniques, and a Postgraduate Degree in Computer Science of the University of Avignon (France).

**Mr Alex Pavluck** is the Senior Technical Health Systems Director at Sightsavers. Mr Pavluck has worked on NTD programmes for the past 12 years. In that time, he has supported the development of many of the key data systems used in NTD programmes such as LINKS, GTMP, NTDeliver, ESPEN Collect, and CHIP. Mr Pavluck has a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and is currently pursuing a Master of Business Analytics from Ohio University School of Business.

**Dr Jorge Cano** is working as Surveillance Officer at the Expanded Special Project for the Elimination of NTDs in the WHO-AFRO regional office. He holds a PhD in Epidemiology and, MSc postgraduates training in Public Health and Parasitology and in Cartography, Remote sensing, and Spatial Analysis. Previously worked as Assistant Professor at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in the field of geospatial modelling of NTD infections, focusing his research in lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, STH infections, schistosomiasis, and more recently in podoconiosis, Buruli ulcer and mycetoma.

**Ms Junerlyn Farah Agua** is Data manager in Strategic Information and Analytics (SAI) for Neglected Tropical Diseases since 2019. Prior to transformation at WHO, she is working only for Guinea worm disease Eradication since 2008. She worked in Ethiopia and India as CDC consultant for Polio Eradication seconded to WHO (2006-2007). Ms Agua is PhD candidate in Public Health, major in epidemiology and holds Master of Public Health from University of Liverpool. She worked as Registered Medical Technologist (1992-2005) mainly working on the field of blood banking, immunology and serology, parasitology, and microbiology. She also worked as Bio Statistician (2005-2006) in Philippines.

**7. Session Rapporteurs:** Each presenter will provide a summary of his presentation and the outcomes of the related discussions.

**8. List of Resources and background documents to be shared with participants (list titles of documents):**

- <https://espen.afro.who.int/>
- GNARF template
- GNARF briefing note
- Report of the rapid survey on existing national information systems on neglected tropical diseases

# ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL NTD PROGRAMME MANAGERS IN THE WHO AFRICA REGION, 29 Nov – 1 Dec 2023

**Session 7:** “From Commitment to Results: Empowering Country-Led NTD Initiatives”

**Organizer:** ESPEN – **Focal Point:** Santa-Mika Ndayiziga

## Concept note – Partners Session

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### 1. Introduction/Context:

The remarkable progress achieved in eradicating, eliminating, and controlling NTDs is an ongoing global endeavor, driven by the robust collaboration of the NTD community. This alliance includes key stakeholders, such as drug manufacturers, funding donors, multilateral organizations, non-governmental organizations, implementing partners, academia, research institutes, continental and regional bodies, national governments, civic societies, volunteers, the youth group, and the community at large.

In the global fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), the importance of partnership cannot be overstated. Collaborative efforts between governments, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, and the private sector have been instrumental in advancing the agenda to eliminate, control, and manage NTDs. Making a commitment to country-driven methodologies is crucial, acknowledging that sustained development requires allowing countries to design plans aligned with their unique contexts.

### 2. Objective and expected outcomes:

#### 2.1 General Objective:

- The session aims to foster a deeper understanding among partners on how commitment to country-driven methodologies, coupled with strategic partnerships, can translate into measurable results in the global efforts to eliminate, control, and manage Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). Through collaborative exploration, the objective is to identify practical insights and innovative solutions that empower nations to design and implement NTD initiatives aligned with their unique contexts, thus contributing to sustainable, self-determined progress and advancing the shared vision of a world free from the burden of NTDs.

#### 2.2 Specific objectives

- **Explore Collaborative Models:** Engage partners in exploring diverse collaborative models that exemplify successful country-driven approaches in the context of NTD initiatives.
- **Identify Implementation Challenges:** Encourage participants to identify and discuss key challenges in implementing country-led methodologies and partnerships, aiming to find actionable solutions.
- **Promote Knowledge Sharing:** Facilitate a platform for partners to share knowledge, best practices, and lessons learned from their experiences in supporting and implementing country-led NTD initiatives.

### 2.3 Expected outcomes

- **Enhanced Partner Understanding:** Partners will leave the session with a heightened understanding of the critical role that commitment to country-driven methodologies and strategic partnerships play in achieving measurable outcomes in the global fight against NTDs.
- **Identification of Practical Insights:** Participants will collaboratively identify practical insights, innovative solutions, and actionable strategies to design and implement NTD initiatives tailored to their specific contexts.
- **Strengthened Collective Commitment:** The session is expected to contribute to a strengthened collective commitment among partners and countries, fostering a renewed dedication to the shared vision of an Africa free from the burden of NTDs.

### 3. Method of work (describe session format)

The “*From Commitment to Results: Empowering Country-Led NTD Initiatives*” session is designed to be engaging, employing a dynamic approach that combines visual presentations, partner case studies, and interactive discussions. It will start with an impactful introduction, utilizing visuals and brief narratives to showcase success stories and inviting partners to share their experiences. The session will feature an interactive panel discussion and collaborative exploration to provide diverse perspectives, incorporating demonstrations of tools and platforms employed in countries-led NTD initiatives. A breakout session will allow for a deeper exploration of innovative solutions, fostering in-depth discussions. Subsequently, a Q&A session will offer a platform for clarification and insights. The session will conclude by summarizing key insights and providing actionable takeaways, ensuring a comprehensive and engaging exploration of how commitment and collaboration manifest in measurable outcomes in the global effort against Neglected Tropical Diseases.

### 4. Session duration: 90 min

### 5. Detailed agenda (Please use the format below):

*All times Central African Time (CAT: UCT +1)*

Time (CAT)	Topic	Chair	Facilitator
5 min	Introduction of session and panel members	TBD	TBD
5 min	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation: Integrated Solutions for Health Equity: Addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases within a Holistic Framework	TBD	
5 min	Mectizan Donation Program: Community Engagement Strategies in Mass Drug Administration		
5 min	Ministry Of Health – Sierra Leone/ Helen Keller Intl: Strengthening locally driven solutions for Sustainable NTD Control		
5 min	Sightsavers: The Role of International Collaboration in Disease Elimination		
5 min	ALMA: Measuring Progress: NTDs Scorecards in Action for Control and Elimination		
5 min	The END Fund: Community-Centric Approaches: Lessons from Reframing Neglect		
15 min	Collaborative Exploration: Demonstration of tools and platforms used in country-led NTD initiatives	TBD	
	Case Study: Trachoma elimination		
	Case Study: Sierra Leone NNTD Plan		
	Case Study: Cross-Sector Collaboration in NTD Elimination		
20 min	Break-out Session: Case Studies and group discussions	TBD	
15 min	Q & A		
5 min	Closing		

**6. Presenters Bio: (one brief paragraph for each presenter)**

TBD

**7. Session Rapporteurs :**

TBD

**8. List of Resources and background documents to be shared with participants (list titles of documents):**

- E.g. World Health Organization 2019. "NTD Roadmap 2021-2030."
- TBD

## ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL NTD PROGRAMME MANAGERS IN THE WHO AFRICA REGION, 29 Nov – 1 Dec 2023

**Session 8:** Improving access to NTD health products to achieve the 2030 road map targets: breaking the barriers of Supply Management Challenges.

**Organizer:** Dr Afework H Tekle (WHO-HQ), Mr Olatunde Oladimeji (WHO-AFRO/ESPEN) and Dr Bocar Diop (WHO-AFRO/ESPEN)

### Concept note

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#### 1. Introduction/Context:

Annually, pharmaceutical partners donate over two billion doses of medicines to more than 100 countries towards the control and elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). Ensuring that NTD medicines reach those in need is crucial to the efforts outlined by the WHO 2030 NTD Roadmap. More than ever, leadership, innovation, and collaboration by public and private sector partners are needed for effective medicine distribution, utilization, and reporting.

The continuous supply of quality-assured, safe, effective, and affordable medicines and vaccines is one of the building blocks of a well-functioning health system. Some of the challenges to achieving universal health coverage stem from persistent barriers to accessing these health products and services.

The availability, accessibility, acceptability, and affordability of medicines and vaccines must be addressed to achieve the 2030 road map targets, WHO's Global Programme of Work 2019-2023 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The 2030 road map recognizes that access to quality-assured health products and efficient supply chain management are priority areas for critical and coordinated action to ensure that the 2030 targets are successfully and comprehensively met.

This session will focus on efforts to expand access to health products for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) through efficient supply chain management. It will bring together experts to assess outstanding areas that require urgent and ongoing attention, and endemic countries and implementing partners to share best practices, challenges, and possible solutions.

#### 2. Objective and expected outcomes:

##### 2.1 General Objective:

- To highlight the critical importance of efficient supply chain management in ensuring the availability, accessibility, and affordability of health products for Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) and to promote collaboration among public and private sector partners to address challenges and share best practices for achieving the WHO 2030 NTD Roadmap targets.



## **2.2 Specific objectives:**

- To raise awareness about access to safe, quality assured NTD health products and related issues for supply chain management, as well as their critical importance for the successful implementation of the 2030 NTD road map targets.
- To share stories from endemic countries on challenges and best practices and discuss possible solutions.
- Share knowledge of the end-to-end supply chain through presentations and discussions to identify process changes for their improvement.
- Understand last-mile tools and systems and how they have improved the end-to-end supply chain in NTD-endemic countries. From the discussion, identify ways to promote the successful tools to other countries that can enhance their supply chain.
- To challenge NTD Program Managers from beneficiary countries to consider the possibilities of integrating the NTD Logistics Management Information Systems (LMIS) into the existing national systems.

## **2.3 Expected outcomes**

- Increased Awareness: Participants will have a heightened awareness of the importance of access to safe, quality assured NTD health products and the role of supply chain management in achieving the 2030 NTD roadmap targets.
- Knowledge Sharing: Endemic countries will share their experiences, challenges, and best practices, fostering a deeper understanding of the supply chain issues and possible solutions.
- Process Improvement: Participants will gain knowledge of the end-to-end supply chain through presentations and discussions, leading to the identification of process changes for improvement.
- Last-Mile Tools and Systems: Understanding of last-mile tools and systems that have improved the supply chain in NTD-endemic countries will be shared, with discussions focused on how to promote these tools to enhance supply chains in other countries.
- Integration Consideration: NTD Program Managers will be challenged to consider the integration of NTD Logistics Management Information Systems (LMIS) into their national systems, potentially leading to improved coordination and efficiency.

## **3. Method of work (describe session format)**

The session will adhere to a structured format, consisting of the following components:

- Global and Regional Presentations: The session will commence with presentations from experts at the global and regional levels. These presentations will provide a broader perspective on the topic, offering insights and context relevant to the entire audience.
- Country Experiences: Following the global and regional presentations, the session will shift its focus to real-world country experiences. Representatives from different countries will share their firsthand accounts, highlighting both their best practices and the challenges they have encountered in their efforts.

**4. Session duration:** 1h 45min

**5. Detailed agenda (Please use the format below):**

- Theme: Challenges of NTD supply chain management □ Global and Regional (20min) (Afework and ESPEN SC), Prefer if one person present it as a joint presentation as the issues are similar.
- Theme: Challenges of supply chain management □ the last mile – Country experience (2 countries, best and challenged) (10 minute each=20minute)
- Theme: Available resources and recommended solutions for of NTD supply chain management (5 min) (Afework)
- Discussion (15 min)

**6. Presenters Bio:** TBD

**7. Session Rapporteurs:** Each presenter will provide a summary of his presentation and the outcomes of the related discussions.

**8. List of Resources and background documents to be shared with participants (list titles of documents):**

## ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL NTD PROGRAMME MANAGERS IN THE WHO AFRICA REGION, 29 Nov – 1 Dec 2023

**Session 9:** Progress in the implementation of One Health Approach for NTDs in the Africa region.

**Organizers:** Dr Pauline Mwinzi (WHO-AFRO), Dr. Bernadette Abela (WHO-HQ), Dr Meritxell Donadeu (WHO Consultant), Dr. Tieble Traore (WHO/AFRO, Prof Takafira Mduluzza (WHO/AFRO Consultant), and Dr. Jose Nely (Madagascar)

### Concept note

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#### 1. Introduction/Context:

Africa, with its diverse ecosystems and vulnerable populations, is a hotspot for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) that affect both humans and animals. These diseases, often referred to as neglected One Health tropical diseases, or zoonotic NTDs (zNTDs) pose significant health, social, and economic burdens on affected communities. Despite the present of well-resourced One Health (OH) Units and NTD Programmes in many countries, these diseases continue to receive less attention both under the OH Units and the NTD Programmes, as well as remaining generally neglected by healthcare systems, research institutions, and policy-making bodies. In order to ensure that these diseases are tackled alongside other NTDs, WHO has provided a companion guidance document to the NTD Roadmap 2021-2030, *Ending the neglect to attain the Sustainable Development Goals: One Health Approach for action against neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030*.

Fundamentally, One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, and ecosystems. One Health is about understanding “whole-of-system” interactions, bringing together relevant stakeholders and sectors to take a coordinated approach where appropriate, and identifying and strengthening interventions that address common human, animal, or environmental risk factors. The One Health approach mobilizes multiple sectors, disciplines, and communities at varying levels of society to work together to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems while addressing the collective need for clean water, energy and air, safe and nutritious food, taking action on climate change, and contributing to sustainable development.

The NTD Roadmap 2021-2030 lists 20 priority neglected diseases and conditions; 16 of these diseases and conditions have an animal influence in their transmission (Fig 1., Ref: WHO NTD Roadmap companion document on One Health)

**Fig 1. Animals that influence transmission of NTDs**

			Buruli ulcer	Chagas disease	Chikungunya	Dengue	Dracunculiasis	Echinococcosis	Foodborne trematodiasis	Human African trypanosomiasis (HAT)	Human African trypanosomiasis (rhodesiense)	Leishmaniasis (cutaneous)	Leishmaniasis (visceral)	Leprosy	Lymphatic filariasis	Mycetoma, chromoblastomycosis and other deep mycoses	Onchocerciasis	Rabies	Scabies and other ectoparasitoses	Schistosomiasis	Snakebite envenoming	Soil-transmitted helminthiasis	Taeniasis/cysticercosis	Trachoma	Yaws
Animals that influence transmission	Livestock	Camels/camelids																							
		Cattle																							
		Goats																							
		Pigs																							
		Sheep																							
	Pets	Cats																							
		Dogs																							
	Wildlife	Armadillos																							
		Bats																							
		Crustaceans																							
		Fish																							
		Foxes/canids																							
		Primates																							
		Rodents																							
		Snakes																							
		Snails																							

Further, all these NTDs (in Figure 1), are impacted by environmental factors such as climate change, human/animal migration, deforestation, soil, man-made ecological factors and urbanization, except Buruli Ulcer (thought etiology not known), Leprosy, Mycetoma, chromoblastomycosis and other deep mycosis, and yaws. Thus, a strong focus on ecosystems is necessary for the OH approach.

**Table 1. NTDs and the animals that influence the transmission**

NTD	Animals involved in transmission
1 Buruli ulcer	Aetiology unknown, animal involvement suspected
2 Chagas (not prevalent in Africa)	Dogs, Armadillos, primates, rodents
3 Dracunculiasis	Cats, dogs, fish, primates
4 Echinococcosis	Camels/camelids, cattle, goats, pigs, sheep, dogs, foxes/canids
5 Food borne trematodiasis	Cattle, goats, pigs, sheep, cats, dogs, crustaceans, fish, rodents, snails
6 Leishmaniasis (cutaneous)	Dogs
7 Leishmaniasis (VL)	Dogs
8 Leprosy	Armadillos
9 Lymphatic filariasis	Cats, dogs, primates
10 Mycetoma, chromoblastomycosis and other deep mycosis	Cats
11 Onchocerciasis	Armadillos, rodents
12 Rabies	Cattle, goats, sheep, cats, dogs, bats, foxes/canids
13 Scabies and other ectoparasites	Pigs, dogs, foxes/canids
14 Schistosomiasis	Cattle, goats, pigs, sheep, cats, primates, rodents, snails
15 Snake-bite envenoming	Snakes
16 Taeniasis/Cysticercosis	Pigs

## WHO/AFRO One Health NTDs support in the Africa region

Between 2020 and 2023, WHO/AFRO through ESPEN and TVD has supported countries to develop national NTD Master Plans, which are essential strategic and comprehensive multi-year plans for 2022 – 2025 for governments to effectively plan and implement sustainable NTD programmes. The Master Plans align with the Ending the Neglect to Attain the Sustainable Development Goals: a road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021-2030.

NTD Master plans enhance synergies among various NTD initiatives, provide the basis for integrated or linked NTD project plans and include costing and financing requirements for effective NTD programme performance, and form basis for harmonized implementation and performance monitoring of all NTD interventions in a country. Very importantly, these country plans should take a One Health approach that recognizes that acknowledging the interconnectedness between human, animal, and environmental health is key to sustainably addressing NTDs and achieving the targets in the road map.

To operationalize the One Health approach to addressing NTDs, ESPEN is supporting the implementation of the “One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022-2026) working together for the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment”. For example, each year since its creation, the Quadripartite Regional Coordination Group composed of Regional Representatives/Directors of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH-founded as OIE), together with the Pan-African Rabies Control Network (PARACON) of the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), have collectively made a joint appeal to the regional and national leaderships, institutions, donors, development financiers, philanthropic organizations and individuals to unite resources and synergize efforts in order to expedite the realization of the global target to eliminate human deaths from dog-mediated rabies (neglected disease) by 2030, in the African continent.

Furthermore, the WHO NTD roadmap companion document “*Approach for action against neglected tropical diseases 2021 – 2030*” provides guidance on what actions are needed to take a One Health approach to achieve the roadmap targets, and aims to support multiple stakeholders – including countries in which NTDs are endemic, international organizations and non-State actors – to achieve the road map targets through a transdisciplinary, cross-cutting One Health approach. Specifically, it guides the One Health actions needed by relevant stakeholders and how to support a paradigm shift towards One Health in national NTD programmes. Examples of common One Health challenges and how they can be overcome as well as illustrative case studies are provided throughout the document.

## 2. Objectives and expected outcomes

### 2.1 General Objective

The general objective of the session is to foster a comprehensive understanding of the WHO NTD Roadmap 2021-2030 companion *document on One Health Approach for NTDs and presented regional efforts to support countries in its implementation* and discuss how countries have unpacked the guidance in their NTD Master Plans, the progress made so far.

## 2.2 Specific objectives

- Review Country One Health Plans to address zoonotic NTDs to identify gaps and propose revisions for updated plans
- Present progress by countries in bringing together relevant stakeholders and sectors to take a coordinated approach for zoonotic NTDs and design interventions that address common human, animal, or environmental risk factors
- Present progress in supporting countries to build core capacities such as surveillance and workforce to strengthen zoonotic NTDs prevention, control and management.
- Present progress in technical support towards mapping and conducting epidemiological assessments to understand disease distribution and target intervention.

## 2.3 Expected outcome

- An appreciation by NTD Programme Managers on the NTD One Health companion document, gaps in NTD Master Plans in One Health Approach, available guidance, opportunities, resources, training and tools available to update and OH NTD plans empower programme managers to review OH components in their finalized NTD Master Plan and together with the stakeholders develop activities for Elimination as public health problem.

## 3. Method of work (describe session format)

Update presentations on OH NTDs will be provided by WHO, followed by one country experience presented by Madagascar. The presenters will then participate as panellists for Q & A.

## 4. Session duration: 1h

## 5. Detailed agenda (Please use the format below):

*All times Central African Time (CAT: UCT +1)*

Time (CAT)	Topic	Presenter	Moderator
<b>09:10 -10:30</b> <b>09:10 – 09:30</b>	Regional progress report on One Health Approach for NTDs	Prof Takafira Mduluza	Dr. Pauline Mwinzi, ESPEN
<b>09:30 – 09:50</b>	Progress in Taeniasis, rabies and echinococcosis control in the Africa region	Meritxell Donadeu	
<b>09:50 – 10:10</b>	Country experience on implementing a OH approach (Madagascar)	Dr. Jose Alphone Nely	
<b>10:10 -10:30</b>	Panel discussion	<b>ALL</b>	

## 6. Presenters Bio:



**Dr Pauline Mwinzi** is the WHO regional Technical Officer for Schistosomiasis (SCH), also known as Bilharzia, and soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH), and is also in the interim supporting neglected zoonotic diseases in the Africa region. Before joining the WHO, She was the Chief Research Scientist and Head of NTD Unit, as well as the Director, KEMRI-CDC Cooperative Agreement at the Center for Global Health Research (CGHR), Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI).



**Prof. Taka Mduluzza** has been working on NTD for over 30 years as an academic and concentrating on the immuno-epidemiology of infection resistance and severity. He has diverse experience in NTDs co-infections which is common in people living in endemic regions. His work has been to develop simple multi-diseases diagnostic algorithm in young children up to primary school age level. Currently he is working on the neglected zoonotic diseases among the NTDs so as to develop zoonotic NTDs One Health implementation framework for the WHO African countries. The regional strategic framework for One Health approach to NTD/zoonotic NTDs prevention, control, elimination and eradication requires a well-coordinated implementation strategy involving all stakeholders.



**Dr Meritxell Donadeu** is a veterinarian with an interest in public health, and for the last 15 years she has been working in the interface between animal health, public health, and development. She worked in the private sector as a pig veterinarian for 13 years; and afterwards she moved to the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines, an NGO developing vaccines, drugs and diagnostics for the poor livestock keepers, where she worked as Assistant Director R&D, and later as Director of Operations. Since 2014 she is a Senior Fellow (honorary) at the University of Melbourne and has been working as a consultant for the World Health Organization (WHO) and its regional offices on neglected parasitic zoonoses, as well as other organizations such as IDRC, PATH, FAO, World Organization for Animal Health, SEBI, Ingentium and Excelvets.



**Dr José Nely Alphonse** is the Head of the Department responsible for the fight against Plague, Emerging Diseases and Neglected Tropical Diseases at the Ministry of Public Health of the Republic of Madagascar. Before that, he successively directed the Rabies and Teniosis/Cysticercosis Control Programs. Furthermore, he has worked at several levels of the Madagascar health system. In particular, as Head of a Basic Health Center, then as a member of a health district management team.

**7. Session Rapporteurs: TBD**

**8. List of Resources and background documents to be shared with participants (list titles of documents):**

- Ending the neglect to attain the Sustainable Development Goals: a road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020 <https://apps.who.int/iris/>
- Multisectoral approach to the prevention and control of vector-borne diseases: a conceptual framework. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020 (9789240004788-eng.pdf (who.int), accessed 16 December 2021) [handle/10665/338565](https://handle/10665/338565), accessed 8 August 2023).
- Taking a multisectoral one health approach: a tripartite guide to addressing zoonotic diseases in countries. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2019 (9789241514934-eng.pdf (who.int), accessed 8 August 2021).

Framework for One Health practice in national public health institutes. Addis Ababa: African Union; 2020 (<https://africacdc.org/download/framework-for-one-health-practice-in-national-public-health-institutes/>– Africa CDC, accessed 8 A



## ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL NTD PROGRAMME MANAGERS IN THE WHO AFRICA REGION, 29 Nov – 1 Dec 2023

**Session 10:** Country experiences: integration and collaboration, challenges, and proposed solutions.

**Organizers:** Dr Yves Thierry Barogui, Medical Officer, BU, LEP & YAWS, Dr Andrew Seidu Korkor, Medical Officer, GWE & SBE

### Concept note

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#### 1. Introduction/Context:

The NTD roadmap 2021-2030<sup>3</sup> highlights the important shift from siloed disease-specific programmes that have limited interfaces with national health care systems and adjacent sectors to holistic, cross-cutting approaches including integration across NTDs, mainstreaming in national health systems, coordinating with adjacent sectors and strengthening country capacity and global support.

The framework for the integrated control, elimination and eradication of tropical and vector-borne diseases in the African Region (2022–2030)<sup>4</sup>, aligned with the NTD road map and endorsed by the Member States in the African Region during the RC72 meeting in Togo, Lomé, emphasizes on the strengthening delivery of integrated people-centred health services.

Moreover, the WHO strategic framework for integrated control and management of skin-related neglected tropical diseases<sup>5</sup>, a companion document to the road map has been recently published and the 1<sup>st</sup> WHO skin NTDs meeting was organized in March 2023 in Geneva<sup>6</sup>.

Twenty (20) cross-cutting areas were identified for potential integration. Countries were encouraged to adapt the framework in order to plan and implement integrated strategies based on the country context to achieve 2030 targets.

#### 2. Objective and expected outcomes:

##### 2.1 General Objective:

- To share experiences in the implementation of integrated approach and intersectoral collaboration in countries.

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<sup>3</sup> *Ending the neglect to attain the Sustainable Development Goals: A road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030:*  
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240010352>

<sup>4</sup> *Framework for the integrated control, elimination and eradication of tropical and vector-borne diseases in the African Region (2022–2030):*  
<https://www.afro.who.int/sites/default/files/2022-07/AFR-RC72-7%20Framework%20for%20the%20control%20elimination%20and%20eradication%20of%20tropical%20and%20vector-borne%20diseases%20in%20the%20African%20Region.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> *Ending the neglect to attain the Sustainable Development Goals: a strategic framework for integrated control and management of skin-related neglected tropical diseases*

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.who.int/news/item/31-03-2023-who-first-global-meeting-on-skin-ntds-calls-for-greater-efforts-to-address-their-burden>

## 2.2 Specific objectives

- Present the progress in the implementation of integrated approach at central, intermediate and peripheral levels.
- Share the Lessons learned.
- Present the challenges and potential solutions.

## 2.3 Expected outcomes

- Experience by the programme managers in the implementation of integrated approach and intersectoral collaboration in countries shared.

## 3. Method of work (describe session format)

Two countries (Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire) will make 10 min presentation on their experiences in implementation of integrated approach, and one country (Ethiopia) followed by discussions.

## 4. Session duration: 45 min for the presentation and discussion (three countries)

## 5. Detailed agenda (Please use the format below):

*All times Central African Time (CAT: UCT +1)*

Time (CAT)	Topic	Chair	Facilitator
10 min	Cameroon experience in NTDs integration	Dr Kingsley Asiedu	<b>TBD</b>
10 min	Côte d'Ivoire experience in NTDs integration		<b>TBD</b>
10 min	Ethiopia experience with collaboration in GWE efforts		<b>TBD</b>
25 min	Discussion and contribution		

## 6. Presenters Bio:

**Kassahun Demissie** is the national program coordinator for Ethiopian Dracunculiasis Eradication Program (EDEP) since May 2019 after serving as one of the EDEP team members in Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI). Prior to joining EPHI, he worked as senior laboratory technologist and head in different health facilities later as public health emergency management expert in Addis Ababa City Administration Regional Health Bureau.

**Dr Zeyede Kebede** is the NTD program coordinator in the WHO country office Ethiopia. He earned both his MPhil and PhD degrees in international health from the University of Bergen, Norway. Before joining WCO in October 2012, he worked as academician and also served in the Ministry of health as a public health expert. He has over 20 years of progressive experience in public health practice.

**Dr. Andrew Seidu Korkor** is the Regional Focal Point for Dracunculiasis Eradication and Snakebite envenoming Programmes. Prior to joining WHO in July 2013, he was the National Programme Manager of Ghana's Dracunculiasis Eradication Programme. He is Public Health Physician with over thirty years' experience in public health practice at national and international levels.

**7. Session Rapporteurs:** 2 NPO (1 anglophone, 1 francophone)

**8. List of Resources and background documents to be shared with participants (list titles of documents):**

- NTD Road map: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240010352>
- Framework for the Integrated Control, Elimination and Eradication of Tropical and Vector-Borne Diseases in the African Region 2022–2030.
- Skin NTD Framework: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240051423>