

ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL NTD PROGRAMME MANAGERS IN AFRICA

"Leveraging Innovative Tools and Sustainable Financing to Advance NTD Elimination in Africa"

13–16 April 2026 · Bingu International Conference Centre, Lilongwe, Malawi

Day 1 (Monday 13 April 2026): Integration and Resilience – Progress in NTD Elimination and Sustainability

Time (GMT+2)	Topic / Session	Presenters	Moderator
08:30 - 09:00	Registration	All	Organizers
09:00 - 09:10	House keeping & admin issues	WHO & AUC secretariat	
09:10 - 10:00	Session 1: Opening plenary session Opening remarks from Kikundi, WHO, AUC, AU-SARO Keynote Address from Hon. Minister of Health Malawi	Meeja Kaura, Kikundi CoP Chair Dr Charles Kuria Njugna, WR Malawi Prof. Julio Rakotonirina, AUC Director of Health & Humanitarian Affairs Amb. Hilda Suka Mafudze, AU Resident Representative (AU-SARO) The Hon. Minister of Health Malawi	Mr Mavuto Thomas, Dr Dan Namarika, MoH
10:00 - 10:05	Security briefing	WCO Malawi	WCO Malawi
10:05 - 10:15	PRSEAH (Preventing and Responding to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harrassment)	WCO Malawi	WCO Malawi
10:15 - 10:30	Group photo session	All	Organizers
10:30 - 11:00	<i>Health Break</i>		
11:00 - 12:30	Session 2: Global and continental progress updates on NTD elimination (plenary) - The AU Continental Framework on the Control and Elimination of NTDs in Africa by 2030, and the AU Roadmap to 2030 and Beyond. (15 mins) - AUDA-NEPAD NTDs Initiatives (15 mins) - Global Progress toward NTD elimination (15 mins) - Updates on NTD elimination in Africa - WHO AFRO/EMRO (15 mins) - Discussion (30 mins)	Dr. Sheila Shawa, AUC Dr. Wiltshire CN Johnson, AUDA-NEPAD Dr Dieudonne Sankara, WHO Dr Amir Kello & Dr Mona Osman, WHO	AUC/ WHO
12:30 - 13:00	Session 3: Panel discussion on "Kikundi Today and Tomorrow" (plenary) - Questions to panelists by a facilitator (20 min) - Discussion (10 min)	Meeja Kaura - Chair Kikundi CoP	Kikundi CoP
13:00 - 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
14:00 - 16:00	Session 4: Integration of NTD programmes for sustainable elimination (plenary) - One Health (Namibia, Senegal) (30 min) - Integrated surveillance for NTDs (Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia) (30 min) - Integration of NTDs into PHC (15 min) – Dr Charles Sandy, AUDA-NEPAD - Panel and Discussion (45 min)	Member States (Namibia, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia)	Dr Dieudonne Sankara / Dr Pauline Mwinzi
16:00 - 16:30	<i>Health Break</i>		

16:30 - 17:30	Session 5: NTDs and climate change (plenary) - Impact of climate change on NTD elimination - Short presentation and panel discussion	Panel: Member States (Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique) AUC – Dr Sheila Shawa ALMA – Dr Irene Umulisa AUDA-NEPAD – Ruth Rensburg	AUC
17:30 PM	End of Day 1		

Day 2 (Tuesday 14 April 2026): Data, Digital Innovation, Cross-border Surveillance and Regional Collaboration.

Time (GMT+2)	Topic / Session	Presenters	Moderator
8:30 - 08:45	Welcome, objectives of the day, and link to overall PMM themes	Dr Jorge Cano (ESPEN)	
8:45 - 09:30	Session 6: Advances in data and analytics for sustaining NTD elimination in Africa (plenary)	Mr Charles Sandy (AUC-NEPAD)	Dr Charles Sandy (AUC-NEPAD)
09:30 - 10:30	Session 7: Digital acceleration and regional data platforms (plenary)	Dr Teshome Gebre (TFGH)	Dr Victor Alegana
10:30 - 10:45	<i>Health Break</i>		
10:45 - 11:15	Session 8: The Emerging Role of AI in NTD Programmes: Driving Innovation Across Surveillance, Diagnostics, and Delivery (plenary)	Moderated Panel: Ms Aida Dodo (Dimagi); Dr Kebede Kassaye (CIFF); Dr Sara Irène EYANGO (SKIN-NTD Lab); Dr. Mutono Nyamai (CEMA); and Dr. Sarah Hingel (FIND)	Dr Jorge Cano (ESPEN)
11:15 - 12:00	Session 9: Cross-border collaboration for NTD elimination (plenary) - Cross-border NTD initiatives (joint surveillance, synchronized MDA, POE screening), lessons from other cross-border NTD initiatives , operational and governance enablers: Kenya (15 mins) - Panel discussion and guided Q&A: Sudan, Ethiopia, Togo, Kenya (15 mins) - Discussion (15 mins)	Wyckliff Omondi, NTD PM Kenya NTD PMs	Dr Didier Bakajika
12:00 - 13:00	Session 10: MoU on cross-border collaboration for NTD elimination (plenary)	Dr Sheila Shawa	AUC
13:00 - 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
14:00-15:30	Session 11.1: Epidemiological mapping study on VL - a critical step for VL elimination (parallel session) - Mapping of visceral leishmaniasis in East Africa (20min) - Epidemiological mapping of visceral leishmaniasis in Uganda (20min) - Experience on VL outbreak investigation and response (20 min) - Discussion (30min) Duncan Ochol, END Fund Alfred Mubangizi (Uganda) Wyckliff Omondi (Kenya) Dr Cherinet Adera/ Dr Thierry Barogui	Session 11.2: Opportunities for operational innovations with ivermectin-albendazole for STH control: country perspectives to strengthen African NTD Programmes (parallel session) - Opening p and Objectives (5 min) - Overview of IVM-ALB effective use against STH : Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Nigeria, Kenya. (15 min) - Perspectives from national programmes involved in the first regulatory approval of a fixed dose co-formulation of IVM-ALB (15 min) - Perspectives from Rwanda (15min) - Q& A and wrap up -ESPEN (30min) Dr Pauline Mwinzi Dr Stella Kepha, KEMRI Dr Joseph Opare, Ghana Dr Ladislav Nshimiyimana Dr Pauline Mwinzi	
15:30 - 16:00	<i>Health Break</i>		
16:00 -17:00	Session 12: AUC NTDs Data Collection and Reporting Tool (Plenary) - Presentation of the Tool (15 mins) - Feedback from Member States on the AUC NTDs Data Collection and Reporting Tool (45 mins)	AU Member States	AUC
17:15	End of Day 2		

Day 3 (Wednesday 15 April 2026): Sustainable Financing and Domestic Resource Mobilization.

Time (GMT+2)	Topic / Session	Presenters	Moderator
08:30-08:45	Welcome and objectives of the day	Dr Sheila Shawa	
08:45 - 10:30	Session 13: Trends in health/NTD financing, innovative financing and dedicated funding for NTD sustainability (Plenary: Question and Answer Session) - Short presentation - Reflections from the floor (15 minutes)	Two panel sessions: Panel 1: Burundi, Senegal, Chad, Tanzania Panel 2: South Sudan, Nigeria, DR Congo, South Africa	AUC AUDA-NEPAD to co-chair
10:30 - 11:00	<i>Health Break</i>		
11:00 - 12:00	Session 14: Country experiences on NTD financing (plenary) Country experiences/ case studies on sustainable NTD Financing - Short presentation - Reflections from the floor (15 minutes)	Member States (NTD Directors: Ghana, Cameroon, Egypt, Zambia)	AUC AUDA-NEPAD to co-chair
12:00 - 13:00	Session 15: Partner experience on innovative financing and domestic resource mobilization (plenary) Short presentation to set the scene Panel discussion	Uniting to Combat NTDs , Gates Foundation, The END Fund, DAWH	Dr Elizabeth Juma
13:00 - 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
14:00 - 15:15	Session 16.1: Diagnostics for Schistosomiasis and other NTDs (parallel session) 16.1A.. Stengthening Countries iwth Novel, WHO Aligned Schistsomiasis (SCH) Diagnostics to address SCH data gaps 1: Introduction -Pauline Mwinzi 2. New Version of POC-CCA for SCH diagnostics 3. Country perspectives on CCA 4. CAA 5. Country perspectives on CAA 6. Q&A Session 16.1.B. VL RDT requirement in eastern Africa- a compelling case of urgency Pauline Mwinzi, ESPEN Erik Comou, Landcent Rwanda, Ethiopia Sarah Hingel Sammy Njenga (video) Dr Saurabh Jain, WHO HQ Dr Saurabh Jain, WHO HQ Dr Pauline Mwinzi Dr Cherinet Adera	Session 16.2: From Forecasting to Action: Leveraging Multi-Year Planning to Support Sustainable NTD Programmes toward 2030 (parallel session) Background & framing: Multi-year forecasting as a decision-support tool Country experience: Leveraging forecasting for advocacy and planning Country experience: Forecasting to support stakeholder engagement and sustainability Guided open discussion with countries and partners Key takeaways and way forward Dr Diane Ehoumi Dah-Bolinon, ESPEN Dr John Francis & Dr Francois Tshitenge, JSI Dr Clarer Jones (Tanzania) Dr Jean Kalenga Nkashama (DRC) Dr Diane Ehoumi Dah-Bolinon	
15:30 - 16:00	<i>Health Break</i>		
16:00 - 17:00	Poster session	Presenters of selected posters	
17:00	End of Day 3		
Day 4 (Thursday 16 April 2026): Innovation and Independence – Advancing R&D, Local Manufacturing, Transparency and Accountability.			
Time (GMT+2)	Topic / Session	Presenters	Moderator
08:30 - 08:45	Welcome and objectives of the day	Dr Pauline Mwinzi	
8:45 -09:30	Session 17: Keynote address Local Manufacturing: Innovation and independence as pillars for sustainable NTD elimination in Africa	Dr Wiltshire CN Johnson, AUDA-NEPAD	AUC

09:30 - 10:30	Session 18: Translating policy into practice: Advancing Local and regional manufacturing for NTDs Panel discussion: Local pharmaceutical and diagnostic manufacturing regulatory systems and quality assurance 1) Diagnostics: What EDA is doing to address diagnostics insufficiencies on the SSA Continent (20Mins) 2) Medicines: ----(20mins) 3) Q&A (20mins)	1) Dr. Femib Lawson, EDA 2) Willemijn Zaadnoordijk, Merck	Dr Pauline Mwinzi / Namuchile Kaonga
10:30 - 11:00	<i>Health Break</i>		
11:00 - 11:45	Session 19: From leprosy elimination as a public health problem to interruption of transmission and elimination of leprosy disease: New paradigm 1) Innovative new tools to achieve interruption of transmission & elimination of leprosy disease (15 min) 2) Leprosy contact tracing and chemoprophylaxis to interrupt transmission (15 min) 3) Q&A (15 min)	Dr Yves Thierry Barogui, WHO Linda Hummel, NLR	Dr Phiam Ngossike
11:45 - 12:45	Session 20: Partners' updates and remarks (plenary) 1) Donors 2) NGOs/implementing partners 3) Pharma	Partners' representatives	Abiba Issa Mussa
12:45 - 13:00	Wrap up and close of the meeting Draft communique of the meeting Draft summary report	WHO / AUC / NEPAD	Dr Sheila Shawa/ Dr Elizabeth Juma
13:00 - 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
14:00	End of Day 4 & the meeting		
14:30 - 17:30	SIDE EVENT – RLMF From Technical Need to Fiscal Case: Equipping NTD Programme Managers to Advance Domestic Financing (Closed-door side event)	RLMF	