

ESPEN workshop on data systems, tools and processes for PC-NTD programmes - 2025

Theme: *Strengthening Regional Coordination, Data Quality, and NHIS Integration for Effective PC-NTD Monitoring & Evaluation*

1. Organizers

1.1. Cluster/Division

UCN

1.2. Programmes/Units

TVD/ESPEN

1.3. Collaborating Clusters/Divisions and Programmes/Units

WHO/HQ/PC-NTD, WHO/AFRO/PPHM

1.4. Collaborating Partners

Gates Foundation, The END Fund, Sightsavers and Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)

2. Introduction/Context

In recent years, financial support for Preventive Chemotherapy Neglected Tropical Disease (PC-NTD) programs has been declining, reflecting broader trends in global health funding constraints. With competing priorities in health financing, there is an urgent need to optimize available resources and ensure the sustainability of PC-NTD monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems within national health structures. This shift necessitates a move away from isolated, vertical approaches toward greater integration of PC-NTD M&E within broader health systems.

The need for data-driven decision-making is greater than ever, as countries must maximize the impact of interventions while navigating resource limitations. Strengthening regional coordination mechanisms for M&E will be critical to ensuring that PC-NTD programs remain effective, responsive, and well-integrated into national health priorities.

Against this backdrop, this workshop will focus on four three key areas of action:

1. Enhancing Data Quality Assurance – Addressing data fragmentation, reviewing common issues around data collection, reporting, analysis and interpretation, and reviewing how digitization and integration can being to address some of these issues
2. Improving Forecasting & Logistics Planning – Strengthening the use of predictive analytics and real-time data to enhance medicine distribution and ensure the efficient allocation of resources

3. Integration – Integrating NTD indicators into HMIS and cross-programmatic M&E integration, leveraging synergies with routine health campaigns (such as immunization and maternal-child health initiatives) to ensure that PC-NTD data collection and reporting are aligned with broader health objectives

4. Regional technical committee – Refining the objectives and focus of the Regional M&E coordination mechanism and associated working groups

By convening M&E specialists from Ministry of Health and implementing partners, this workshop will help define practical solutions to enhance the efficiency, sustainability, and impact of PC-NTD M&E efforts across Africa, ensuring that progress toward disease elimination goals remains on track despite financial constraints.

3. Reason why the Workshop is so important for AFRO Impact to Public Health

The sustainability and effectiveness of PC-NTD interventions in Africa rely on robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems, capable of guiding evidence-based decision-making and optimizing resource use. However, persistent challenges—such as inconsistent data quality, misalignment with national health systems, and gaps in medicine forecasting and logistics planning—have limited the full impact of PC-NTD programs.

At the same time, declining financial support for global health programs, including NTDs, demands a more efficient and integrated approach to health interventions. In this context, this workshop is a strategic opportunity to strengthen regional M&E coordination, enhance data quality, and foster cross-sectoral integration of NTD surveillance and reporting within national health systems.

Key Public Health Impacts of the Workshop

1. Strengthening Data-Driven Decision-Making for PC-NTDs

Accurate and timely data is the foundation of effective disease control and elimination strategies. Many countries face delayed reporting, inconsistencies between datasets, and challenges in verifying the quality of NTD program data. This workshop will help countries:

- Improve data validation and quality assurance mechanisms to ensure reliability.
- Address delays and inconsistencies in reporting to WHO and national health authorities.
- Promote standardized data collection and analysis methodologies across the region.

2. Enhancing the Sustainability of NTD M&E Systems

As funding sources shift, it is crucial to integrate PC-NTD data management within national health information systems (NHIS). The workshop will:

- Facilitate harmonization of NTD data with routine health reporting.
- Strengthen country capacity to track NTD program impact through national systems.
- Ensure NTD M&E aligns with broader health system strengthening efforts, reducing duplication and maximizing efficiency.

3. Addressing Medicine Forecasting & Supply Chain Challenges

Timely and accurate forecasting of medicine needs is critical to sustaining Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaigns. The workshop will:

- Train national programs in data-driven forecasting methodologies.
- Improve real-time tracking of medicine needs and logistics planning.
- Reduce stockouts and wastage by ensuring efficient allocation of donated medicines.

4. Operationalizing a Permanent Regional Coordination Mechanism

Countries often operate in silos, leading to fragmented M&E approaches. This workshop will operationalize a structured M&E Technical Committee, ensuring:

- Regional collaboration and shared learning between countries.
- Regular exchange of best practices and technical guidance.
- Sustained engagement of stakeholders in improving NTD program monitoring.

5. Promoting Cross-Programmatic M&E Integration

To ensure long-term sustainability, PC-NTD M&E must be linked with other health initiatives, including immunization, maternal-child health, and malaria control programs. This workshop will:

- Explore opportunities for data integration and joint reporting mechanisms.
- Identify cost-effective approaches to conducting M&E across multiple health programs.
- Develop a roadmap for strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration in disease monitoring.

4. Objective and expected outcomes

4.1. General Objective

The 2025 M&E Workshop on PC-NTDs aims to enhance the coordination, quality, and integration of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems for PC-NTD programs across Africa. In a context of declining financial support for global health initiatives, the workshop will focus on strengthening regional collaboration, improving data quality assurance, integrating NTD data into national health information systems (NHIS), and refining forecasting for medicine and logistics planning.

4.2. Specific objectives

1. **Enhance Data Quality Assurance & Validation:** Train national program teams in data validation techniques and Data Quality Assessments (DQAs) to improve the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of PC-NTD reporting, reducing inconsistencies in program data.
2. **Standardize PC-NTD Data Integration into NHIS:** Support countries in aligning PC-NTD data reporting with National Health Information Systems (NHIS) to ensure harmonized data collection, real-time tracking, and improved interoperability with broader health systems.
3. **Advance Regional Data Harmonization & Best Practices Sharing:** Facilitate cross-country exchange of experiences, lessons learned, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to improve data harmonization and regional coordination in PC-NTD M&E.
4. **Strengthen Forecasting & Supply Chain Planning for PC-NTDs:** Improve the use of data-driven forecasting models to better predict medicine and logistics needs, ensuring timely availability of essential commodities for MDA campaigns and reducing supply chain disruptions.
5. **Integrate PC-NTD M&E with Other Health Programs:** Promote cross-programmatic collaboration by identifying opportunities to align PC-NTD data collection with broader

disease surveillance and health intervention campaigns, optimizing resource use in a constrained funding environment.

6. **Operationalize the M&E Regional Coordination Mechanism:** Establish a structured and functional M&E Technical Committee, defining clear roles, responsibilities, and working groups to drive data quality assurance, NHIS integration, and forecasting improvements across PC-NTD programs.

4.3. Expected outcomes

- **Improved Understanding of Data Quality Assurance and Reporting Standards:** Participants will gain a better understanding of data quality assurance protocols, validation mechanisms, and standardized reporting procedures to improve the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of PC-NTD data. The workshop will facilitate discussions on common challenges and practical strategies for enhancing data quality at the national level.
- **Increased Awareness and Planning for NHIS Integration of PC-NTD Data:** Countries will have a clearer roadmap for embedding PC-NTD indicators into national health information systems (NHIS) and will identify key steps needed to improve interoperability and alignment.
- **Enhanced Forecasting and Supply Chain Efficiency:** National teams will have strengthened medicine and logistics forecasting methodologies, reducing stockouts, wastage, and inefficiencies in the planning and execution of MDA campaigns.
- **Operationalized Regional Data Harmonization & Best Practices Sharing:** Countries will actively engage in cross-country collaboration, sharing best practices, challenges, and innovations in PC-NTD M&E, fostering harmonized regional data standards.
- **Greater Cross-Programmatic Integration of M&E Activities:** PC-NTD monitoring systems will be more aligned with broader disease surveillance and health intervention programs, ensuring synergies between PC-NTD data collection and other public health initiatives such as immunization and maternal-child health.
- **Established and Functional M&E Regional Coordination Mechanism:** The M&E Technical Committee will be formally structured, with clear roles, responsibilities, and working groups focusing on data quality, NHIS integration, and forecasting to strengthen regional collaboration.
- **Commitment to Long-Term Regional Collaboration:** Countries and partners will have agreed on structured quarterly engagements through the M&E Technical Committee, ensuring the continuation of regional coordination efforts beyond the workshop.
- **Sustained Capacity Building & Technical Support:** National M&E teams will have access to continuous training, mentorship, and technical assistance, enabling them to apply advanced analytical tools, improve data-driven decision-making, and enhance program impact.

5. Follow up

Enhancing Data Quality Assurance

- Develop a follow-up mechanism to track country progress in implementing data validation and quality assurance measures introduced during the workshop.
- Organize technical webinars and peer-learning sessions to facilitate continued capacity building and problem-solving on data quality challenges.

Advancing NHIS Integration of PC-NTD Data

- Support countries in refining their NHIS integration plans, providing technical guidance and tools to help them align PC-NTD data with national health reporting systems.

- Organize regional discussions and experience-sharing forums on NHIS interoperability, focusing on lessons learned and country-specific challenges.
- Develop a practical checklist for countries to assess their progress toward NHIS integration.

Improving Forecasting & Supply Chain Planning

- Facilitate post-workshop technical support sessions on improving medicine demand forecasting and logistics planning based on real-time data.
- Work with countries and partners to develop case studies and best practice documents on forecasting methodologies for PC-NTDs.

Ensuring Ongoing Technical Support & Knowledge Exchange

- Establish a dedicated communication platform (e.g., online repository or discussion forum) for continued exchange of M&E resources, guidelines, and country experiences.
- Document and disseminate key recommendations and action points from the workshop, ensuring that country teams have reference materials for follow-up.
- Develop an annual progress report on regional M&E advancements, highlighting improvements, challenges, and key recommendations for sustaining progress.

6. WHO Core Functions and/or Transformation focus areas

This workshop aligns with WHO's core functions and its transformation agenda, particularly in the areas of knowledge generation, data-driven decision-making, and smarter technical support for national PC-NTD programs.

WHO Core Function: Shaping the Research Agenda and Stimulating the Generation, Translation, and Dissemination of Valuable Knowledge.

- The workshop will facilitate the exchange of best practices and evidence-based strategies to improve M&E for PC-NTDs.
- By fostering regional collaboration and cross-country learning, the event will contribute to knowledge translation, ensuring that global and regional M&E frameworks are adapted to national implementation realities.
- The focus on data harmonization, NHIS integration, and forecasting supports WHO's role in advancing standardized and high-quality data systems for global health monitoring.

WHO Transformation Focus Area: Smart Technical Support

This workshop exemplifies WHO's commitment to providing smarter, more targeted technical support by:

- Strengthening country-led M&E systems rather than applying one-size-fits-all solutions.
- Enhancing data-driven planning and decision-making to maximize program impact.
- Establishing structured regional coordination mechanisms (M&E Technical Committee) to ensure continuous peer-learning and ongoing technical assistance beyond the workshop.

7. Links to GPW13 & PB 2024-2025

- **Pillar of GPW3:** More effective and efficient WHO better supporting countries
- **Outcomes of GPW13:** 4.1. Strengthened country capacity in data and innovation

- **Outputs of GPW13:** 4.1.1. Countries enabled to strengthen health information¹ and information systems for health,² including at the subnational level, and to use this information to inform policy-making.
- **Related top tasks of BP 2020-21:** Task 4.2

8. Method of work

The 2025 M&E Workshop on PC-NTDs will be a 5-day structured workshop, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience that combines theoretical insights, hands-on training, structured discussions, and participatory knowledge exchange. The workshop will be highly interactive, prioritizing country-led discussions and practical applications to ensure that participants leave with concrete skills, action plans, and strategies for strengthening PC-NTD M&E.

Day 1 to Day 4: Thematic Focus on Key Topics

- **Morning Plenary Sessions (Knowledge Sharing & Country Experiences):** Each day will begin with a plenary session, introducing the day's core topic through expert presentations, case studies, and country-led discussions.
 - ✓ **Country experiences** will be central, with national M&E teams presenting challenges, lessons learned, and best practices in data quality, NHIS integration, forecasting, and regional coordination.
 - ✓ These sessions will include **interactive discussions** with implementing partners, WHO, and other stakeholders to ensure a diverse exchange of perspectives and solutions.
 - ✓ **Structured discussions** will be facilitated to capture lessons, common challenges, and actionable recommendations.

Comment: The plenary sessions will be highly participatory rather than lecture-driven, creating space for real-time feedback, cross-country comparisons, and interactive Q&A.

- **Hands-On Training & Practical Exercises (Applied Learning):** The majority of each day will be dedicated to hands-on exercises, where participants apply new concepts, methodologies, and tools in a structured setting.
Sessions will focus on:
 - ✓ Data Quality Assessments (DQAs) & validation methodologies.
 - ✓ NHIS integration exercises, where countries will work on realigning PC-NTD data within national health systems.
 - ✓ Forecasting models & real-time logistics planning tools to enhance medicine and MDA planning.

Comment: These sessions will be guided by real-world examples, anonymized case studies, and actual program data where available. Participants will be encouraged to bring country-specific datasets for some of the topics (i.e. forecasting of commodities) for direct application and problem-solving.

Day 5. Institutionalization of Regional Coordination Mechanisms

The final day will focus on institutionalizing the M&E Technical Committee and its working groups.

- **M&E Technical Committee Formation & Governance**
 - ✓ Overview of the M&E Regional Coordination Mechanism, its structure, and functions.

- ✓ Defining roles & responsibilities of the committee and technical working groups.
- ✓ Setting up a governance structure to ensure effective coordination.

- **Regional Working Groups: Structured Planning Sessions**

Participants will collaboratively define mandates for working groups on:

- ✓ Data quality assurance.
- ✓ NHIS integration & reporting alignment.
- ✓ Harmonization of demographic and programmatic data.
- ✓ Cross-country data sharing and standardization
- ✓ Forecasting & logistics planning.

9. Reference Documents

10. Dates, place and language

Date (tentative)	Proposed placed	Workshop language
December 8 – 12, 2025	AFRO, Brazzaville	English/French/Portuguese

11. Participants

The workshop is oriented toward M&E specialists working on NTD programmes in WHO-AFRO countries, including national programme managers, M&E officers, and data managers. It will also engage WHO staff from country offices supporting M&E activities (including NPOs and MCATs), as well as key implementing partners and representatives from technical organizations and companies involved in developing digital and analytical solutions to improve M&E systems for PC-NTD programmes.

Participants	No. Participants (hybrid format)	
	In-person	Virtual
WHO AFRO	6	0
NPOs	15	10
HQ	2	3
M&E NTD Programmes	15	15
Supply Chain Officer Programmes	15	0
M&E Experts Partners	30	20
M&E Tools developers	6	5
Pharma donors	5	10
Total	94	63

Invited countries: Fifteen countries have been invited to participate in the regional M&E Workshop on PC-NTDs. These include anglophone countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Ghana; francophone countries including Burkina Faso, Senegal, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Benin, Madagascar, and Côte d'Ivoire; as well as lusophone countries Mozambique, Angola, and Guinea-Bissau.

12. Annexes

12.1. Annex 1: Invited institutions

In-person participants: 94

- Ministries of Health: 30
- Implementing partners: 30
- WHO: 23
- Pharma donors: 5
- M&E Tools developers: 6

Virtual participants: 63 (potentially)

12.2. Annex 2: Tentative agenda

Day 1: Enhancing Data Quality Assurance

Objective: Strengthen country capacity to diagnose and address data quality issues in PC-NTD monitoring and reporting systems, with a focus on JAP submissions and practical tools for improvement.

Morning Session – Plenary Presentations & Group Work

- Overview of data quality challenges in PC-NTD M&E
- Mapping national data flows and identifying gaps in JAP reporting
- Panel discussion: Country insights on validation gaps and inconsistencies

Afternoon Session – Country Experiences & Applied Tools

- Country presentations: Practical solutions to improve data quality
- Guided demo: Conducting a DQA and drafting a Data Quality Improvement Plan (DQIP)
- Group planning: Identifying priority actions for improving data quality
- Closing session: Linking data quality with NHIS integration

Day 2: Integrating PC-NTD Data into HMIS and Strengthening M&E Synergies

Objective: Support countries in aligning PC-NTD reporting with national health information systems (HMIS) and promoting cross-programmatic M&E integration across sectors.

Morning Session – Country Cases & Tools

- Why and how to integrate PC-NTD data into HMIS
- Collaboration with HMIS units and national planning
- Tools and standards for DHIS2 integration
- Country experiences on NTD digitization

Afternoon Session – Practical Exercises & Group Work

- Mapping integration opportunities within existing data flows
- Group reflections on sustainable M&E integration
- Poster session and preview of Day 3 (linking integration to supply chain systems)

Day 3: Strengthen Forecasting & Supply Chain Planning for PC-NTDs

Objective: Build country capacity to forecast medicine and commodity needs using real-time data and improve supply chain visibility and responsiveness.

Morning Session – Concepts & Country Cases

- Forecasting and supply chain challenges for PC-NTDs
- Using supply chain indicators and data for planning
- Country examples on digital tools and dashboards

Afternoon Session – Hands-On Forecasting

- Practical exercises on forecasting methods (population- and consumption-based)
- Group application of forecasting tools to planning scenarios
- Session wrap-up: Linking forecasting to financial planning and MDA success

Day 4: Strengthening MDA Campaigns through Microplanning and Digitization

Objective: Enhance country understanding of how digital tools and microplanning approaches can improve MDA implementation, targeting, and monitoring.

Morning Session – Framing the Challenge & Tools Landscape

- Challenges in MDA reporting and effectiveness
- Overview of current digitization levels across countries
- Platforms for data collection and integration

Afternoon Session – Mapping, SWOT & Tool Showcases

- Breakout: Mapping current digitization and SWOT analysis
- Showcase of digital tools for payments, targeting, and geospatial microplanning
- Poster session

Day 5: Operationalize the M&E Regional Coordination Mechanism

Objective: Launch the M&E Technical Committee and define the structure, focus, and next steps of thematic working groups for long-term regional collaboration.

Morning Session – Plenary & Working Group Breakouts

- Overview of the M&E Technical Committee structure
- Introduction of thematic working groups
- Breakouts: Define mandates, governance, and deliverables

Afternoon Session – Alignment & Closing

- Working group reporting in plenary
- Alignment on next steps and collaboration mechanisms

- Workshop wrap-up and closure