

[Re]Positioning Neglected Tropical Diseases in the New Global Reality

ESPEN Quarterly Stakeholder Webinar Series

15 July 2025



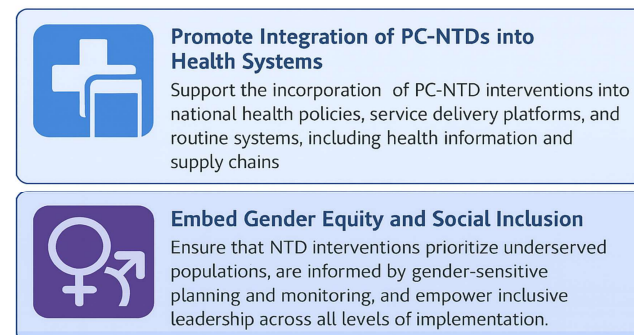
ESPEN – Who we are



Strategic Pillars



Cross-Cutting Pillars



Mission

To accelerate the elimination of neglected tropical diseases amenable to preventive chemotherapy (PC-NTDs) in Africa

ESPEN – Where we work

ESPEN covers 47 countries in the African Region

44 of 47* countries in the region require preventive chemotherapy for NTDs

Support for 5 EMRO countries on request



Lymphatic filariasis



Onchocerciasis



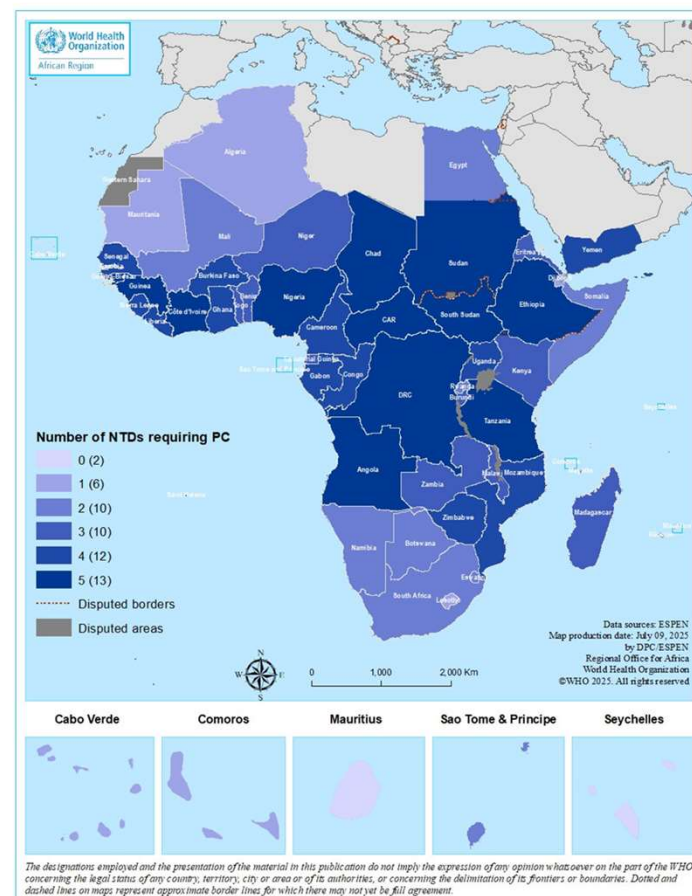
Schistosomiasis



Soil-transmitted helminthiasis



Trachoma

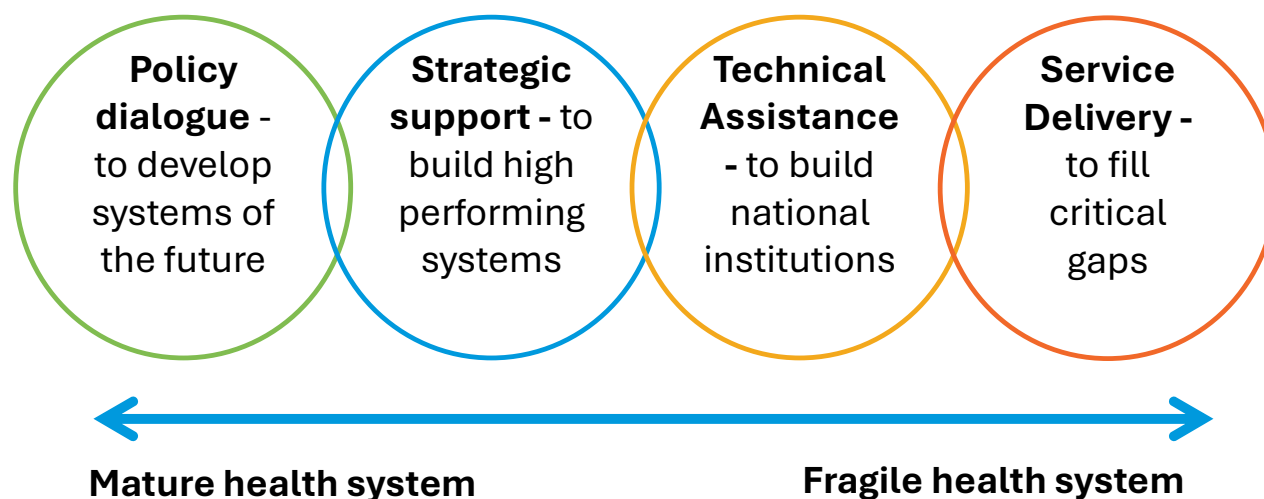


90% of NTD Burden

60% of countries require PC for 4 or 5 NTDs

WHO/ESPEN Technical Support

Drive public health in every country through a differentiated approach

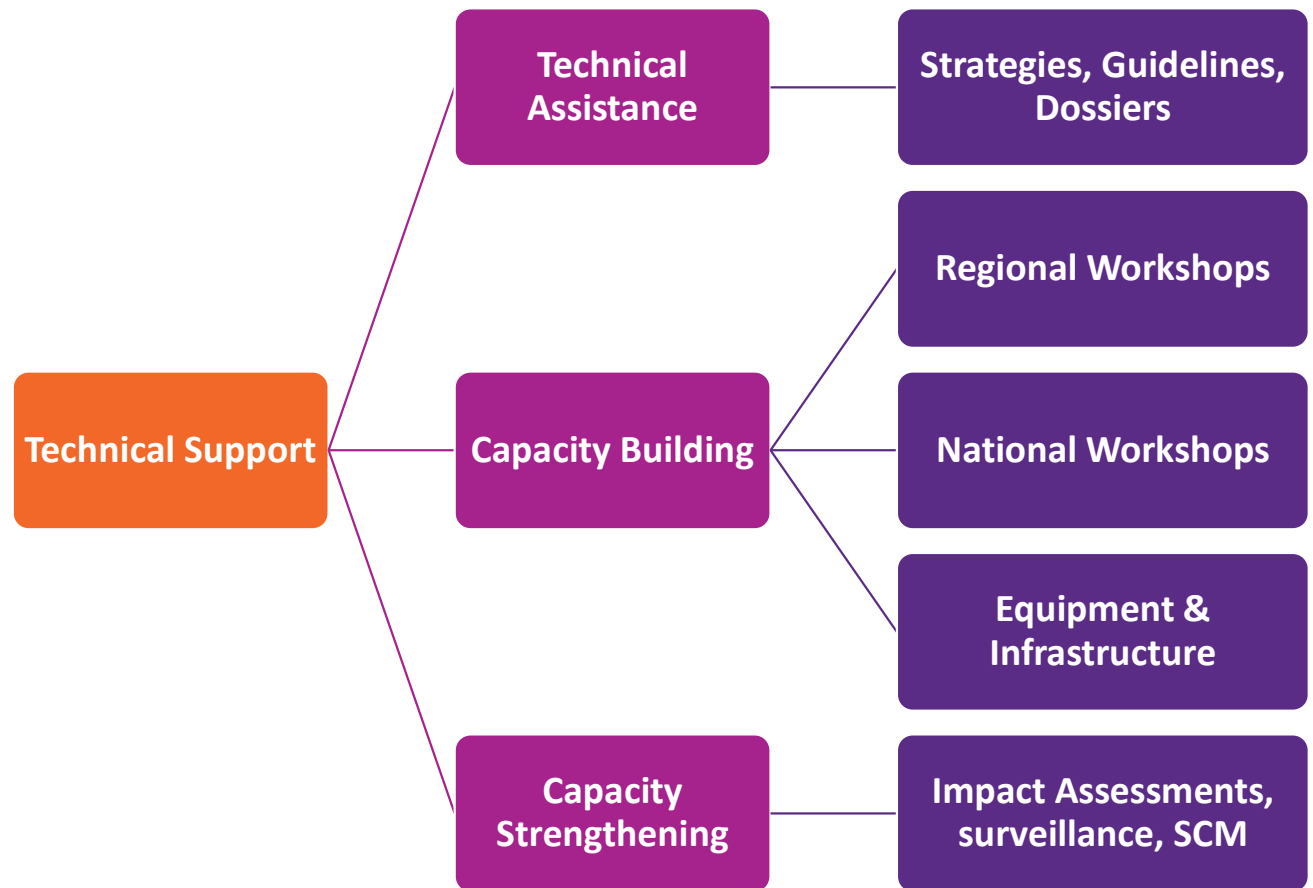


- **ALL technical support requests** are made to WHO country offices
- Escalated by the WHO Representative **only** when support cannot be provided locally

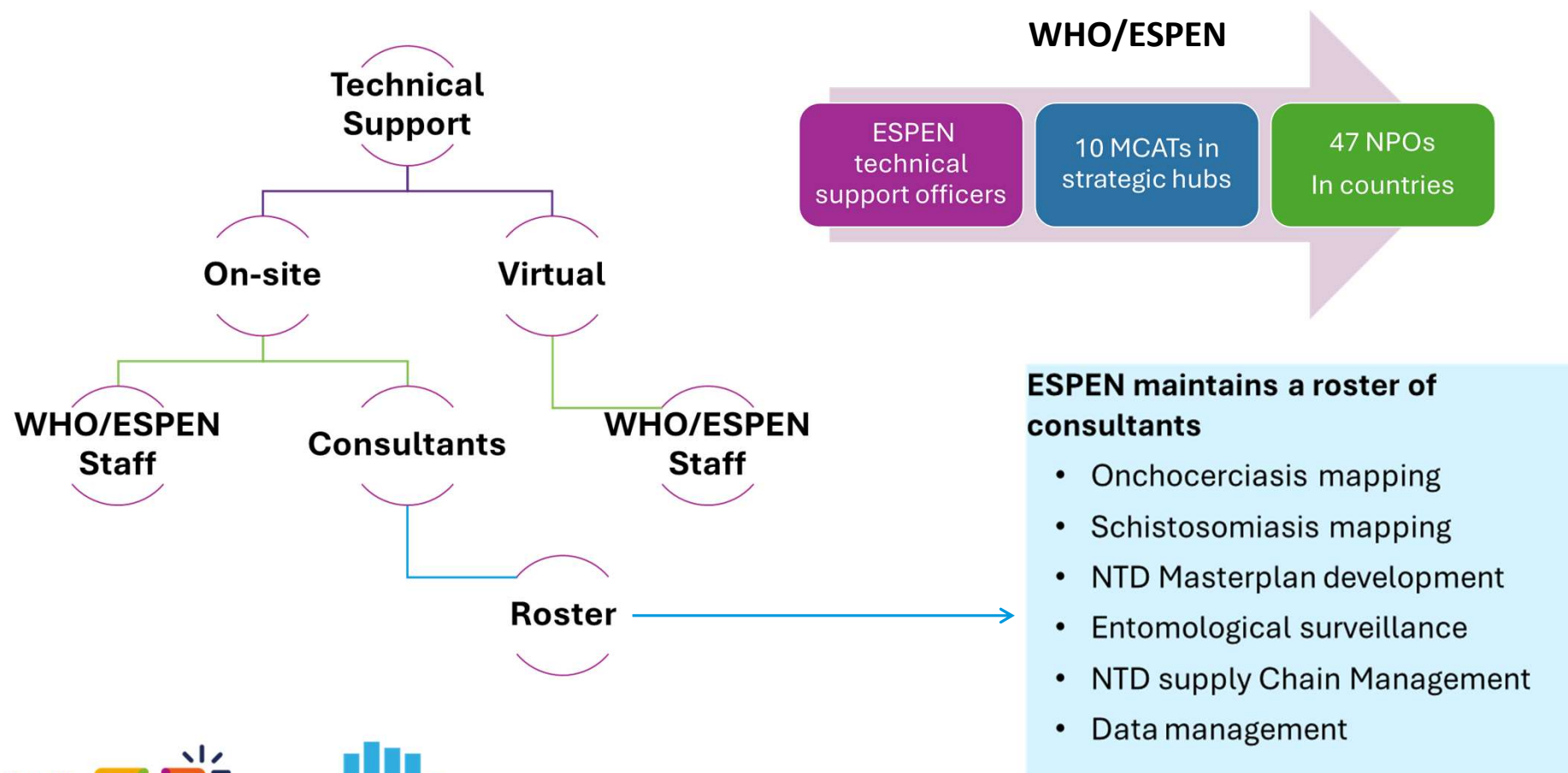
Technical Support Driven and Informed by Data evidence

Technical support to countries *to accelerate progress to elimination*

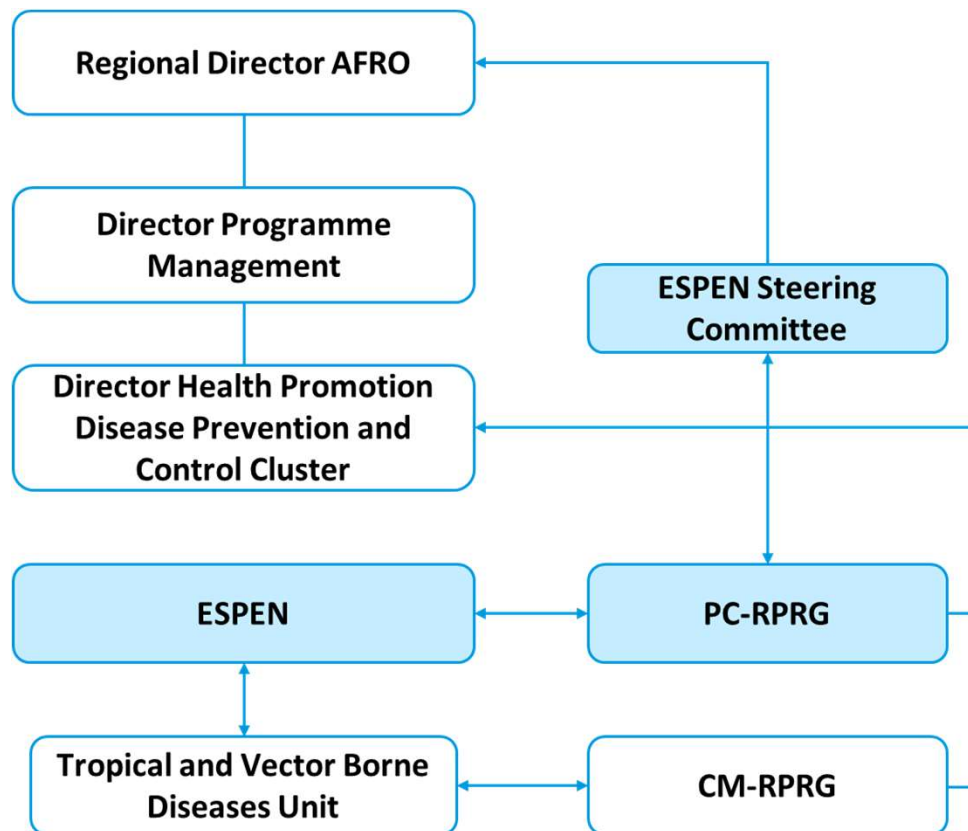
ESPEN collaborates directly with the Ministries of Health (MOH), stakeholders of National NTD programmes, and the NTD community to amplify the impact of NTD control and elimination initiatives



Modalities of Technical Support to Countries



ESPEN Governance Structure



Programmatic Updates



Key Milestones

Onchocerciasis

Niger becomes first country verified for elimination in January 2025

Trachoma

Mauritania (May 2025), Burundi (July 2025) and Senegal (July 2025) validated for elimination as a public health problem

Lymphatic filariasis

Interruption of transmission confirmed in São Tomé and Príncipe (TAS-2)

>500,000 tablets

Praziquantel prevented from expiry in Congo and Sao Tome

Targeted Technical Assistance

Dossier Review & Finalization

- Trachoma – **Mauritania, Burundi, Senegal, Namibia**
- Schistosomiasis – **Algeria**

Financial support

- MDA for SCH to avert expiry – **Congo**
- Integrated microplanning for MDA in **Lesotho, Botswana, South Africa**
- LF TAS in STP

Technical Support

- Support to demonstrate achievement of TT elimination threshold – **Algeria**
- Integrated treatment protocol for SCH/Taeniasis – **Namibia**
- Confirmation of OEM results for 37 IU in **Burundi**
- Support LF TAS in STP



ESPEN Laboratory

Quality Assurance

- **Technical audit completed** (May 2025) by WHO Collaborating Centre (USFCC) aligned with ISO/IEC 17025:2017 & ISO 15189:2022.



Capacity building for National Laboratories

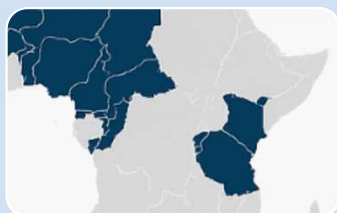
- **Equipment, specialized reagents and training**
- **Onchocerciasis – 11 Countries**
 - Cameroon, CAR, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Malawi, Mali, DRC, Rwanda, Chad.
- **Lymphatic Filariasis - 1 Country**
 - Gabon

Analytic services

- **Over 47,000 Epidemiological samples to provide evidence for**
 - Burundi - OEM
 - Congo – OEM & Pre-stop MDA
 - Cameroon – Pre-stop MDA



Mitigating impact of USAID funding freeze on NTD programmes



Programme Disruption

16 countries reported direct disruptions

- Mass Drug Administration (MDA)
- Surveys
- Dossiers



Medicine Expiry Risks

- **5.9 million tablets** expiring in < 3 months
- **14.9 million tablets** at risk of expiry in 6 months (July 2025 – Jan 2026)



Country Responses

- Integrated Delivery
- Domestic financing
- Support from non-USAID partners
- Prioritization of interventions



ESPEN Support

- Advocacy and resource mobilization
- Integration of interventions
- Inventory monitoring and management
- Coordination of technical assistance / response
- Documentation of best practices

Examples of mitigation measures

Tanzania

- Domestic funding for Oncho/LF MDA in 24 districts;
- Integration SCH and STH MDA rounds with other health campaigns

Benin

- Conducted Oncho MDA with collaborative financial support of the government and partner

Guinea

- Planned MDA in July 2025 to avoid expiry; integrated with immunization campaign

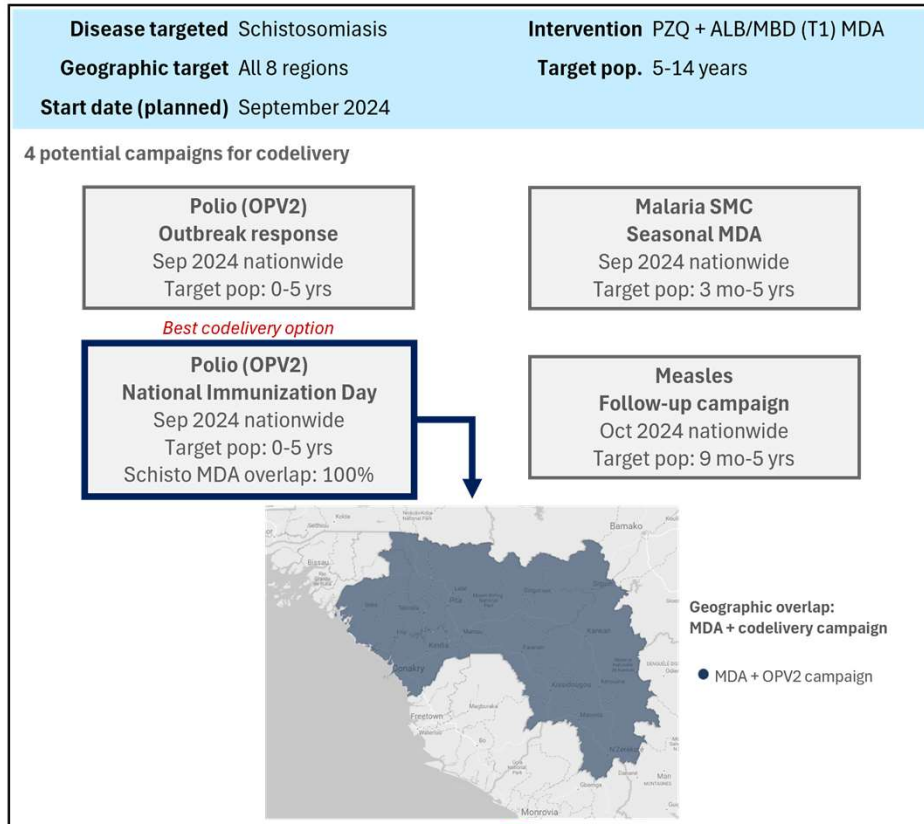
Uganda

- Integration of LF/Oncho/SCH MDA with child health days as a cost efficiency delivery strategy

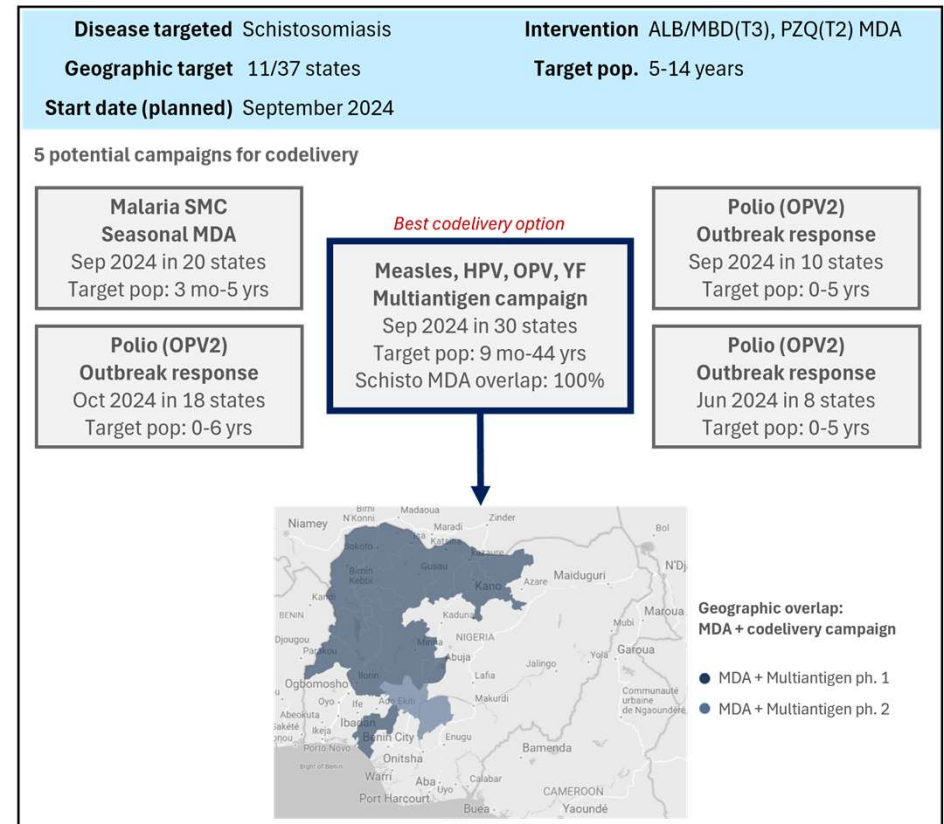


Examples of opportunities for co-delivery for schistosomiasis

Guinea



Nigeria



ALB/MBD, albendazole and mebendazole; HPV, human papillomavirus; MDA, mass drug administration; OPV, oral polio vaccine; OPV2, oral polio vaccine type 2; PZQ, praziquantel; SMC, seasonal malaria chemoprevention; YF, yellow fever

Joint Application Package Updates January to July



Review of 2023/2024 survey results: 23 received from 16 countries

- Benin (3), Burkina Faso (1), Burundi (1), Ghana (1), Guinea(1), Guinea-Bissau (1), Kenya (1), Liberia (2), Malawi (1),
- Mozambique (1), Nigeria (2), Senegal (2), Tanzania Mainland (3), Togo (1), Tanzania Zanzibar (1), Zambia (1).



Support in submission of 2024 treatment reports

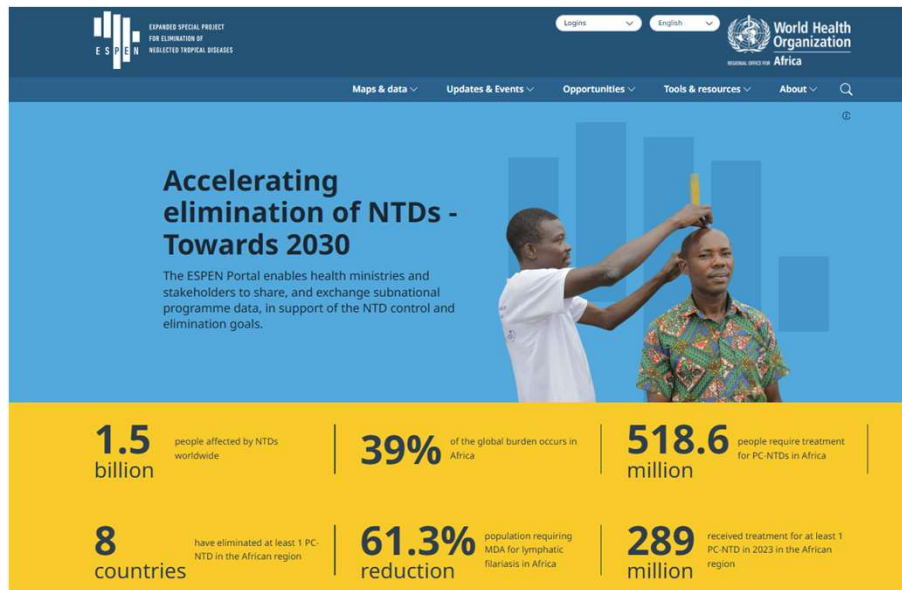
- Prepopulated: 33 countries
- 35 reports received
- 24 validated
- 1 under review with ESPEN
- 10 awaiting responses to ESPEN feedback
- 8 did not implement MDA in 2024
- 2 countries did not report (Cape Verde, The Gambia)



Support in requesting for donated medicines

- Update of Schisto Community workbooks of JRMS2025: 4 countries (*Benin, Chad, Mali, Kenya and Tanzania Mainland*)
- Pre-populated JRSM2026: 25 countries
- 13 JRSM2026 received and reviewed

ESPEN NTD Portal: A Central Hub for Data-Driven Technical Support




The screenshot shows the ESPEN NTD Portal homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the ESPEN logo, 'EXPANDED SPECIAL PROJECT FOR ELIMINATION OF NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES', and the World Health Organization Africa logo. Below the navigation bar, there's a main banner with the title 'Accelerating elimination of NTDs - Towards 2030' and a subtext: 'The ESPEN Portal enables health ministries and stakeholders to share, and exchange subnational programme data, in support of the NTD control and elimination goals.' The banner features an image of a healthcare worker examining a patient's head. Below the banner, there's a yellow section with six statistics:

1.5 billion people affected by NTDs worldwide	39% of the global burden occurs in Africa	518.6 million people require treatment for PC-NTDs in Africa
8 countries have eliminated at least 1 PC-NTD in the African region	61.3% reduction population requiring MDA for lymphatic filariasis in Africa	289 million received treatment for at least 1 PC-NTD in 2023 in the African region

ESPEN NTD Portal
<https://espen.afro.who.int/>


What are you looking for?



Map search
Looking for a specific map?




Data search
Looking for just the data?




JAP search
Looking for JAP files?

Latest updates




19 May 2025
Mauritania eliminates trachoma as a public health problem

Update




05 May 2025
Strengthening integrated health campaigns: The Collaborative Action Strategy (CAS) for Health Campaign Effectiveness

Update



30 April 2025
Evaluation report from the 2025 NTD Programme Managers' meeting : Now available

Update



24 April 2025
New ESPEN report reveals how African NTD Programmes are adapting amid funding shortfalls

Update

Site highlights



Maps & data for 48 countries
Browse over 15,000 maps, country data, charts and more



Tools & resources
A wide selection of tools & resources to support the NTD community



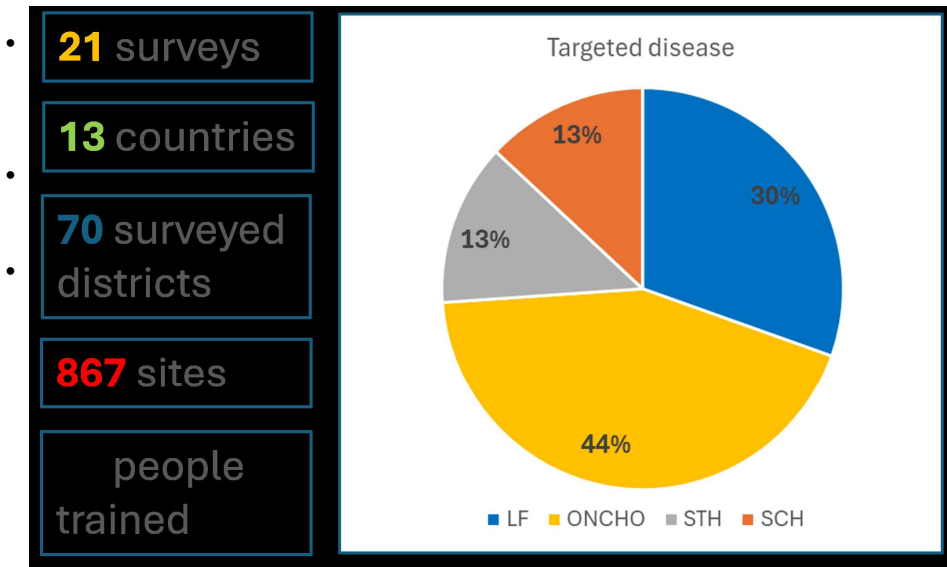
Dashboards
LE, Oncho, SCH & STH progress and forecast dashboards for each country



Updates & events
Keep up-to-date on the latest NTD news and events

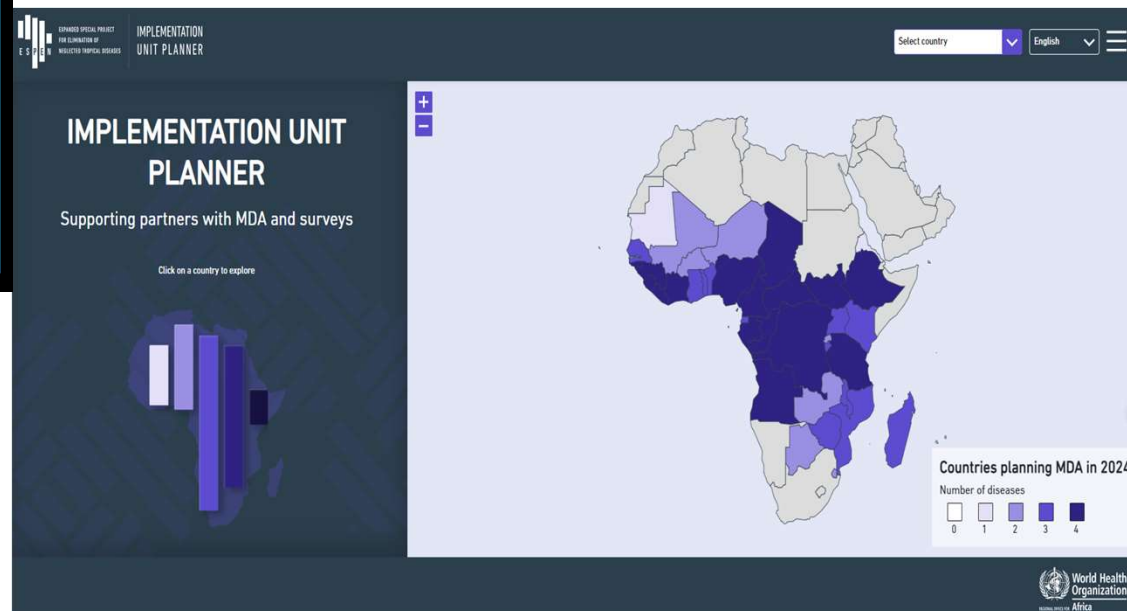
ESPEN Portal Tools

ESPEN Collect



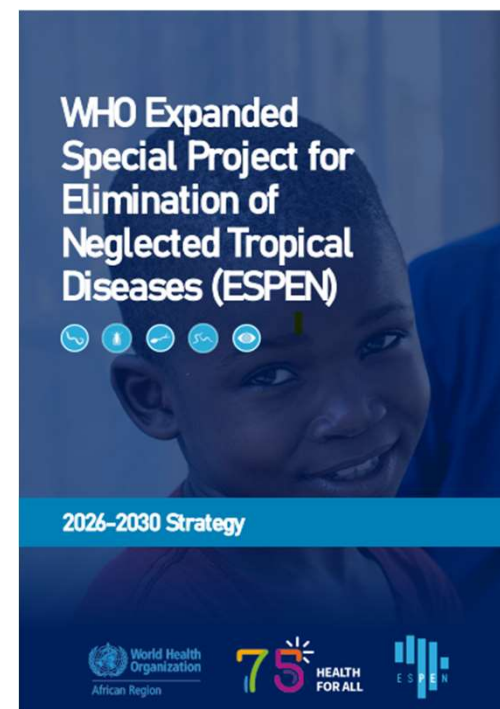
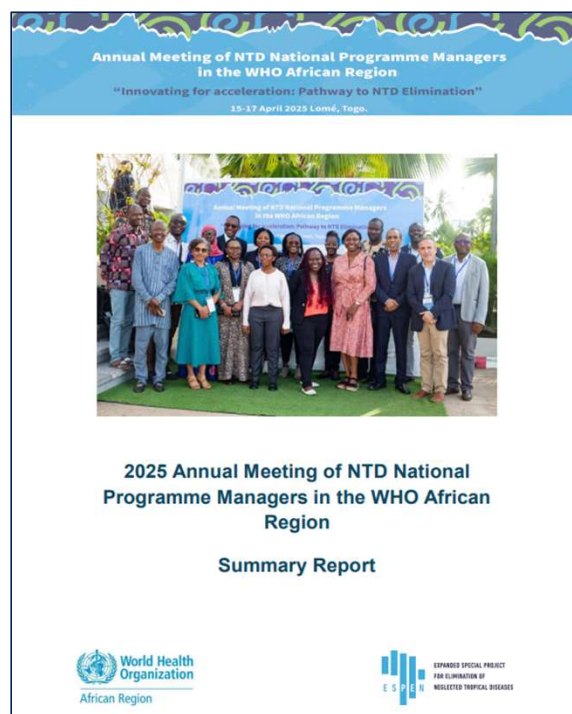
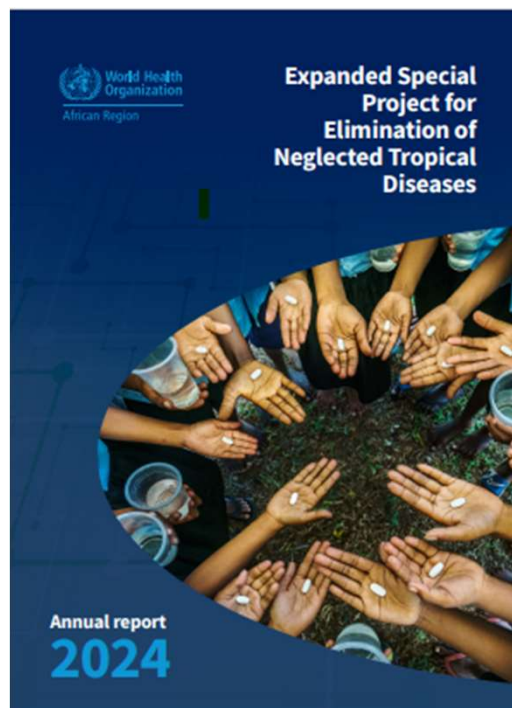
Implementation Unit Planner (IU Planner)

1. **Provides funding information** on MDA and Surveys, at a sub-national IU level
2. **Visibility by Programmes and Partners:** to update& validate funding information



<https://espen.iuplanner.app/>

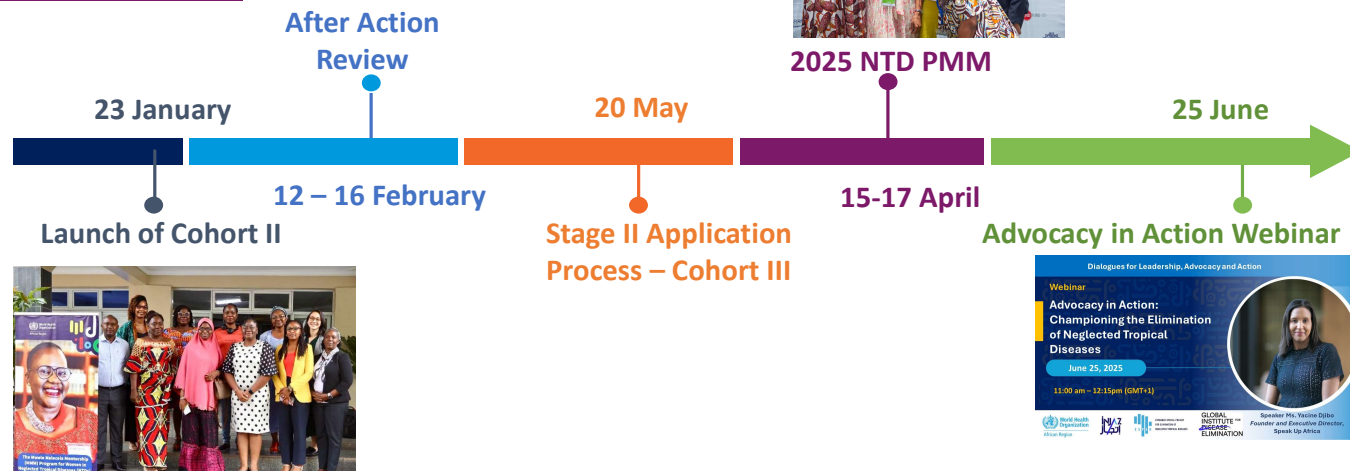
Governance, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization



Governance, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization

The Mwele Malecela Mentorship Programme

The MMM Programme empowers mid-career African women to lead in NTD elimination by fostering inclusive leadership and advancing gender equity.



Increasing ESPEN Visibility

Between January and June 2025, ESPEN's LinkedIn posts reached over 27.5K impressions, with spikes during World NTD Day (1,536) and the NTD PMM (1,203)—showcasing the power of timely, event-driven storytelling to boost visibility and impact.

Metric	Performance
Total Impressions	~ 27.500
Top Post Reach	1,536 (Jan. 30)
Total Clicks	1,200 +
Top Engagement Rate	97%
Avg. Engagement Rate	~ 11% (well above Linkln)
Most Reactions	74 (Jan 30 post)



Q3: July to September Activities



Technical Assistance

TAS3 in **Benin**; TAS2/3 in Comoros
SCH Programme Review in **South Africa**

Trachoma dossier **Algeria**
(finalization) and **Botswana**
(review)



Data and Supply Chain Management

Regional Data and Supply Chain Workshops



Regional Policy and Guidance

Establishment of FGS Regional Expert Committee

Publication of the **NTD Masterplan Framework for Development 2026-2030**



Advocacy and Resource Mobilization

Strategic engagement on the sidelines of TICAD 9 to elevate NTDs on the international agenda

Dissemination of the Second ESPEN Newsletter



Mwele Malecela Mentorship Programme

Shortlisting and approval of MMM Cohort III mentees



THANK YOU