



THE EXPANDED SPECIAL PROJECT FOR ELIMINATION OF NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES (ESPEN)

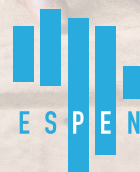
FOR AN AFRICA FREE OF NTDs



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

Africa




EXPANDED SPECIAL PROJECT
FOR ELIMINATION OF
NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

“Tackling Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) is key to a healthier and more prosperous Africa. We are determined through ESPEN to help eliminate these diseases and reduce the suffering of millions of people across the continent.”

Dr. Matshidiso Moeti
World Health Organization Regional Director for Africa (WHO AFRO)

NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

NTDs are a group of communicable diseases that affect more than 1.5 billion people globally, 39% of whom live in Africa. These dangerous and destructive diseases can be prevented and treated, yet they continue to cause severe disfigurement and other long-term disabilities that create obstacles to education, employment, economic growth and overall development.

 **US\$5 billion** *Blinding Trachoma causes over \$5 billion in worldwide economic losses annually.*

In January 2012, a coalition of philanthropic organizations, donor countries, governments of NTD endemic countries and pharmaceutical companies signed the London Declaration, committing to control, eliminate or eradicate 10 NTDs by January 2020. Pharmaceutical companies have pledged more than US \$17.8 billion in drug donations, providing an unparalleled opportunity to achieve the 2020 NTD goals and fulfill related commitments to progress on NTDs and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) under the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2015 G7 Leaders' Declaration.

  **US\$17.8 billion**



**NTDs kill at least 170.000
people every year**



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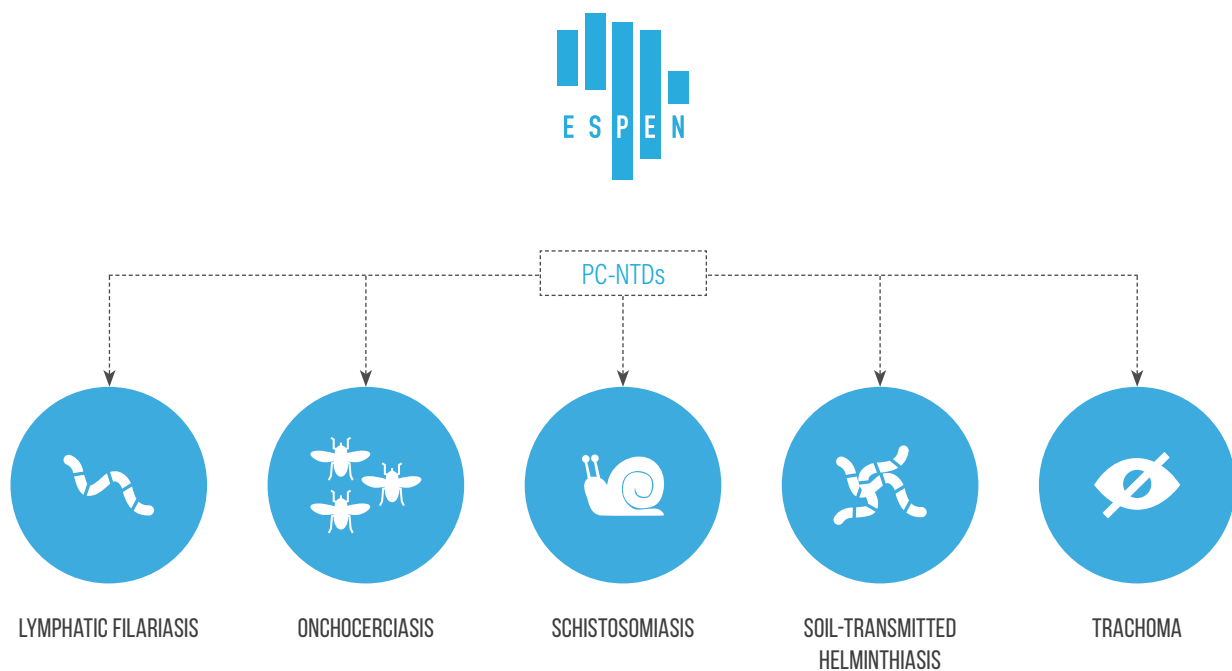
PREVENTIVE CHEMOTHERAPY: A GAME-CHANGING TREATMENT

NTDs are treatable, preventable and, in many cases, can be controlled or eliminated. Preventive Chemotherapy (PC) involves reaching entire at-risk communities annually with safe and effective medicines to treat and prevent NTDs.

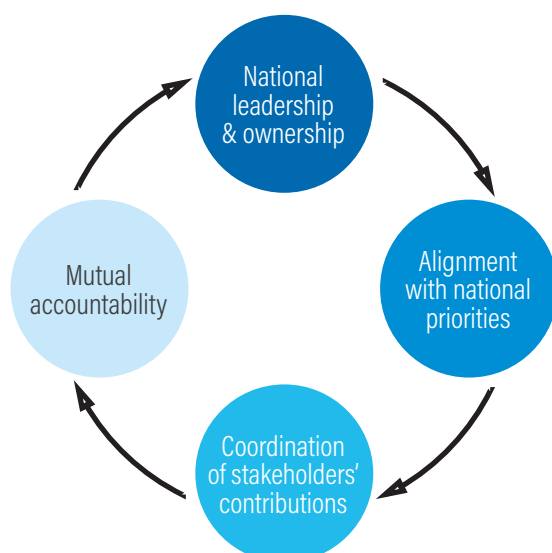
- Over 7 billion treatments have been donated by pharmaceutical companies, reaching nearly 1 billion people every year since the London Declaration.
- 1.5 billion people still require treatment globally in 2016. That number is 333 million fewer than in 2012, largely due to PC-NTD program successes.

The Linchpin in Africa

Created by the World Health Organization (WHO), ESPEN is a public-private partnership dedicated to reducing the burden of the most prevalent neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in Africa. ESPEN supports integrated, locally led approaches to achieve the WHO 2020 control and elimination goals for the five NTDs amenable to Preventive Chemotherapy (PC-NTDs), which account for 90 percent of the global burden. Since its launch in May 2016, ESPEN is working with domestic and international partners to leverage US\$17.8 billion in drug donations from pharmaceutical companies to expand coverage and access to treatments, strengthen health systems and dramatically reduce the NTD burden in Africa.



Guiding Principles



A GLOBAL HEALTH BEST-BUY

ESPEN seeks to reduce the enormous toll of NTDs on Africa's economic productivity. Achieving these goals will:

- Generate an estimated **\$565 billion** in productivity gains globally by 2030.
- Produce up to **\$184** in improved economic productivity for every \$1 invested.

Reducing the burden of NTDs is an essential part of creating a healthy and prosperous future for Africa. ESPEN is committed to helping all countries in Africa reach their goals for PC-NTD control and elimination.

Every **\$10 million** investment (2018-2020) in ESPEN would leverage **\$260 million** in drug donations, and avert disability and death for more than 20 million people in Africa by 2030.

ESPEN BY THE NUMBERS: FIRST YEAR IMPACT



19 countries trained to stop treatment in selected areas after elimination of **Lymphatic Filariasis** has been reached.



WHO certified **Togo** as the first country in Sub-Saharan Africa to eliminate **Lymphatic Filariasis** as a public health problem.



30 million people reached through direct operation support to Mass Drug Administration (MDA) in **15 countries**.



132 million drug tablets recovered through supply chain analysis in **7 countries**.



41 countries sharing data and maps through the first baseline endemicity atlas of the five PC-NTDs for Africa.
<http://ntd.afro.who.int>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa • Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation • Christoffel-Blindenmission • Department for International Development, United Kingdom • GlaxoSmithKline • Johnson & Johnson • Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development • Mectizan Donation Program • The Merck Group • Merck Sharp and Dohme-Chibret • The END Fund • Sightsavers • United States Agency for International Development • World Bank.



Join the fight against NTDs!

Contact ESPEN Team Leader, Dr. Maria Rebollo at rebolopolom@who.int

