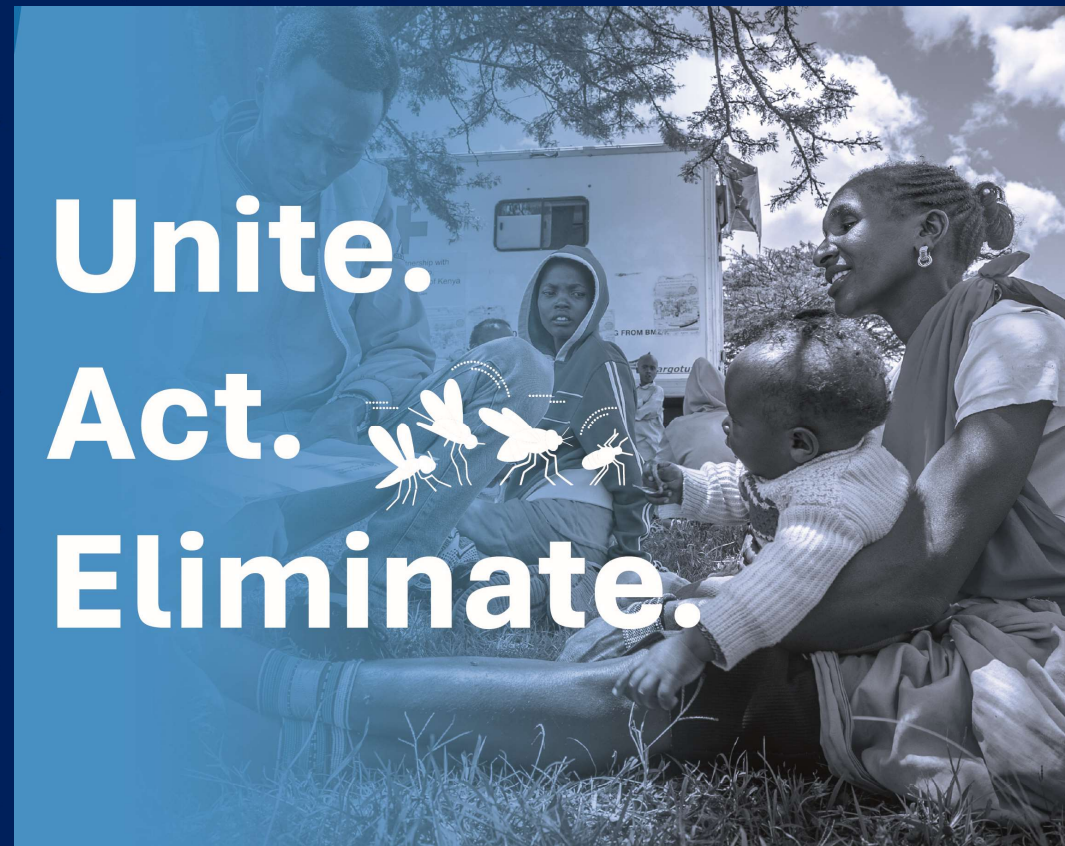


# World NTD Day 2026

*Webinar: Protecting Africa's NTD  
Progress in the Time of Global  
Uncertainty*

28 January 2026



**Unite.  
Act.  
Eliminate.**

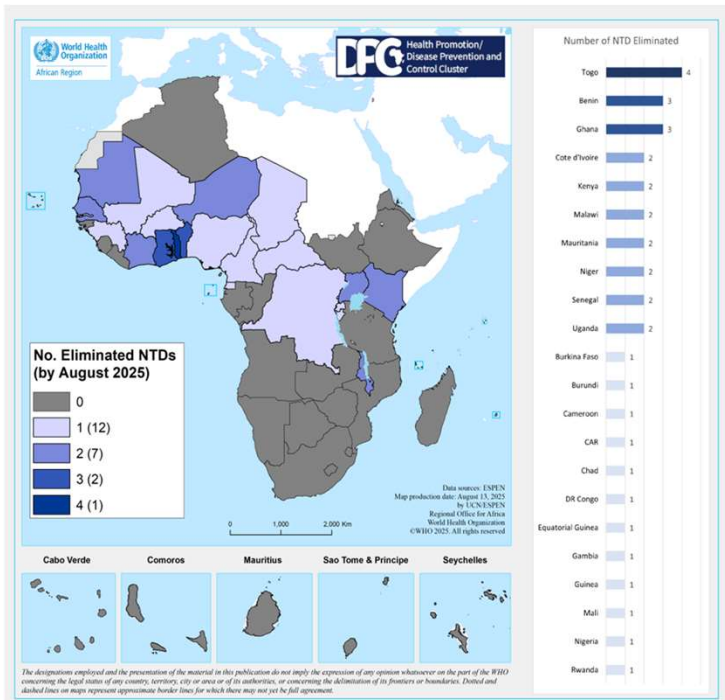
Three stylized white mosquito icons are positioned between the words "Act." and "Eliminate." in the main text.

# Africa's NTD Elimination Momentum

*From celebrating gains to protecting them for generations*



# Progress with NTD Elimination in the WHO African Region



Guinea Worm 13/18 countries

Trachoma 9/32 countries

HAT 10/36 countries

LF 2/32 countries

Onchocerciasis 1/29 countries

- 22 countries have eliminated at least one NTD
- Sustaining gains requires deliberate action, country ownership, and strategic partner engagement

Editorial

## Neglected tropical diseases: golden age of elimination?

The latest *Global Report on Neglected Tropical Diseases* was published by WHO in October. The report documents progress towards the 2030 neglected tropical disease (NTD) goals and persistent challenges regarding diagnostics, monitoring, advocacy, and funding. In the report's foreword, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus declares that "we are living in a golden age of disease elimination".

This statement certainly rings true from a global perspective: in 2010, 2.2 billion people required interventions against NTDs, which has fallen to 1.5 billion in 2023. The report found an 18% reduction in NTD-related disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs), declining from 17.18 million in 2015, to 14.14 million in 2021. The global NTD elimination count also continues to climb, with 54 countries having eliminated at least one NTD as of Dec 31, 2024. Among the latest countries are Fiji and Egypt, which became the 26th and 27th to eliminate trachoma.

However, this progress does not signal an end to NTDs or achievement of the four 2030 targets: 90% fewer people requiring interventions against NTDs; 75% fewer NTD-related DALYs; 100 countries eliminating at least one NTD; and eradication of dracunculiasis and yaws. The trachoma elimination success was made in the context

board, with concurrent stagnation in progress against NTDs: the DALY reduction in 2015-21 for this region is 4-3%, compared with the global 18% reduction.

Climate change is contributing to the changing landscape of NTDs, as explored in a recent *Lancet Planetary Health* Personal View. Increased temperatures and irregular precipitation influence the breeding, biting, and distributional patterns of mosquitoes, with knock-on effects on disease spread. The chikungunya virus outbreak in Guangdong Province between July and September, 2025. This outbreak and the increase of chikungunya virus infections elsewhere, such as in France and Italy, has been covered by Priya Venkatesan in this month's News section. Climate change also has indirect effects on NTDs in the forms of disruption to drinking water, food insecurity, and poor sanitation. Dr Ibrahim Socé Fall (Director of the Global NTD Programme) writes in the report, "NTDs are directly linked to developmental social determinants of health...By providing basic necessities including safe water and sanitation facilities and good health-care systems for vulnerable people, many nations of low- and middle-income status can demonstrably overcome NTDs".

As we approach the 2030 target deadline, it is essential



*Lancet* March 2025; 4: 1013-1016  
Published Online November 29, 2025  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanw.2025.101306>

For the WHO *Global Report on Neglected Tropical Diseases* see <https://www.who.int/publications/item/9789240114043>

For more on national trachoma elimination in Fiji see <https://www.who.int/news/item/20-10-2025-fiji-becomes-the-26th-country-to-eliminate-trachoma-a-public-health-problem>

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# Sustainable elimination is possible... but there are challenges



**Funding  
uncertainty**



**Competing health  
priorities**



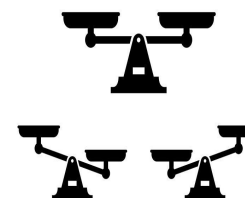
**Climate change  
impact**



**Fragility and  
humanitarian  
crises**



**Large proportion of  
people requiring  
NTD interventions**



**Uneven progress  
across and within  
countries**

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# Challenges in Sustaining Elimination Gains



**Health system fragility:**  
Weak surveillance, supply chains, and human resource capacity gaps risk resurgence.



**Mismanagement of Data:**  
Surveillance data not correctly analysed, interpreted or acted on



**Programme fatigue:**  
Communities and health workers shift focus



**Funding declines:** Global and domestic reduction in vertical programme financing

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## Prioritize protecting gains and achieving elimination milestones

Africa has achieved NTD elimination successes within the context of:

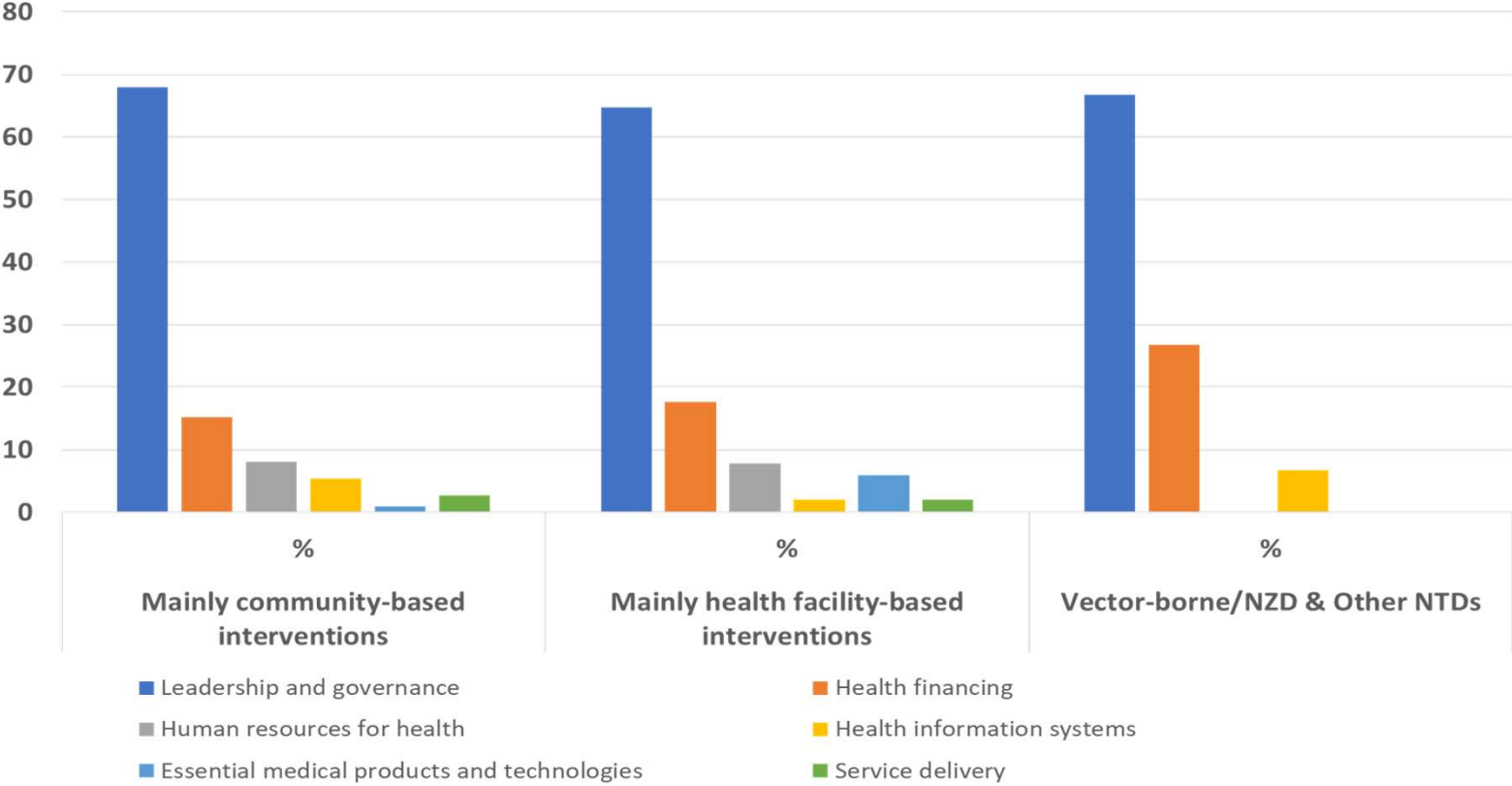
- Global health financing uncertainty
- Competing emergencies and priorities
- Climate shocks and insecurity

Sustaining elimination is more cost effective than restarting programmes after disease resurgence

- Interruptions to mass drug administration, surveillance, or supply chains risk **rapid resurgence**, particularly in high-transmission settings.

NTD elimination in Africa must be resilient to shocks to be sustainable

# Health systems pillars determining sustainability of NTD Interventions



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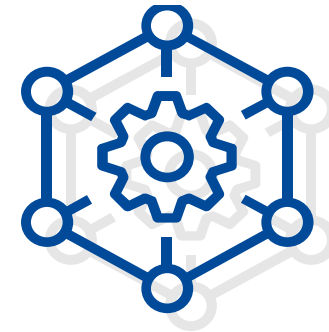
# NTD Sustainability Framework - Survey findings



Strengthen **Political and Financial Commitment** and technical capacity to sustainably achieve global NTD targets and milestones aligned with the SDGs and UHC objectives



**Integrate NTDs Services and Mainstream NTD Programmes** into the health system, wherever possible



**Enhance Coordination and Collaboration** across sectors to strengthen NTD services



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## Integration is the pathway to sustainable NTD elimination

- **Integration is essential** for last-mile and post-elimination sustainability
  - *Vertical programmes have enabled NTD successes but are not sustainable in the current context*
- Priority areas for integration of NTD interventions
  - **Primary health care and UHC**
  - **National supply chain systems for health commodities**
  - Integrated **disease surveillance** and **routine health information systems**
  - Multisectoral linkage with **WASH, One Health, and climate adaptation programmes**
- Integration strengthens country ownership and reduces long-term dependence on external financing.

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# Country ownership and resilience underpins sustainable elimination



## Government Leadership

National leadership and coordination of partners  
Domestic co-financing and policy integration  
Strong engagement with communities

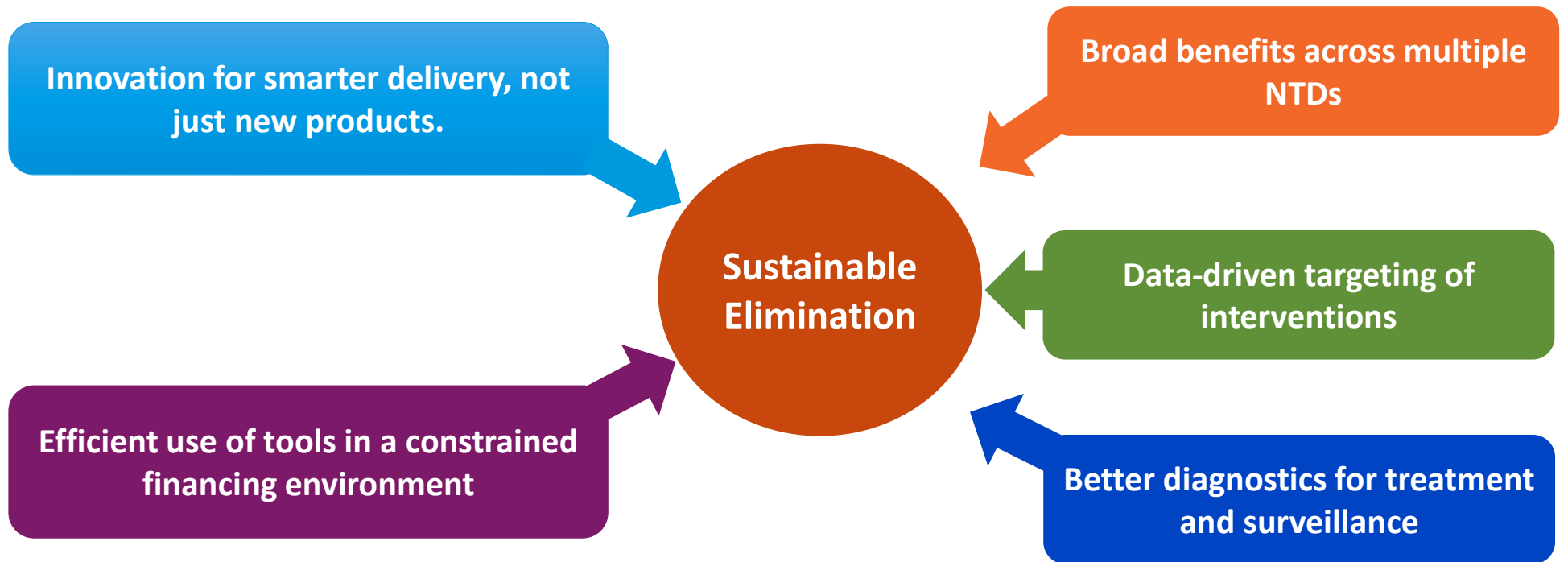


## Building resilient health systems

Universal Health Coverage  
Primary Health Care  
Integrated disease surveillance and response

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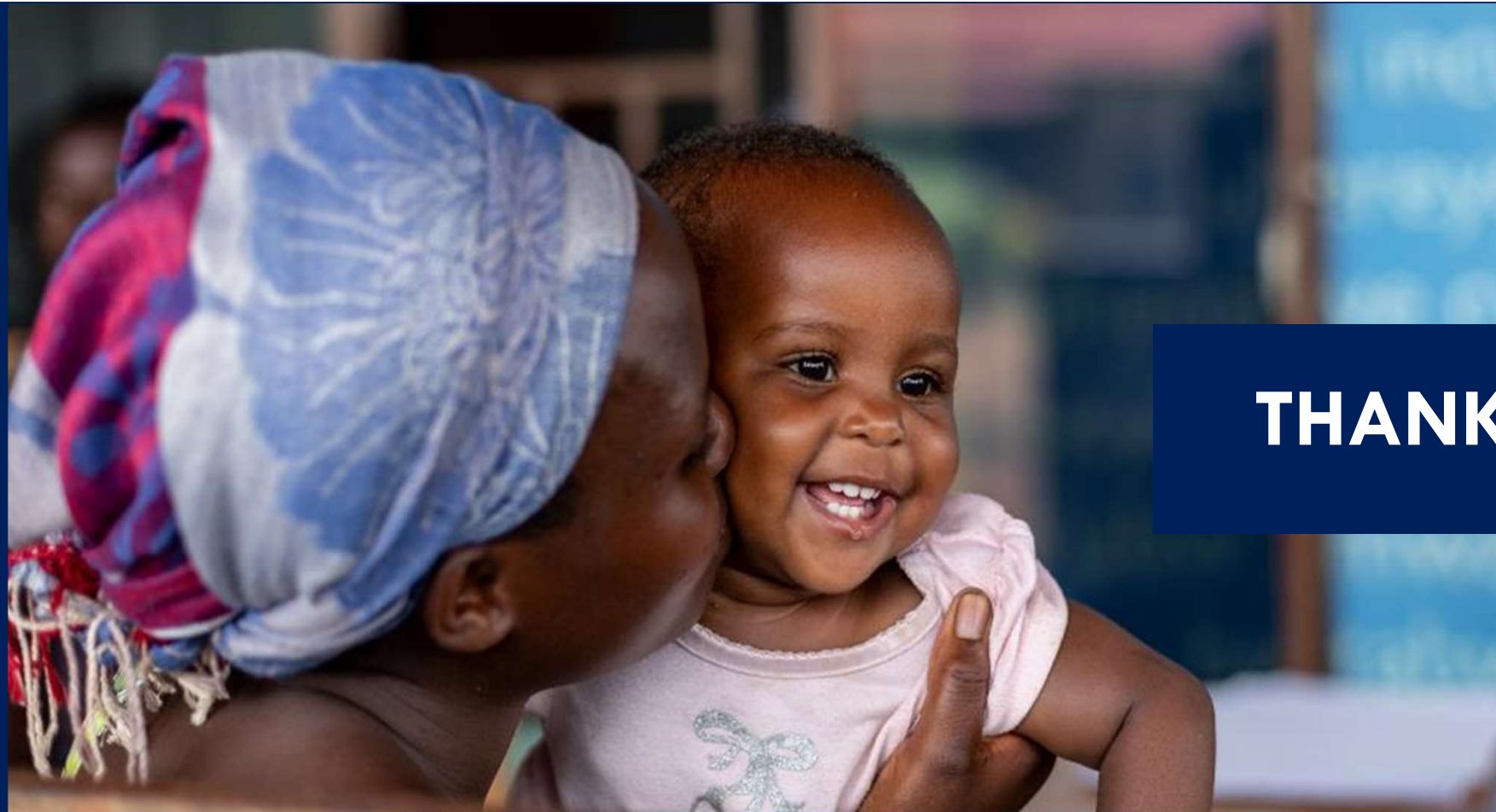
## Innovation and smarter use of existing tools for elimination



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## Africa is at a tipping point on the road to 2030

- **24 countries** have eliminated at least one NTD
- **We know elimination of NTDs in Africa is possible**
- **What is needed to turn progress into lasting impact?**
  - **Deliberate sustained actions** to keep progress towards elimination (*or stagnation and resurgence*)
  - Sustained **political commitment**
  - **Predictable financing**
  - **Integrated delivery** of interventions



**THANK YOU**