Evaluation Summary Report
2025 NTD Programme Managers' Meeting

Executive Summary

1. Overall Satisfaction and Meeting Quality

- Overall satisfaction was high, with 98% rating the meeting as Good (4) or Excellent (5). This reflects a well-organized and content-rich event appreciated by participants.
- Key sessions like the Opening Plenary, Roadmap Milestone Updates, Disease-Specific M&E, and Kikundi Learning Sessions received mostly "Good" or "Excellent" ratings across the board, showing strong relevance and engagement.

2. Format and Logistics

- The hybrid format was viewed positively, with responses such as:

> "*The hybrid event expands opportunities for participation.*"
> "*Hybrid allows more people to join even if they can't travel.*"

However, some feedback suggested room for improved interaction between remote and in-person attendees.

- Venue, meals, and transfers were rated predominantly as "Good" or "Excellent", though internet connectivity was consistently marked as a weak point, often rated "Poor" or "Neutral".

3. Learning and Contribution to Programmes

- A majority of respondents felt the meeting enhanced their understanding of NTD challenges—several reporting moderate to significant improvements.
- Respondents emphasized how the meeting will contribute to their work by:

> "*Encouraging new collaboration and knowledge sharing.*"
> "*Improving national planning and regional coordination.*"

4. Suggestions for Future Meetings

From open-text responses, several suggestions emerged:
- Poster sessions should be better integrated or highlighted to ensure visibility and engagement.
- Include more country-driven sessions or real-world implementation stories.
- Ensure the distribution of a participant list to encourage follow-up and collaboration.
- Increase time for interactive discussion and group work.

5. Topics Requested for Future Inclusion

Participants requested sessions or deeper dives into:
1. Innovative financing mechanisms
2. Digital tools for data management
3. Operational research and lessons learned
4. Community engagement strategies
5. Support for dossier preparation and validation processes

Extended report

1. Overall Satisfaction and Meeting Quality

The meeting received consistently positive feedback from attendees, with 98% rating their overall satisfaction as either "Good" or "Excellent." Participants particularly praised several sessions for their relevance and impact, including the opening plenary and keynote addresses, which set a strong tone for the meeting. The presentations on mid-term milestone updates for the NTD Roadmap were also highly appreciated, offering a valuable overview of regional progress and challenges. Reflections from the Kikundi sessions stood out for their emphasis on peer-to-peer learning and practical exchange, while the disease-specific monitoring and evaluation updates—covering lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis/soil-transmitted helminthiasis, and trachoma—were considered technically rich and informative. Across the board, respondents highlighted the quality of the content delivered, the opportunity for cross-country learning, and the strength of the technical facilitation as the key elements that contributed to the overall success of the meeting.

2. Format and Logistics

The hybrid format of the meeting was addressed in comments from 39 participants, many of whom underscored its value in increasing accessibility and enabling engagement from a broader range of regions. Several noted that the hybrid model offered flexibility for those unable to travel, with one participant calling it "a great way to reach more programme managers with limited travel capacity." However, while the hybrid approach was generally welcomed, some participants experienced technical issues that hindered full participation for remote attendees. In particular, they pointed to challenges with remote engagement during discussions and limited opportunities for interaction. Suggestions for improvement included enhancing interactive features, such as real-time Q&A tools, and strengthening technical support for remote sessions.

In terms of venue and logistics, feedback was largely positive regarding meals, transportation, and the overall meeting environment. These aspects contributed to a comfortable and well-organized in-person experience. However, internet connectivity emerged as a notable concern, with multiple respondents describing it as "unreliable" or noting "limited bandwidth, making remote access difficult." This issue was seen as particularly critical in the context of a hybrid event. As a result, several participants recommended that future meetings include dedicated IT support and investment in more robust Wi-Fi infrastructure to ensure smooth participation for both in-person and remote attendees.

3. Usefulness of Sessions and Poster Displays

The poster sessions received mixed feedback from participants. While the majority rated them as Useful or Very Useful, several respondents—specifically eight—highlighted areas for improvement. Concerns included limited visibility of the posters, insufficient time allocated for engagement, and a lack of clear guidance on where the posters were displayed. Some participants mentioned that they were unaware of the poster locations altogether, which hindered their ability to benefit from this component of the meeting.

To enhance the effectiveness of poster sessions in future meetings, participants suggested more structured integration into the agenda. This could include scheduled, facilitated poster walks to guide attendees through the displays and ensure interaction with presenters. Additionally, allocating dedicated time for poster presenters to briefly summarize their content would help ensure that key insights are shared broadly and not missed due to logistical oversights.

2025 National NTD Programme Managers Meeting
15 – 17 April 2025, Lomé, Togo

EXPANDED SPECIAL PROJECT
FOR ELIMINATION OF
NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES
E S P E N

World Health
Organization
African Region

4. Contribution to Programme Impact

A total of 35 participants provided reflections on how the meeting would benefit their national programmes and overall impact. Many emphasized the value of knowledge sharing, strategic alignment, and the opportunity to build or strengthen collaboration with other countries and partners. As one respondent noted, "Hearing from other countries will help improve how we plan our interventions," while another described it as a "great opportunity to clarify reporting issues and align with global partners."

Several participants also highlighted the practical benefits of the sessions, particularly in terms of clarifying monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements and understanding the use of tools like the Joint Application Package (JAP) and the ESPEN Portal. Others mentioned that the meeting served as a catalyst for exploring new approaches to cross-border collaboration and community outreach, reinforcing the importance of regional coordination and shared learning in advancing NTD programme goals.

5. Suggestions for Future Meetings

Among the 32 respondents who offered suggestions for improvement, several key themes emerged that could enhance the relevance and inclusivity of future meetings. On participation, many recommended increasing the time allocated to small-group discussions and peer-to-peer exchange, which were seen as particularly valuable for practical learning and networking. In terms of agenda design, respondents called for better time management to avoid overlapping sessions and ensure that participants could fully engage in all relevant topics.
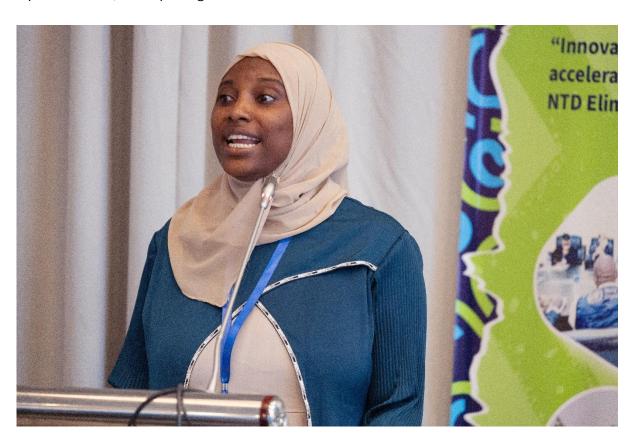
Follow-up actions were another area of focus, with multiple participants requesting that a list of attendees and presentation slides be shared after the meeting to support continued dialogue and information sharing. From a technical standpoint, there were calls to improve the remote access experience, particularly the clarity of audio and the reliability of virtual platforms. Finally, several respondents highlighted the need to expand simultaneous interpretation services, especially in French and Portuguese, to ensure that all participants could engage fully and equally in the discussions.

6. Topics to Include in Future Meetings

Out of the 35 responses received on topics to include in future meetings, several recurring themes stood out, reflecting the evolving needs and priorities of national NTD programmes.

A prominent area of interest was financing and resource mobilization, with participants requesting tools and guidance to support advocacy efforts, particularly when engaging Ministries of Finance. This underscores the need for stronger integration of NTD priorities into national budgeting processes.

Data and digital tools were also frequently mentioned, with calls for more training on the use of digital platforms, dashboards, and geographic information systems (GIS). Participants expressed interest in building their capacity to use data more effectively for planning, implementation, and reporting.

In the area of community engagement, respondents emphasized the importance of strengthening social mobilization efforts and fostering collaboration across sectors to improve programme reach and effectiveness.

Several respondents also highlighted the need for more support around elimination dossiers, including clearer guidance on templates, submission processes, and how to avoid common pitfalls—an indication that countries are increasingly focused on reaching elimination targets.

Finally, the integration of NTD services into broader primary health care systems was raised as a critical topic. Respondents suggested that future meetings explore practical models and lessons learned from countries that have made progress in embedding NTD activities within existing health structures, in line with the global push for sustainability and health system strengthening.

7. Final Reflections

The 2025 Annual NTD Programme Managers' Meeting was widely regarded as a valuable and impactful event, bringing together stakeholders in a spirit of collaboration, shared learning, and collective commitment to advancing NTD goals. Participants consistently praised the meeting's collaborative atmosphere, the technical depth of discussions, and its strong strategic alignment with the 2030 NTD Roadmap. These elements contributed to a sense of momentum and unity across the region.

At the same time, participants identified several areas where future meetings could be strengthened. These include enhancing the inclusivity and interactivity of hybrid participation, improving logistical coordination, particularly in relation to internet access and remote engagement, and establishing stronger mechanisms for follow-up, such as the timely sharing of materials and networking information. By actively integrating this feedback, future editions of the meeting can become even more relevant, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of national programmes and the broader NTD community.