

Neglected Tropical Diseases and COVID-19: What you need to know

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

- Group of 20 diseases primarily found in low- and middle-income countries; especially in sub-Saharan Africa
- 1.7 billion people in the world are at risk for at least 1 NTD
- Success against NTDs are largely attributed to country ownership, drug donations and partnerships among NGOs, academia, government, philanthropy and other organizations



1 in **5** people in the world are at risk for at least 1 NTD

Timeline from 2012 to 2020

2012 WHO publishes first **NTD roadmap** and the **London Declaration on NTDs** was signed. These documents outline the commitments and strategies to prevent, control, eliminate and eradicate all NTDs

2020 Progress has been made since 2012, but not all 2020 targets have been met. WHO publishes a new **NTD roadmap** for 2021-2030

- **April 2020:** MDA, NTD surveys and active case finding activities are postponed until further notice
- **May 2020:** Countries and regions should monitor and reevaluate delays surrounding NTD activities
 1. Risk-benefit assessment to resume activities
 2. If planned activities should proceed, precautionary measures are taken to ↓ risk of COVID-19

COVID-19

Can we achieve the 2030 goals and targets outlined in the new NTD roadmap?

- Impact of the pandemic are unique to each disease and each area
 - High transmission areas face a greater risk of resurgence
 - Longer delays will have a greater negative impact
- There has been a lot of progress and success since the first road map. While responding to COVID-19, we must work together to keep working towards the 2030 NTD goals and targets

NTD Activities

NTD MDA*

200 million medicines were delivered in a single day (Jan 2017); a Guinness World Record
12 billion treatments donated since 2012



*MDA: Mass Drug Administration

Effect of COVID-19

26 countries cancelled or postponed MDA
63% of NTD personnel assigned to COVID-19 activities
36% of countries have NTD drugs expiring/expired

Progress made in the fight against NTD since 2012

Lymphatic filariasis

16 countries eliminated Lymphatic filariasis



Dracunculiasis

Verge of eradication.
54 cases reported in 2019



Trachoma

9 countries eliminated trachoma

