

World NTD Day – Act, Unite, Eliminate NTDs

At the Canadian Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases (CNNTD), we believe that NTDs are a missing piece to improved global health. Today, 1.65 billion people globally - nearly 1 in 5 live with Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). However, it doesn't have to be this way.

Although the scale of NTDs as a public health problem make the solutions seem daunting, we know that by working together we can achieve the WHO 2030 NTD goals and see 100 countries eliminate 1 or more NTDs by 2030. To date, 50 countries have eliminated at least 1 NTD, bringing us to the half way mark! An estimated 600 million people no longer require NTD treatment. For the most part, these diseases are preventable and treatable, and it is within our power to end NTDs.

Canada is now playing a critical role in getting to the end game with NTD elimination, with a new multi-year \$15 million CAD investment in eliminating trachoma in the Americas. This is a critical new step for Canada as it renews its investment in the prevention, treatment and elimination of NTDs. With sustained funding and continued collaboration in global NTD elimination strategies, we can achieve greater global health equity.

The Canadian Government can work collaboratively with Canadian NTD organizations, global stakeholders, and pharmaceutical companies¹ to achieve World Health Organization's Neglected Tropical Disease 2030 Roadmap targets. Within Canada, there are more than a dozen organizations that are working in NTDs, many academic institutions with hundreds of researchers and students as well as allied organizations that collectively share a broad footprint and meaningful impact on NTD prevention and treatment globally.

Please join us in celebrating the gains made in NTD elimination to date on World NTD Day on January 30th, 2024! We want to recognize the successes in NTD prevention and treatment globally that have been made possible because of commitments and collaboration made by Canadians and within the global health community.

Why Canadian commitment to the treatment and prevention of NTDs matters

The Canadian government endorsed the Kigali Declaration on NTDs in 2022. In 2023, the Canadian Government made a financial contribution to bolster this commitment towards achieving the [WHO NTD Road Map 2030 goals](#). This year, we are asking Canada to sustain its engagement with global partners to eliminate NTDs.

NTDs affect the health, economic and learning opportunities, dignity and rights of the most vulnerable groups of people – those living in extreme poverty; without access to water & sanitation or access to primary health care in more than 100 of the world's endemic countries. Canada can invest in the people affected by NTDs and the strong diversity of people united to end these diseases to ensure we keep the end of NTDs in sight.

¹ Pharmaceutical companies donate almost all of the medicine used in Mass Drug Administration programs – community-wide NTD prevention and treatment programs that when delivered consistently over several years, contribute to NTD elimination for 5 of the most common NTDs (Schistosomiasis, Soil-Transmitted Helminths, Onchocerciasis, Trachoma & Lymphatic Filariasis)



Canadian Network *for* NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

World NTD Day is an opportunity to:

- Call on the Canadian government to invest \$50 million CAD over 5 years in neglected Tropical Diseases. Underinvestment in the prevention & treatment of NTDs continues to be a critical challenge to achieving NTD elimination strategies. Please take a look at our [Pre-Budget 2024 Consultation Submission](#) and the [WHO Case for Investing in NTDs](#) to learn more.
- Share and amplify the stories and work of Canadian organizations and researchers supporting the prevention, treatment and care of NTDs globally
- Encourage the Canadian government to support the work of organizations working in Canada and globally on NTDs for a healthier world.
- Focus on action and engagement to eliminate NTDs

Timeline:

- Social Media Kit ready for distribution by January 24th, 2024
- Campaign from January 25th- Feb 10th, 2024
- World NTD Day – Tuesday, January 30th, 2024

Target Audience: The Canadian Public and The Canadian Government

Participating organizations: Effect Hope, Hope & Healing, Operation Eye Sight, Orbis, HPV Action Canada, Plan Canada, Nutrition International, NGDI, CAGH, CanWaCH, Results Canada, WaterAid, Public Health Insight, Bruyere Research Institute, Leprosy Relief Canada, Oriole Global Health, The Noma Action Group, The Canadian Network for NTDs

For ways to engage, please check out our [World NTD Day and International Development Week webpage](#) for more info.

Messaging:

- Achievements reached to eliminate, prevent and treat NTDs are a global health success story, but there is still a lot more work to do to #EndTheNeglect and #BeatNTDs. It's time for Canada to continue to unite, act and deliver on its Kigali Declaration commitment, until we reach the end game for NTDs.
- Canada can help strengthen health systems and global health equity by committing to ending NTDs
- Previous NTD commitments reached over one billion people with treatment for NTDs each year, five years in a row. We can sustain these gains with Canada's continued commitment to end NTDs