Advocates in G7 Countries call on Leaders to Commit to End Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

April 23, 2025

On June 15-17, 2025, Canada will host the G7 Leaders' Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta. This year's leaders will deliberate on key strategies proposed by the host government, specifically: climate, energy and the environment; economic justice; humanitarian action and peace, and; sustainable development. As part of the G7 process, civil society actively takes part in the G7 platform to dialogue with G7 Leaders throughout the year, raising shared priorities critical to ensuring a more prosperous, secure, healthy future for all.

The Civil Society 7 (C7) Summit represents the culmination of these discussions. The C7 Summit was held in Ottawa from April 14-15, with a guiding theme of "Global Justice, Together." The Summit outlined a particularly challenging ambition in its title given the unprecedented disruption to international cooperation this year. One outcome of the C7 Summit was to present the C7 Communiqué - containing co-created recommendations to G7 governments on how they can work collaboratively to address this year's thematic priorities. C7 delegates reaffirmed the need for international cooperation that's critical to achieving global health, international security, human rights and development, especially as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) approach their 2030 targets.

Within the C7 Communique, Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are included within recommendations on sustainable development. NTDs are a group of more than 21 diseases and conditions defined by the World Health Organization, and include Dengue Fever, Leprosy, and Noma, among others. NTDs have a profound impact on public health in more than 100 countries globally, affecting over 1.5 billion people, 1 billion of whom are children. While NTDs disproportionately affect people living without access to primary health care or clean water and sanitation, they are largely preventable and treatable.

Historically and today, NTD programs are under-resourced. NTD advocates in all G7 countries (Canada, Italy, Japan, France, Germany, UK, USA) have issued a **call on G7 leaders to take action on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) by making a collective, multi-year financial commitment to NTDs**. This commitment would sustain existing investments and include new investments in research and development, multilateral entities and support ongoing efforts led by regional partners.

While NTDs are debilitating diseases that can maim and even kill, investments in NTDs over the last two decades have already transformed the lives of billions. As of this year, fifty-five countries have now eliminated at least one NTD. This is a critical milestone; now past the half-way mark to reaching the World Health Organization's NTD Roadmap goal of eliminating at least one NTD in 100 countries globally by 2030.

Investments in NTD programs and research not only result in better health, they also result in broader economic gains with a high return on investment, estimated at US $405 for every $1 invested in R&D for these diseases. While G7 governments have multiple pressing domestic and global issues to consider, the value of international cooperation has never been clearer. Collective and collaborative investments in high-impact and high-value initiatives like neglected tropical diseases result in better global health security and economic prosperity in and beyond G7 countries. As an international community, we can continue to make progress on NTD elimination if together we step up, rather than step back from the fight against NTDs.

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