

# *The road to 2030*

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*Ending the neglect to attain the Sustainable Development Goals: a road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030* (WHO, 2020) is a strategic blueprint to guide actions to control, eliminate or eradicate 20 diseases and disease groups (NTDs) over the next decade.



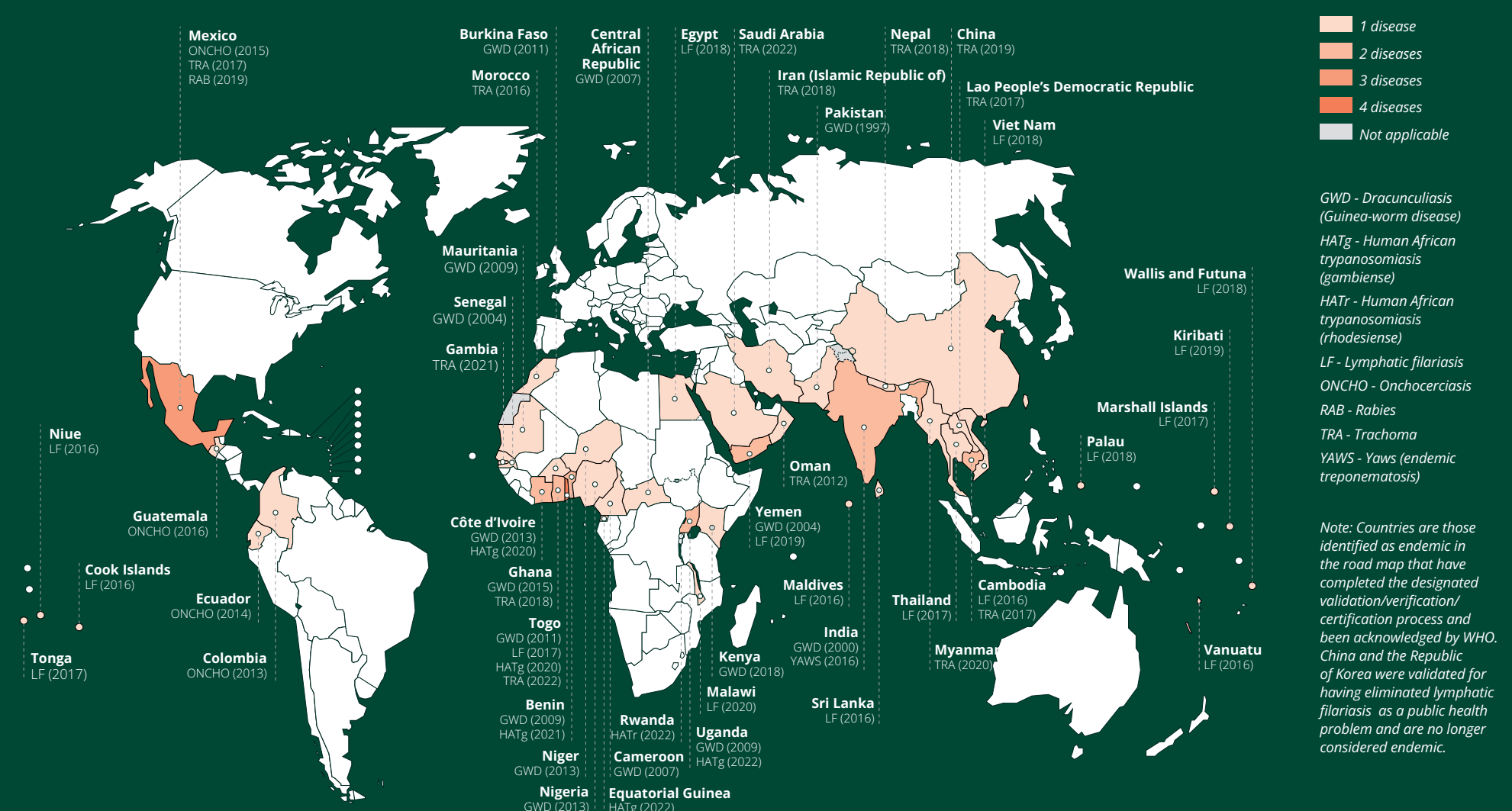
# Progress at a glance

- By 6 June 2022, 46 countries had eliminated at least one NTD (Fig. 1).
- In 2021, 15 human cases of dracunculiasis were reported, the lowest total number ever reported worldwide in a single year (WHO, 2022a).
- In 2020, 1.73 billion people needed mass or individual treatment for NTDs, down from 2.19 billion people in 2010, and some 10 million fewer than in 2019 (Fig. 2, Fig. 3).
- Also in 2020, there was a 92% reduction in the number of cases of gambiense human African trypanosomiasis compared with 2010 (WHO, 2022b).

# Key challenges

- Research and development on diagnostic needs to cover all NTDs and upgrade existing tools. To guide this effort, WHO convened a Diagnostic Technical Advisory Group which has developed more than 15 target product profiles across 10 NTDs.
- Funding for NTD programmes is inadequate.
- Critical gaps persist for implementing the WHO strategic framework on monitoring and evaluation. (WHO, 2021b).
- Armed conflicts reduce capacities and disrupt implementation of NTD interventions.

Fig. 1. Number of countries that have eliminated at least one NTD



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

**Data Source:** World Health Organization  
**Map Production:** Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) World Health Organization

# Drivers of success

## Increased support

- Pharmaceutical companies donate on average nearly three billion tablets of safe, quality-assured medicines annually, worth hundreds of millions of United States dollars (Fig. 4).

## Better collaboration

- Multisectoral collaboration has been intensified with major advances in the integration of WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) and vector control in NTD programmes.

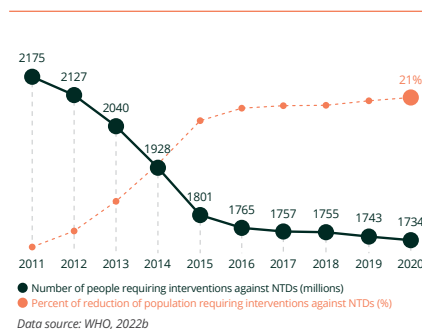
## Continuous innovation

- New treatments and/or diagnostics are being developed for multiple NTDs including Buruli ulcer, human African trypanosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis mycetoma, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis and yaws.

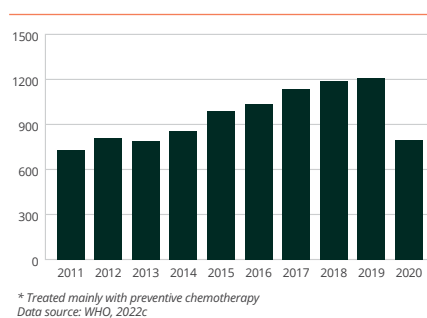


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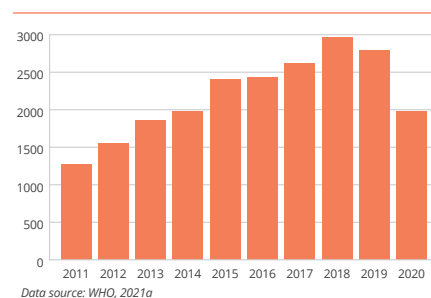
**Fig. 2. SDG indicator 3.3.5: Number of people requiring interventions against NTDs**



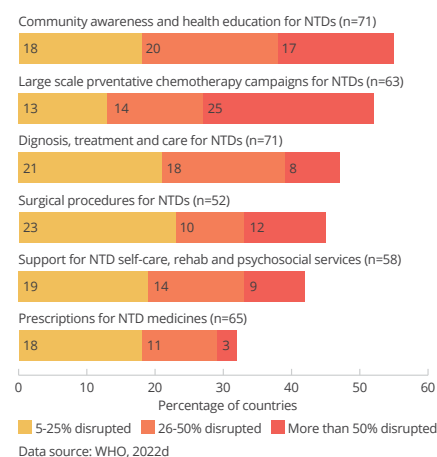
**Fig. 3. Number of individuals treated\* for at least one NTD, 2011–2020 (millions)**



**Fig. 4. Donated medicines (millions)**



**Fig. 5. Percentage of countries reporting disruptions in NTD services in Q4 2021**



# Impact of COVID-19 on NTD services

- According to the third global pulse survey (WHO, 2022d), NTD services were among those most frequently affected, with nearly half of all responding countries reporting disruption and changes to health-seeking behaviour in targeted populations.
- Among NTD services, community-based activities including preventive chemotherapy campaigns were reported as those most severely disrupted by the pandemic.

**Delays and gaps in mass drug administration (MDA) and active case-finding have the potential to cause NTDs to resurge. Rapid action and more frequent, intensified interventions are needed to recover from the disruptions.**



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## WHO's mitigation measures against COVID-19 impact

- Guidance published on adapting NTD-related activities to the evolving pandemic.
- NTD medicine supply pathways modified to enable redistribution of medicines to areas that were able to implement interventions and thereby minimize wastage due to expiration.
- In some countries, important progress against NTDs registered despite the pandemic.

## Actions required to meet interim 2023 milestones and 2030 targets

- Renew and extend high-level political commitment for all 20 NTDs and secure sufficient resources to enable programme implementation.
- Foster greater country ownership.
- Mainstream NTD interventions into national health systems as an integrated part of primary health care.
- Encourage closer collaboration across all relevant sectors (One Health, skin NTDs, surveillance, WASH, etc.).
- Pursue research and development on innovative tools and methods to combat NTDs.



## Highlights of progress, by WHO region

### European Region

In Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, more than 50 specialists were trained in diagnosis and management of leprosy to improve surveillance and strengthen capacities in endemic countries.

### Region of the Americas

Guyana's second consecutive triple (IDA) therapy MDA campaign during the pandemic marked a leap forward in eliminating lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem.

### African Region

Guinea resumed MDA activities with strict risk mitigation measures in place between August and September 2020. The Democratic Republic of the Congo submitted its national dossier in early 2022 and requested WHO to certify the country free of dracunculiasis transmission.

### Eastern Mediterranean Region

Six schistosomiasis-endemic countries no longer need to conduct MDA and can be verified for having interrupted transmission. Sudan is in the precertification stage to eliminate dracunculiasis transmission.

### South-East Asia Region

Bangladesh passed the final transmission assessment survey and initiated development of a national dossier for validation of elimination of lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem.

### Western Pacific Region

Vanuatu integrated preventive chemotherapy for yaws, scabies and soil-transmitted helminthiases as well as serosurveillance for multiple NTDs including vaccine preventable diseases in 2021.



Buruli ulcer



Chagas disease



Dengue and chikungunya



Dracunculiasis



Echinococcosis



Foodborne trematodiasis



Human African trypanosomiasis



Leishmaniasis



Leprosy



Lymphatic filariasis



Mycetoma, chromoblastomycosis and other deep mycoses



Onchocerciasis



Rabies



Scabies and other ectoparasitoses



Schistosomiasis



Snakebite envenoming



Soil-transmitted helminthiases



Taeniasis and cysticercosis



Trachoma



Yaws

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WHO Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases:  
<https://www.who.int/teams/control-of-neglected-tropical-diseases/overview>

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