



THE EXPANDED SPECIAL PROJECT FOR ELIMINATION OF NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES — ESPEN

A GLOBAL HEALTH BEST BUY

Created by the World Health Organization (WHO), ESPEN is a public-private partnership dedicated to reducing the burden of the most prevalent neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in Africa. ESPEN supports integrated, locally led approaches to achieve the WHO 2020 control and elimination goals for the five NTDs amenable to Preventive Chemotherapy (PC-NTDs), which account for 90 percent of the global burden. Since its launch in May 2016, ESPEN is working with domestic and international partners to leverage US\$17.8 billion in drug donations from pharmaceutical companies to expand coverage and access to treatments, strengthen health systems and dramatically reduce the NTD burden in Africa.



THE NTD CHALLENGE

While virtually unheard of in developed countries, NTDs are a group of medically diverse parasitic and bacterial infectious diseases common in tropical and subtropical areas. NTDs affect more than 1.5 billion people annually, causing death, blindness, disfigurement, chronic pain, cognitive impairment and other long-term disabilities that create obstacles to education, employment, economic growth and overall development. When measured in disability-adjusted life years (DALYs), the NTD burden is greater than malaria or tuberculosis.

1.5 billion people affected by NTDs worldwide.



39% of the global NTD burden occurs in Africa.



600 million people require treatment.



170,000 deaths occur annually



The five most common NTDs can be treated for less than **US\$ 0.50** per person, per year.



LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS

856 million

people in 52 countries remain threatened by lymphatic filariasis.



SCHISTOSOMIASIS

206.5 million

people require preventive treatment for schistosomiasis, 92% of whom live in Africa.



SOIL-TRANSMITTED HELMINTHIASIS

1.5 billion

people are affected by soil-transmitted helminthiasis worldwide.



TRACHOMA

190 million

people live in trachoma endemic areas and are at risk of trachoma blindness.



ONCHOCERCIASIS

18 million

people are affected by onchocerciasis, 99% of whom live in Africa.

AN UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY

Fortunately, NTDs are treatable, preventable and, in many cases, can be controlled or eliminated. ESPEN's five target NTDs are all amenable to preventive chemotherapy treatment (PC-NTDs). Thanks to the pharmaceutical sector's drug donation program, large-scale integrated treatment of people in high-risk areas with these safe and effective medicines costs less than US\$0.50 per patient to administer – making it one of the “best buys” in global health.

In January 2012, a coalition of philanthropic organizations, NGOs, donor governments, NTD endemic countries and pharmaceutical companies committed to control, eliminate or eradicate 10 NTDs.

As a result, in 2016, 1 billion people received treatment for at least one NTD, accelerating progress against the WHO's 2020 NTD goals and related global commitments on NTDs and Universal Health Coverage under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the G7 and the G20.

FIRST YEAR IMPACT

ESPEN works directly with health ministries and their partners to scale NTD programs and their impact. Investments in ESPEN:



IMPROVE PARTNER COORDINATION.

18 countries increased country-level leadership and partner coordination.



IMPROVE THE UTILIZATION OF DONATED MEDICINES TO REACH THOSE IN NEED.

7 countries recovered 132 million tablets through supply chain analysis.



SUPPORT COUNTRIES TO STOP TREATMENT AND ACHIEVE WHO ELIMINATION OR CONTROL VALIDATION/VERIFICATION.

14 countries were guided through the development and implementation of NTD Master Plans for the START (scale up) and STOP (scale down) of PC-NTD treatments and interventions.



EXPAND GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE OF PC-NTDS.

15 countries were provided training and direct operational support to health ministries to develop national plans, strengthen staff capacity and health systems and target 30 million people for treatment.

ESPEN increased therapeutic and geographic coverage for PC-NTD treatment and provided support for national programs to scale up to both reach at least 65% of the population requiring treatment in all endemic countries and achieve long-term program sustainability.



STRENGTHEN INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING AND MEASURING PROGRESS TOWARDS ELIMINATION.

41 countries provided with district-level data.

ESPEN completed an unprecedented mapping and launched an online open access data for PC-NTDs in Africa, to empower health ministries and other partners to make evidence-based investments.

VALUE FOR MONEY



Economy

Minimize costs



Effectiveness

Build capacity through knowledge sharing



Efficiency

Use quality data for smarter decision-making



Equity

Leave no one behind

INVESTING IN ESPEN IS INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF AFRICA

Building on progress to date, ESPEN's goals are achievable. With modest investments in ESPEN, partners can help health ministries expand access to healthcare, strengthen health systems and build integrated approaches to advance NTD control and elimination goals, to protect the most vulnerable communities from five deadly and devastating diseases and improve millions of lives.



Every US\$1 invested in NTDs leverages US\$26 in drug donations for mass treatment campaigns.



A US\$10 million (2018-2020) investment would help avert death and disability for 20 million people in Africa.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa • Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation • Christo el-Blindenmission • Department for International Development, United Kingdom • The END Fund • GlaxoSmithKline • Johnson & Johnson • Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development • Mectizan Donation Program • The Merck Group • Merck Sharp and Dohme-Chibret • Sightsavers • United States Agency for International Development • World Bank

To learn more about partnership opportunities, please contact ESPEN Team Lead, Dr. Maria Rebollo Polo at rebollopolom@who.int



World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR
Africa