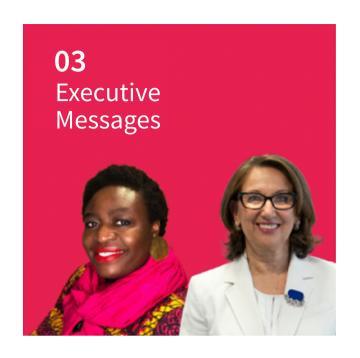




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# Message from the chair of the Uniting Board



Dear colleagues,

As we approach the halfway point to attain the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, it is important to take stock of our progress in the fight against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). As of December 2022, 47 countries have eliminated an NTD and the number of people requiring interventions against NTDs has decreased by 25% over the last decade. While these gains are significant, the world is still worryingly off track in reaching global targets for NTDs, including 100 countries eliminating an NTD and 90% fewer people requiring an intervention against NTDs by 2030.

Disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and multiple conflict around the world have resulted in severe delays and disruption to the provision of care for NTDs, as well as numerous other infectious diseases. The third WHO global pulse survey found that NTD services were among those most frequently affected, with almost half of the surveyed countries reporting disruptions and changes to NTD programmes. Projected global economic slowdowns also threaten progress, further exacerbated by existing gaps in funding. As a sector, we also suffer from the lack of a predictable funding mechanism for NTDs.

Despite these obstacles, we must continue to make advances and not lose our momentum. What has been accomplished by countries in recent years, with support from partners, is truly a global success story. We must protect and build on these gains. Securing increased funding and developing sustainable, long-term funding solutions will be critical. This is the year for accelerating progress and we must come together with renewed vigour and a clear vision for the future.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to our amazing partners and the passionate NTD community for their tireless work and dedication to the cause. Together, we can continue to make progress and build a world free of NTDs.

Sincerely,

Rebeca Grynspan
Chair of Uniting to Combat NTDs

## Message from the Executive Director



Dear colleagues,

As Rebeca has outlined, there have been many challenges facing our world, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the downward trends in financing. Yet despite these setbacks, I am filled with pride about the progress we have achieved together.

Last year was a big year for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). A remarkable eight countries eliminated an NTD in 2022 alone. In August, with its elimination of trachoma, Togo became the first country in the world to eliminate four NTDs.

We also saw increased attention for NTDs on the global stage at the Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDs - a landmark moment which took place at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGM) in June. And, after months of consultation with stakeholders and constituency groups, it was fantastic to see the Kigali Declaration on NTDs launched in Rwanda - demonstrating to the world the collective commitment to end NTDs by the 62 endemic country governments, donor country governments, pharmaceutical companies, NGOs, and others who have endorsed the Declaration so far. A special thank you to the Governments of Rwanda and Nigeria for leading that process. We also now have the Kigali Declaration Commitment Tracker, a first partner-owned, publicly available database that captures, tracks, and monitors global commitments for NTDs.

Thank you to all our partners - the tremendous progress achieved shows what can be accomplished when we come together with a powerful vision and shared determination.

However, to safeguard our hard-won gains and build on this momentum, effective resource mobilisation must be our top priority. There is a critical funding gap for NTDs and the world is still worryingly off track in reaching global targets for NTDs.

This year, we will continue to push forwards: working together to identify creative solutions to NTD funding shortfalls, supporting WHO's efforts in developing costings for the WHO NTD road map and a global NTD funding target, harnessing the Commitment Tracker as a tool to track global NTD expenditure and commitments, and progressing the critical components needed to build a multi-year financial action plan for NTDs. We must also ensure that NTDs are better integrated into national health systems.

As we continue to work towards our shared goal of a world without NTDs, I am confident that we will continue to make significant progress. Thank you to each and every partner and to those working at the frontline on NTD programmes around the world. I am proud to be a part of this partnership and I look forward to continuing our efforts together.

Sincerely,

Thoko Elphick-Pooley
Executive Director of Uniting to Combat NTDs

## **Uniting to Combat NTDs Strategy\***



To create political will and an enabling environment for countries to achieve the WHO NTD road map targets and deliver the SDG goal\* to end NTDs by 2030

\* SDG Target 3.3: By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases



### **Aims**

Increase the relevance of NTDs in global and regional agendas

Mobilise international and national resources for NTDs

Facilitate an engaged partnership to support NTDs



### Goals

NTDs are integrated as global and regional policy priorities

Targeted donors incorporate NTDs into broader health or development policies

Endemic country leaders are champions for NTDs

NTDs are integrated as global and regional policy priorities

Mobilise additional resources from key international donors, private sector, and foundations

Targeted endemic countries sustain or increase national resources/spend on NTDs

New multi-sectoral Partners support NTDs

Uniting partners engaged in the collective work of the partnership

<sup>\*</sup>In February 2023, the Uniting Board met to review Uniting's strategy to ensure it remained relevant to meet current needs and demands.

The Board concluded that our strategy remains relevant, however deeper emphasis was needed on resource mobilisation and clarity on how Uniting engages with partners. Please look out for more news on these refinements that we are making to our strategy for 2023 and beyond.

**Uniting to Combat NTDs Strategy** 

In 2020, Uniting to Combat NTDs consulted extensively with its partner network to produce a new strategy (2021-2030) and an operational plan (2021-2025). The Results Framework diagram below includes the aims, goals and outcomes of the strategy and operational plan.



## **Year 2 Progress**

Despite challenges, significant progress was made in the implementation of the Uniting strategy and operational plan for the second year of our strategy (November 2021 to October 2022). The key challenges include the impact of the pandemic and the precarious funding environment. COVID-19 has shifted global priorities, increased competition for political will, funding and visibility. The pandemic also resulted in severe delays and disruption to the provision of care for NTDs, as well as numerous other infectious diseases. Additionally, the sector is still experiencing the ramifications from the UK Government's exit from funding NTD programmes, leaving a shortfall of £150 million for NTDs.

Despite these setbacks, significant progress was made. The headlines are as follows:

- On 23 June 2022, Uniting to Combat NTDs co-hosted the Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDs with the RBM Partnership to End Malaria and the Government of Rwanda. The Kigali Summit was held alongside the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). It was a high-energy, high-level event which exceeded expectations. Over US\$4 billion in financial commitments for malaria and NTDs was announced during the Summit, as well as significant drug donation commitments from pharmaceutical companies, including Pfizer and GSK.
- '100% Committed': an energising global movement to end NTDs was launched on World Day 2022. As part of this, the President of Tanzania, Prime Minister of Rwanda, Minister of Health of Nigeria (representing the President) participated in a well-attended and positive campaign launch event endorsing the Kigali Declaration on NTDs at the event which set a powerful tone on the road to Kigali.
- The Kigali Declaration on NTDs was officially launched at the Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDs by President Kagame of Rwanda and endorsed by 62 signatories, including 11 countries. The Kigali Declaration Commitment Tracker was created to capture commitments made as part of the endorsement process of the Kigali Declaration, allowing the secretariat and the NTD community to understand the volume of resources being invested in NTD programmes, and to help hold stakeholders accountable for the commitments they made.
- **ECOWAS Resolution on NTDs:** ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) unanimously adopted a new resolution to accelerate progress against NTDs, at the 22nd Assembly of Health Ministers. This contributed to funding secured from the African Development Bank to West Africa for NTDs.
- Uniting helped create the policy environment to enable resource mobilisation:
  - **G7 Communiqué**: The final communiqué of this year's G7 summit strongly committed to supporting NTDs, due to work led by Uniting's German Network on NTDs.

- **CHOGM Communiqué**: Expanded the scope of commitment to NTDs beyond a single disease (trachoma was in the 2018 Communiqué); Heads of Government "committed to the delivery of the WHO's "Ending the neglect to attain the Sustainable Development Goals: A road map for neglected tropical diseases (2021–2030)", including through endorsing the Kigali Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases launched during CHOGM on 23 June 2022."
- TICAD 8 Tunis Declaration: The commitment included addressing diseases, "with special attention to neglected tropical diseases"; a commitment by African Heads of State; the Government of Japan; the African Union Commission, UN, UNDP, and the World Bank (Tunisia, August 2022).

### **Progress against our aims**

In the table below we summarise progress against priorities that we agreed with the Board for year two. Those priorities may relate to one or more of our three aims (see visual below) or are 'enablers' supporting all aims.

### **Mission**

To create political will and an enabling environment for countries to achieve the WHO NTD road map targets and deliver the SDG goal\* to end NTDs by 2030

#### **Aims**

AIM 1: Increase the relevance of NTDs in global and regional agendas

AIM 2: Mobilise international and national resources for NTDs

AIM 3: Facilitate an engaged partnership to support NTDs

<sup>\*</sup> SDG Goal 3.3.5 Indicator – Reduce by 90% the number of people requiring interventions against NTDs

Year 2 priority area	Year 2 progress	Aim
Kigali Declaration on NTDs	The Kigali Declaration on NTDs was finalised and signed off by the Government of Rwanda and the country task team co-chaired by Ministers of Health of Nigeria and Rwanda in late 2021. The kick-off of endorsements was January 27th, 2022.  The Kigali Declaration was launched at the Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDs by President Kagame of Rwanda and endorsed by 62 signatories which included 11 countries – many of them endorsed at the Head of State level.  The Kigali Declaration Commitment Tracker was created to capture commitments made as part of the endorsement process of the Kigali Declaration, allowing the secretariat and the NTD community to understand the volume of resources being invested in NTD programmes, and to help hold stakeholders accountable for the commitments they made. The stakeholders enter the commitments directly themselves on the tracker, via an authorised individual at the respective organisation. [In our year three, the Commitment Tracker was launched on World NTD Day 2023. It can be found on our website.]	Aim 1 (policy) and Aim 2 (resources)

	100% Committed, World NTD Day and Kigali Declaration signatories	The 100% Committed movement was successfully launched on World NTD Day. As part of this, the President of Tanzania, Prime Minister of Rwanda, Minister of Health of Nigeria (representing the President) participated in a well-attended and positive campaign launch event endorsing the Kigali Declaration at the event which set a powerful tone on the road to Kigali.  Our Youth Storytellers produced a beautiful 100% Committed song which had everyone	Aim 1 (policy) and Aim 2 (resources)
	up to CHOGM	on their feet in Kigali at the Summit!	
	Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDs at CHOGM	On 23rd June 2022, Uniting to Combat NTDs co-hosted the Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDs with RBM Partnership to End Malaria and the Government of Rwanda, held alongside the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). The result was a high-energy, high-level summit on Malaria and NTDs, delivered on budget which exceeded expectations. Over US\$4 billion in financial commitments for malaria and NTDs was announced during the Summit, as well as significant drug donation commitments from pharmaceutical companies, including Pfizer and GSK.	Aim 1 (policy) and Aim 2 (resources)
		There were 926 in-person attendees at the Summit which included 543 delegates, 60 speakers, 24 media, 80 talent as well as partners and staff. A further 1,200 people attended the summit virtually. Uniting led engagement with the Government of Rwanda. Uniting conducted a post-event feedback survey with 98% of respondents scoring the event "very good" or "good".	
		Further information about the summit is provided in the spotlight below and in the <u>Kigali Summit Outcome Report</u> .	
	Endemic country leadership and resource mobilisation	Uniting promoted leadership for the policy environment to enable resource mobilisation:	Aim 1 (policy) and Aim 2 (resources)
		<b>African Union MOU</b> : Uniting signed a three-year MOU with the Africa Union to support domestic resource mobilisation in Africa and secured \$400K over two years from CIFF toward this. A specific focus is the domestication of the Continental Framework 1 and the implementation of the recommendations from the Common African Position on NTDs, both have been endorsed by Ministers of Health and Heads of State.	
		<b>ECOWAS Resolution on NTDs</b> : ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) unanimously adopted a new resolution to accelerate progress against NTDs at the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Assembly of Health Ministers. Contributing to funding secured from the African Development Bank to West Africa for NTDs.	
	Donor country resource mobilisation	Uniting helped create the policy environment to enable resource mobilisation:  - <b>G7 Communiqué</b> : The final communiqué of this year's G7 summit strongly committed to supporting NTDs, due to work led by Uniting's German Network on NTDs.	Aim 2 (resources)
		- <b>CHOGM Communiqué</b> : Expanded the scope of commitment to NTDs beyond a single disease (trachoma was in the 2018 Communiqué); Heads of Government "committed to the delivery of the WHO's "Ending the neglect to attain the Sustainable Development Goals: A road map for neglected tropical diseases (2021–2030)", including through endorsing the Kigali Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases launched during CHOGM on 23 June 2022."	
		- <b>TICAD 8 Tunis Declaration</b> : The commitment included addressing diseases, "with special attention to neglected tropical diseases"; a commitment by African Heads of State; the Government of Japan; the African Union Commission, UN, UNDP, and the World Bank (Tunisia, August 2022).	

World Bank (Tunisia, August 2022).

Donor funding to NTDs in 2022:

- **USA**: Sustained funding.
- Germany: Sustained funding.
- **UK Government**: Ministerial attendance at the Summit, showing support for keeping interest in NTD programmes, and the endorsement of the Kigali Declaration at the Ministerial level.
- Canada, Japan, Belgium all endorsed the Kigali Declaration and sent through ministerial statements of support for the implementation and resourcing of the Kigali Declaration
- Altogether, five of the G7 countries have endorsed the Kigali Declaration on NTDs, putting us in a strong position to mobilise resources from these countries.

# An engaged partnership

The year 1 partner survey responses were analysed, informing the Secretariat's work, and a <u>survey report</u> was shared via the Uniting website.

Generally, a more systematic approach was undertaken to working with partners on key projects. In particular, there was extensive consultation with partners on the Kigali Declaration and Kigali Summit.

Partner webinars were held with high-level of engagement with the partner network (153 and 130 people in attendance at the Q1 and Q3 webinars respectively).

#### **Year 2 Partners' Survey Summary Report**

Thank you to all our partners who completed the Year 2 annual partner survey, as part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of Uniting's strategy. We are committed to continuous improvements and your feedback really helps us with considering how we engage with our partner network. The survey ran at the end of last year and the full report is available <a href="here">here</a>.

## Core communications

In addition to ongoing strategic and impactful communications to support policy and resource mobilisation interventions, there was the opportunity to celebrate country elimination successes:

- Togo, the first country to eliminate four NTDs: As part of the WHO Regional Committee Meeting for Africa (RC72) in August, Uniting was at the forefront of a presentation of an award to Togo for their incredible achievement of becoming the first country in the world to be validated by WHO for eliminating four NTDs. We were thrilled that the President of Togo accepted a recognition from Uniting and WHO for this global first. The award was a highlight of the opening ceremony and the elimination success story generated significant media coverage including in the UK.
- Malawi, royal visit for Trachoma elimination: Uniting had the honour of being invited by the Government of Malawi to join in celebrating the elimination of trachoma in Malawi a Southern African Development Community (SADC) first!. The celebratory activities included a dinner hosted by the Minister of Health at which the WHO Representative (WR) handed out a certification of recognition. Celebration of World Sight Day attended by the Countess of Wessex, representing the work of the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, which supported several countries including Malawi on their trachoma elimination work. The events culminated with a State Dinner, hosted by His Excellency, Lazarus Chakwera, President of Malawi.

His Highness King Charles III wrote a letter of congratulations to the President of Malawi, and were delighted to see Uniting messaging, including a reference to the Kigali Summit in the King's letter to Malawi.

Aim 3

#### Governance

#### **Board**

Enabler

Rebeca Grynspan was appointed as new Chair and Michael Schoettler and Helge Braun joined as new Board members. Ellen Agler and Maimouna Diop rotated out of the Board as their terms had ended. We will soon be recruiting new Board members to fill current vacancies, with a special focus on endemic countries. Please look out for our advert for board members, coming soon.

#### **Consultative Forum**

Following the end of term for Diogo Martins and Wangeci Thuo as co-chairs of the Consultative Forum, Delna Ghandi and Aminu Garba have been confirmed as the new co-chairs of the Consultative Forum. They will serve a minimum of 12 months (renewable).

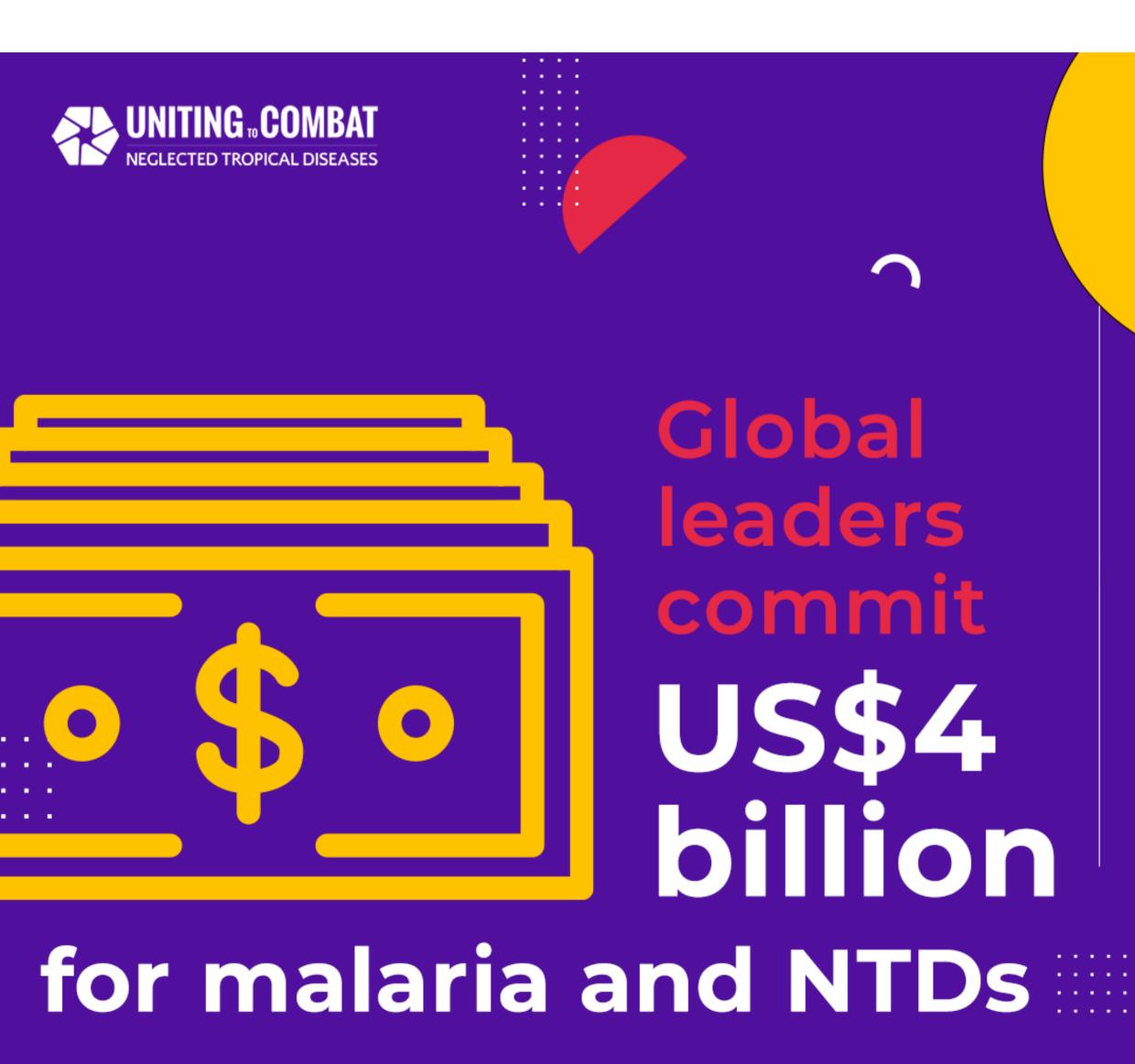
Funding for Uniting's Strategy and Operational Plan The Secretariat was successful in securing \$2.8M worth of new funding towards the core budget, over two years, including enough funding to cover the year 3 budget. Thank you to all the generous donors who stepped up to support the work of the Secretariat.

Enabler



# Spotlight on Kigali Summit: From zero to a hundred miles an hour

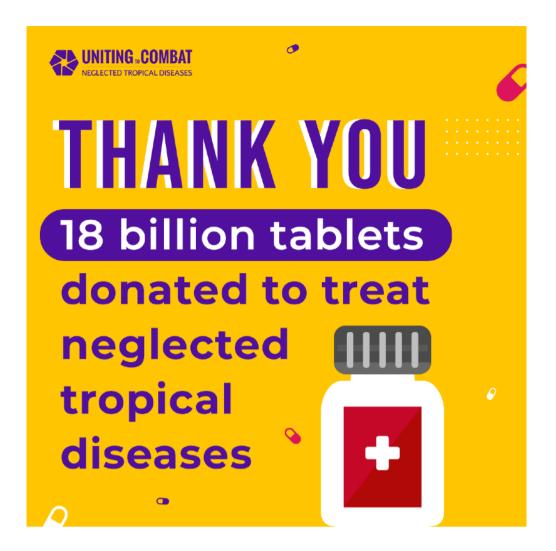
After two postponements and growing uncertainty over the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) ever taking place in Rwanda, suddenly it was on! On January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, three months into our second year, President Kagame announced that CHOGM would take place face-to-face, in Kigali, during the week of 20<sup>th</sup> June. With that announcement, we had to move. We had to re-negotiate our Summit with the Government of Rwanda, including agreeing the date and timing of the Summit; reimagine our summit theme to ensure it reflected the current context; re-engage and re-energise our partners to join us in Kigali face-to-face and deliver the biggest Summit that has ever been delivered in the history of NTDs – all within 100 days, working in partnership, and with ten full-time members of staff.



Spotlight on Kigali Summit: From zero to a hundred miles an hour



We are pleased to have delivered a high-energy, high-level summit on Malaria and NTDs, on budget, on time and exceeding expectations. The Kigali Summit led to the announcements for malaria and NTDs totalling over \$4 billion in financial commitments and over 18 billion donated tablets. This all took place in the presence of Heads of Government, Ministers, Royalty, partners and affected individuals, including the now King of the United Kingdom, His Majesty King Charles III, and other leading dignitaries including the co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Melinda French Gates, the Director General of the World Health Organization, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the critically acclaimed author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and the renowned choreographer Sherrie Silver.



At the Summit, H.E Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, launched the Kigali Declaration on NTDs<sup>2</sup>, which has been endorsed by 62 countries, organisations and institutions so far. This includes 11<sup>3</sup> endemic countries from Africa to the Western Pacific, 8<sup>4</sup> donor countries from Europe, Asia, the Middle East and the Americas. Securing more endorsements from Heads of State of endemic countries than from donor governments, reflecting our desired shift from the donor-led London Declaration to the country-owned Kigali Declaration.

The feedback on the summit from our host, the Government of Rwanda and our partners has been resoundingly positive. We are committed to building on this momentum into the third year of implementation - to continue to mobilise more commitments for NTDs, particularly from endemic countries, and to capture their investments on the Commitment Tracker.

This would not have been possible without the generous contribution of funders, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, DNDi and Sightsavers, and to all partners that contributed in many ways – through providing expertise, content and support. **Thank you to everyone!** 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>The Kigali Declaration on NTDs, developed together with all stakeholder groups, was signed off by the Government of Rwanda and the country task team co-chaired by Ministers of Health of Nigeria and Rwanda

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Botswana, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania, Timor Leste, Uganda, Vanuatu

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Belgium, Canada, Germany, Japan, Switzerland, UAE, UK, USA

## 100% Committed

The 100% Committed movement was launched on World NTD Day 2022. Energising, positive and aspirational in tone, the campaign highlights how collectively we are 100% committed to ending NTDs and achieving the WHO's ambitious target of 100 countries eliminating an NTD by 2030. Putting endemic leaders and advocates at the centre, it showcases the 47 countries that have already eliminated at least one NTD so far, proving this is possible – this positioning allows us to collectively push for greater action and commitments on this basis.

The movement brings those working in the NTD space together to collectively call on governments, parliamentarians, mayors and local governmental leaders, as well as continental and regional bodies, pharmaceutical companies, donors, multilateral organisations, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organisations and young leaders around the world, to show they are 100% Committed to ending NTDs by signing the Kigali Declaration on NTDs and pledging commitments.

The President of Tanzania, Prime Minister of Rwanda, Minister of Health of Nigeria (representing the President) participated in an inspirational campaign launch event, endorsing the Kigali Declaration on NTDs and encouraging others to get behind the campaign.



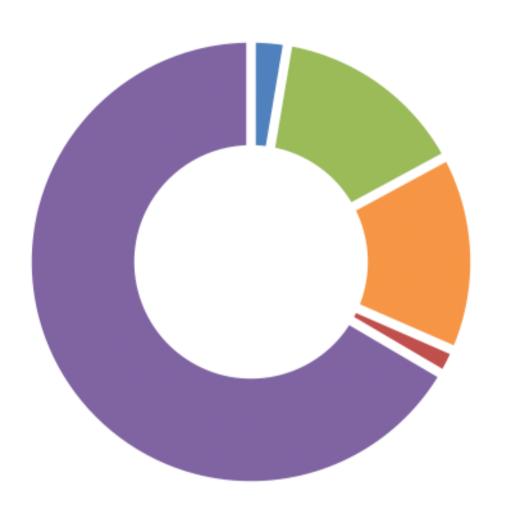


Bringing together performers from all over the world, Youth Combatting Neglected Tropical Diseases produced a 100% Committed song as the anthem for the 100% Committed movement. The official theme song was performed at the Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDs and had everyone up on their feet.

Thank you to all partners that supported the launch and lent their voice to the movement. There's lots more to come as the campaign builds momentum.

# **Financial Summary**

The Board approved a \$3.50M budget for the Year 2 strategy core work and \$0.84M for the Kigali Summit. To fund these budgets some additional funding was secured in Year 2, however some of the new funding for strategy core work was agreed too late for full execution in Year 2 and will be carried forward to Year 3. The Year 2 expenditure was \$3.46M in total, which includes \$2.63M for the strategy core work and \$0.83M for the Kigali Summit. The funding sources are shown in the chart. All amounts in this section are in US dollars.

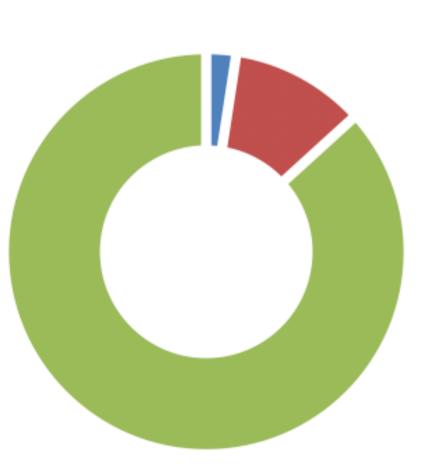


# Year 2 strategy core expenditure \$2.63M: Funding sources

- Children's investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)
- Sightsavers
- Reaching the Last Mile (RLM, formerly CPC)
- GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation strategy core

# Year 2 Kigali Summit expenditure \$0.83M: Funding sources

- Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi)
- Sightsavers
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation strategy core



### **Meet the Board**



**Dr Helge Braun**Member of the Bundestag



**Dr Silvia Gold**President, Mundo Sano
Foundation



Rebeca Grynspan
Secretary General of UNCTAD
and Chair of Uniting to
Combat NTDs



**Dr Mona Hammami**Partner, McKinsey &
Company



Rieko Suzuki Kitaoka Chair, SDGs Promise Japan (SPJ)



Professor Francisca Mutapi Deputy Director, NIHR Global Health Research Unit TIBA and co-Director, Global Health Academy, University of Edinburgh



Dr Katey Einterz Owen
Director for Neglected
Tropical Diseases, The Bill &
Melinda Gates Foundation



Michael Schöttler
VP and Global Head Pharma
Public Affairs (retired)



Peter Stevenson
Pfizer (retired)

### Meet the team



**Alisha Ault**Policy and Donor Market
Analyst



Salimata Bocoum
Senior Policy Advisor,
Regional and Endemic
Countries



**Dirk Engels**Senior Policy Advisor



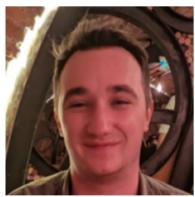
**Talia French** Senior Comms Officer



**Stuart Halford**Director of Advocacy and
Resource Mobilisation



**Opeyemi Alabi-Hundeyin** Partnerships Officer



**Jordi Knight** Project Assistant



Sheila Shawa-Musonda Senior Partnerships Specialist (seconded to the Africa Union)



**Thoko Elphick-Pooley** Executive Director



**Victoria Sykes**Senior Monitoring and
Evaluation Officer



**Louisa Tribe**Director of Communications



**Denise Turley**Finance Manager



Matt Turney Head of Operations (acting)



Marc Wormald
Senior Policy Adviser, Donor
Countries and Global Bodies

# Thank you to our funders

Thank you to our generous funders, whose partnership makes our work possible.

BILL&MELINDA
GATES foundation









