

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the course of human history, few public health efforts can match the scale and ambition of the endeavor to rid the world of 10 Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). These efforts have accelerated over the last three years, as a diverse group of players have come together in one of the largest ever public-private partnerships to deliver the funding, drugs, and technical assistance required.

The good news is that we are beginning to see positive results from this collaboration: a growing number of endemic countries are achieving elimination goals, more people are being reached, and there is increasing national ownership of NTD programs. The political and economic gains from NTD investments make a compelling case for further investment both domestically and from donors.

Nonetheless there are challenges that threaten our ability to meet the WHO NTD Roadmap targets. Currently the supply of donated drugs exceeds our ability to reach communities and more needs to be done to scale up programs. If, as a global consortium of partners, we cannot marshal the resources required to deliver donated drugs to the communities in need, more than a billion people will remain at-risk of harm by NTDs. We need to redouble our efforts.

This third report on progress since the 2012 London Declaration on NTDs highlights important accomplishments and learnings, and identifies areas that warrant greater attention.

Five principal themes have emerged within the report:

## 1 Control and elimination of NTDs provide one of the strongest returns on investment in public health

Pharmaceutical companies donate drugs worth nearly US\$3.8 billion every year, underpinning the cost effectiveness of NTD programs. The on-going health benefits from 2011 through 2030 if NTD goals are reached will be equivalent to nearly **600 million disability adjusted-life years (DALYs<sup>1</sup>) averted**.

Nearly 1 in 6 people worldwide requires treatment for at least one NTD. Aside from the health and economic benefits of tackling NTDs for the endemic countries, the programs offer political benefits for leaders in endemic countries as well as donor countries, who can showcase high impact, 'best buy' foreign assistance programs.

However, the wealth of donated drugs is not enough to defeat NTDs if we fall short of the funding to ensure delivery of those drugs to communities. Currently, it is estimated that there is an annual funding gap of US\$200-300 million through 2020.

The WHO has set a target for investment by endemic countries of 0.1% of their domestic expenditure on health. A recent study (described on page 18) suggests that would lead to **US\$623 billion in productivity gains** among affected individuals between 2011 and 2030.

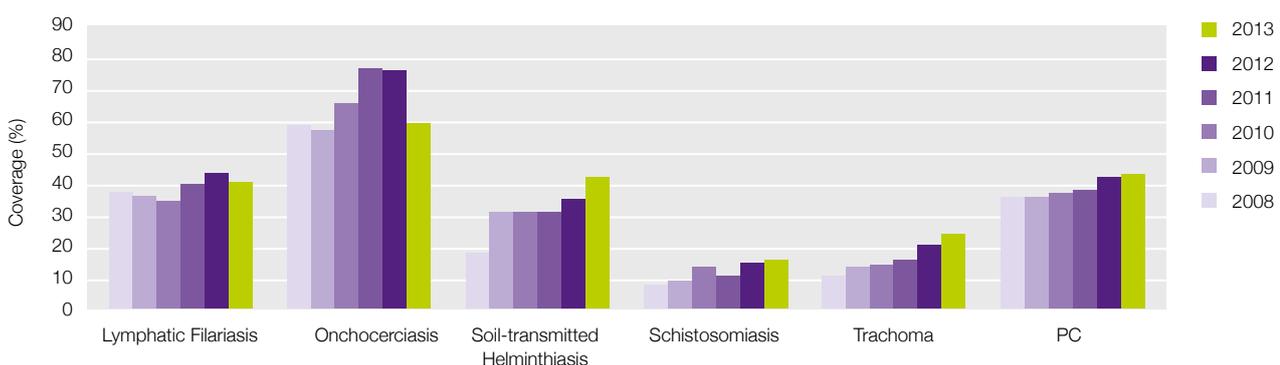
## 2 Leadership among endemic countries has shown a substantial increase

The past year saw significant increases in country ownership of NTD programs. One key milestone was the creation of the Addis Ababa Commitment on NTDs, initiated by African Ministers of Health to outline their commitments to achieving the WHO Roadmap. To date, 26 countries have signed and other countries are encouraged to join this movement.

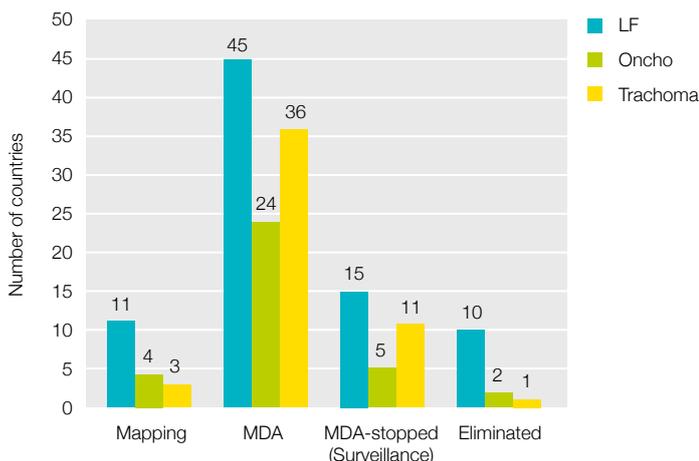
Countries such as Bangladesh and the Philippines are leading the way in securing domestic resources to support significant portions of their NTD programs (85% and 94% respectively). Honduras became the first Latin American country to launch a national NTD plan fully supported by the government.

1. DALYs are a measure of life years lost from disease, adjusted for assumptions about disability as well as the impact of age and future time.

### Global status of preventive chemotherapy in 2013



### Country progress towards elimination in NTDs



The World Bank indicates that there are 77 poor countries worldwide that are eligible to receive investment project financing (IPF) resources from the International Development Association (IDA). Some of these resources can support NTD projects if endemic countries integrate NTD programming into their national development plan.

Despite managing endemic disease burdens of their own, both Nigeria and Brazil have demonstrated leadership by contributing to the success of others. In 2015, Brazil joined Nigeria as a donor by providing support to other Latin American countries through Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

### 3 The largest public health drug donation program in the world continues to grow

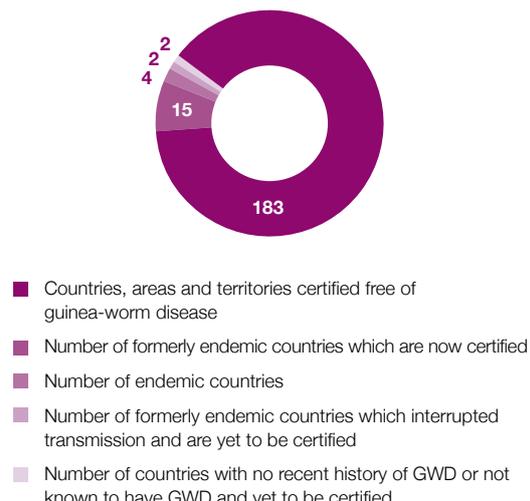
Together the NTD drug donation programs are the largest of their kind in public health, with pharmaceutical companies pledging drugs valued at US\$17.8 billion from 2014 to 2020.

**Over 5.5 billion tablets have been donated providing 3.5 billion treatments** since the launch of the London Declaration in 2012. In 2014 1.45 billion treatments were made available to endemic countries, representing a 36% increase since 2011.

### 4 Coverage is increasing, but the pace is too slow to meet key milestones

Global coverage is increasing with 43.3% of the population requiring treatment with preventive chemotherapy (PCT) receiving treatment for at least one disease, compared to a rate of 35.5% in 2008. In 2013, there were 114 countries endemic for the four preventive chemotherapy diseases with a total at risk-population of nearly 1.8 billion. Of these, 74 countries reported distributions to more than 784 million people altogether. However, coverage is not increasing rapidly enough to

### Guinea Worm Disease: Country program status



achieve targets. The average annual increase of 1.6% is too low to achieve and sustain impact; increasing the pace is imperative.

### 5 National NTD programs are achieving elimination goals

Achievements of the Guinea Worm Eradication Program are a testament to what is possible in NTDs. Since 1983, the global program has successfully eliminated GWD in 81% of all formerly endemic countries (17/21). Cases in 2015 are at an all-time low of 5 as at the end of May. Eight countries remain to be certified: Chad, Ethiopia, Mali and South Sudan remain endemic; Kenya and Sudan are at pre-certification stage; and Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola (not known to be endemic), but still have to be certified by WHO.

Onchocerciasis was eliminated in Colombia and Ecuador and trachoma was eliminated in Oman. Some countries have also made progress in stopping treatment in all or some foci. These include Mexico, Guatemala, Uganda, Sudan, Mali and Senegal. Of the remaining 73 countries endemic for LF, 16 countries (22%) are no longer in need of mass drug administration (MDA). Malawi has just announced that they have reached a stage where treatment is no longer needed, increasing that number to 17 countries. These amazing accomplishments show that the ambitious goals set are achievable with effort and resources.

### Conclusion

As noted in the 2015 G7 Summit communique, “2015 is a milestone year for international cooperation and sustainable development issues”—and, the fight against NTDs is no different. We have the opportunity now, together, to reach many of the goals laid out in the WHO roadmap on NTDs and position the future elimination of these 10 NTDs as an achievable objective for this generation. Those living in extreme poverty around the world are counting on our help. Let’s not keep them waiting.