



The London Declaration Five Years On: Reaffirming Our Commitment to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases

Five years ago, many of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies joined with prominent global health and development organizations to endorse [The London Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases](#) (NTDs), solidifying our collective commitment to support the World Health Organization's (WHO's) ongoing efforts to control, eliminate or eradicate 10 key NTDs. As we mark the fifth anniversary of the London Declaration, **we reaffirm our previous pledge to do our part to combat NTDs**, and encourage other partners to also remain steadfast in their commitment.

While many efforts to address NTDs were active prior to 2012, the past five years have seen an unprecedented global public health mobilization and tremendous progress. Today, donated medicines to treat and prevent NTDs reach nearly 1 billion people a year – an increase of 36 percent since 2011 – and at least 400 million fewer people are in need of treatment today compared to 2011. This progress would not have been possible without the commitment of endemic country governments, non-governmental organizations and frontline health workers that ensure donated treatments reach the people who need them.

At the same time, new diagnostics and vector control technologies have been introduced, and notable advances have been made in R&D activities to identify innovations to detect, prevent and treat NTDs. Innovative supply chain initiatives have been launched to speed the delivery of NTD interventions to people in need who often live in remote, hard-to-reach areas.

While substantial gains have been made, significant challenges remain as the global community strives to achieve these ambitious goals. Enhanced partnership and coordination between international health and development agencies, donor governments, the governments of NTD-endemic countries, community-based organizations, and pharmaceutical and diagnostics companies is critical.

By reaffirming our commitment we are confident that, together with other sectors of society, we can beat these terrible diseases.

Disease	Progress	Company Contributions
Preventive Chemotherapy diseases – preventive treatment given to all at risk		
Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)	Eight countries – Cambodia, Cook Islands, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Niue, Sri Lanka, Togo, and Vanuatu – have eliminated LF in the last year. Due to the success of the program, the number of people in need of preventative chemotherapy for LF has been reduced from 1.4 billion in 2011 to 946 million in 2015.	<u>Donations</u> Eisai GSK MSD <u>R&D</u> AbbVie Eisai Johnson & Johnson MSD <u>Philanthropy</u> AbbVie Foundation
Onchocerciasis (river blindness)	Ecuador, Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico have eliminated river blindness.	<u>Donations</u> MSD <u>R&D</u> AbbVie Bayer Eisai MSD
Schistosomiasis	Schistosomiasis treatment is scaling up with 40 million more people in treatment in 2015 versus 2011. Since 2008, the annual number of people receiving treatment has quadrupled.	<u>Donations, R&D</u> Merck KGaA
Soil-transmitted helminths (STH)	230 million more people were treated for STH in 2015 versus 2011. Rates of coverage for children have gone up from 10% in 2003 to 59% in 2015.	<u>Donations</u> GSK Johnson & Johnson <u>R&D</u> Johnson & Johnson <u>Philanthropy</u> AbbVie Foundation
Trachoma	Oman, Mexico and Morocco have officially eliminated trachoma, while five other countries are reporting elimination.	<u>Donations</u> Pfizer
Intensified or Innovative Disease Management diseases – individually diagnosed and treated		
Chagas	The total number of people treated has more than tripled from 2013 to the present. In 2015, all Latin American countries achieved universal blood screening for Chagas disease among blood donors.	<u>Donations</u> Bayer <u>R&D</u> AbbVie Bayer Eisai Johnson & Johnson Novartis Sanofi <u>Philanthropy</u> AbbVie Foundation
Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT, or sleeping sickness)	In 2015, there were only 2,733 cases of HAT worldwide, down approximately 90% from nearly 26,000 cases in 2000.	<u>Donations</u> Bayer Sanofi <u>R&D</u> Sanofi Novartis
Leprosy	Since the 1980s, when Multidrug Therapy (MDT) has been available to interrupt leprosy transmission, the global burden of leprosy has been reduced by 99%. Novartis manufactures MDT and has been donating through the WHO since 2000.	<u>Donations</u> Novartis
Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL, or Kala Azar)	Cases of VL are down 82% across India, Nepal and Bangladesh since 2007.	<u>Donations</u> Gilead <u>R&D</u> AbbVie Novartis

Additional research into improved treatments or diagnostics for NTDs is being done by all the companies above, as well as Bristol-Myers Squibb and Eli Lilly.