



Onchocerciasis: finishing the job in Francophone Africa

Which countries are we talking about?

OCP (1975-2002)

Bénin
Burkina Faso
Cote d'Ivoire
Guinée
Mali
Niger
Sénégal
Togo

APOC (1995-2015)

Burundi
Cameroon
CAR
Chad
Congo
DRC
Gabon



Onchocerciasis: Current status of Francophone Africa

OCP

- Bénin
- Burkina Faso
- Cote d'Ivoire*
- Guinée
- Mali
- Niger
- Sénégal
- Togo

APOC

- Burundi
- Cameroon
- CAR
- Chad
- Congo
- DRC
- Gabon

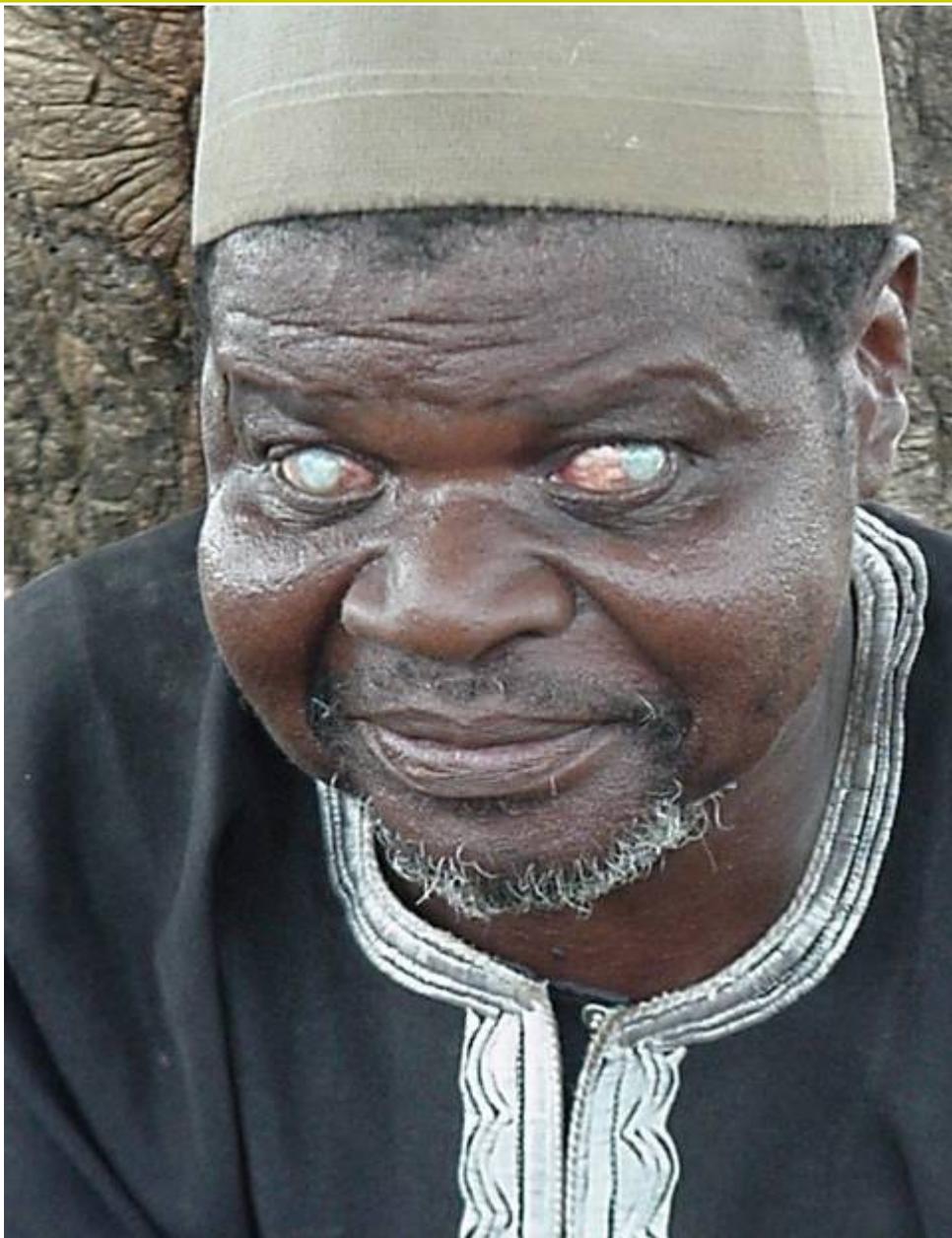
-  Countries close to elimination
-  Countries less advanced towards elimination
-  Country where elimination is not predictable before 2025
-  Conflict country

*: Post conflict country



CHALLENGES & NEEDS

Challenges faced by the Francophone countries can be approached based on where they do stand vis-à-vis elimination. In other words, when, where and how to put an end to mass drug administration (MDA) of Mectizan®.



CHALLENGES & NEEDS

What are the implications for the countries close to elimination?

- 1- Collect relevant epidemiological data in all known areas of transmission
- 2- National evaluation teams and networks to be either set up or reactivated in all countries
 - Teams: Health personnel to be trained; and
 - Networks: sentinel sites.
- 3- Instead of skin snips, validate other tools (i.e., patch test, OV16, etc) and/or develop more accurate tools for detection of low infection levels in men.
- 4- Collect entomological data in all transmission areas for surveillance of interruption of transmission:
 - Set up surveillance network in all countries and reactivate those existing in ex-OCP countries; and
 - Train teams in APOC countries and reactivate existing teams in ex-OCP countries,

CHALLENGES & NEEDS

And for the countries less advanced towards elimination?

1- Make sure that MDA meets required standards.

- 100% geographic coverage; and
- 80% therapeutic coverage,

2- Set up a systematic validation of the reported geographic/ therapeutic coverage

3- Where coverage do not fit requirements, investigate the causes, reinforce Community-Directed Treatment with Ivermectin (CDTI) implementation and monitoring, and if necessary, implement alternative measures to boost CDTI efficiency such as:

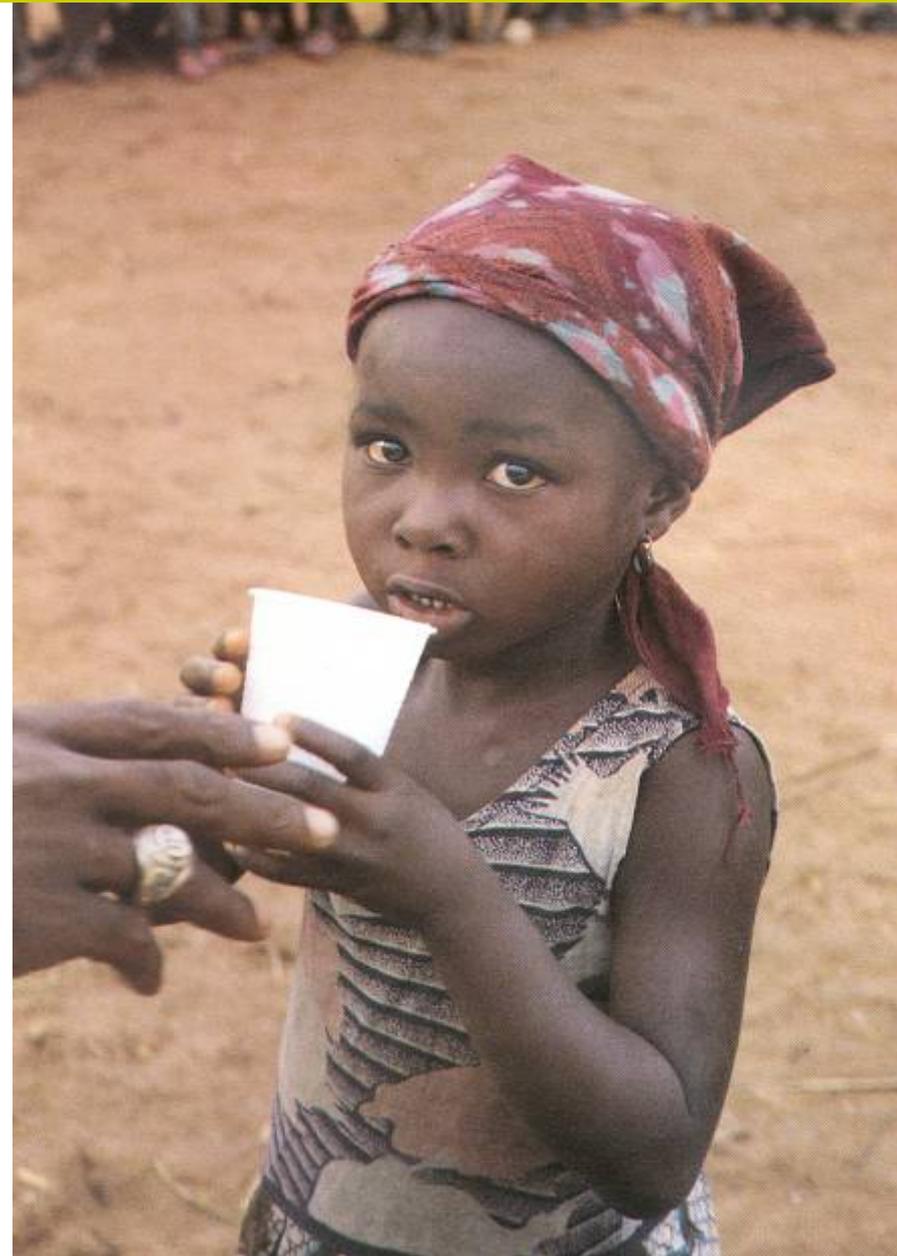
- Twice a year treatment;
- Additional local vector control measures; ...

4- Special attention must be paid to joint Mectizan[®] treatment and surveillance in cross-border areas.

CHALLENGES & NEEDS

What that means for all areas?

- 1- Urgent need to expedite accurate mapping of LF, especially in co-endemic areas (oncho/LF).
- 2- Urgent need to implement LF treatment considering that they will have to be continued in co-endemic areas after oncho has been eliminated and until LF elimination is confirmed.



CHALLENGES & NEEDS

All these actions have **already** been initiated in most APOC countries with relevant protocols and to a lesser extent in ex-OCP countries.

Main challenges

Expediting all these activities, especially those related to upscaling LF elimination in challenging conditions:

- Budget constraint
- Time limitation between APOC closure and the launching of PENDA (January 1st, 2016).



CHALLENGES & NEEDS

Time is running out!

There is an urgent need for the reinforcement of APOC's activities towards oncho elimination through extra manpower and funds.

This should include related research activities [improved CDTI, new detection tools, resistance management, etc.)

These efforts could be especially worthy in the ex-OCP countries where the final goal is at reach.

Accumulated experience would benefit other APOC countries.





MERCI !