



NTD EFFORTS DELIVER AN UNPARALLELED RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Neglected tropical disease (NTD) programs are a “best buy” in global health and a great investment in the future of a more prosperous sub-Saharan Africa. For every dollar invested in NTD control, **at least \$50** is returned in increased economic productivity over time.

Mathematical modeling from Erasmus University shows that if countries in sub-Saharan Africa met the World Health Organization (WHO)’s 2020 goals for the five most common NTDs – elephantiasis (lymphatic filariasis), river blindness (onchocerciasis), bilharzia (schistosomiasis), intestinal worms (soil-transmitted helminths), and trachoma—they would collectively:

- SAVE \$52 BILLION (PURCHASING POWER PARITY, OR PPP)
- AVERT 100 MILLION YEARS LOST TO ILL-HEALTH, DISABILITY, OR EARLY DEATH

The cost effectiveness of NTD programs is due to a number of factors, including drug donations; the scale of national programs; integration of drug delivery with other health initiatives; the use of volunteers and teachers for distribution; and the massive impact of NTD control on economic productivity and educational outcomes.



SIMPLE SOLUTIONS AND INNOVATIVE TOOLS EXIST

The five most common NTDs can be effectively prevented and treated using low-cost interventions, such as preventive chemotherapy (PC) treatments through mass drug administration (MDA) in affected communities.

NTD efforts are backed by the largest-ever public-private partnership through the drug donation program, valued at **\$4 billion annually**. Since 2012 alone, **5.5 billion tablets** of NTD medicines have been donated to countries around the world. Eisai, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Merck/MSD, Merck Serono, and Pfizer have all made significant contributions to ending the five most common NTDs in sub-Saharan Africa.

Today, NTD programs are even more effective and impactful than ever before, leveraging technology – such as state-of-the-art disease mapping systems and new tools for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment – and data in ways that allow us to reach those previously left behind.

How Can Africa Save \$52 Billion by 2030?

NTDs are a diverse group of parasitic and bacterial infectious diseases that affect over a billion people in the world’s poorest countries, largely where access to safe water and sanitation and adequate medical services is limited.

The impact of NTDs is massive:

- Millions of people disabled and disfigured
- Lower school attendance, impaired cognitive development, and malnutrition in children
- Dramatically reduced labor productivity and long-term economic gains
- Enormous strain on overburdened health systems

Consequently, NTDs perpetuate cycles of poverty.

Sub-Saharan Africa is particularly affected by NTDs. **The region bears over 40% of the global NTD burden.** The five most common NTDs account for **90% of the NTD burden in sub-Saharan Africa.** At least one or more of these preventable NTDs is endemic in all 47 countries in the WHO’s African Region.

MOMENTUM FOR AFRICA

JANUARY 2012: Unprecedented coalition of partners sign landmark London Declaration on NTDs and WHO launches first-ever NTD roadmap with targets for 2020

DECEMBER 2014: 24 health ministers and country representatives from sub-Saharan Africa sign Addis Ababa NTD Commitment, declaring increased leadership and budgetary contributions

SEPTEMBER 2015: Sustainable Development Goal 3 references putting an end to NTDs by 2030

DECEMBER 2015: Since its founding through 2015, the END Fund has mobilized over \$50 million in new commitments for NTD control, making the END Fund the fastest growing source of new private funds to the sector

Thanks to these commitments and others, more people than ever are receiving NTD treatment and prevention services; more countries are achieving elimination goals; and governments and donors are seeing the broad benefits of sustained investments in NTDs.



ETHIOPIA

Since 2015, almost **7,000** sight-saving surgeries have been provided to people with blinding trachoma in the Amhara region and an astounding **16.5 million** school-age children have been dewormed through a national MDA campaign.



KENYA

The Kenyan government launched a school-based deworming program that reached **6.4 million** children and helped reduce intestinal worm prevalence from **33%** in 2012 to just **6%** in 2014 in 20 sub-counties.



RWANDA

In 2008, the prevalence of bilharzia at Rwesero Primary School was **69.5%**. In 2014, prevalence in the same school was **zero**.



ZIMBABWE

In 2015, Zimbabwe's Ministry of Health launched an MDA campaign for bilharzia and intestinal worms that reached **2.6 million** school children in **57 of 63** districts.

INVESTMENT NEEDED TO SEE THE END AND SAVE AFRICA \$52 BILLION

Despite recent progress, millions of Africans continue to suffer needlessly from preventable and treatable NTDs. Everyone has a role to play in changing this:

- Governments can continue ensuring NTD control is not siloed by embedding it in broader community health outreach efforts and linking it with programs to improve water, sanitation and hygiene and with education and nutrition frameworks and activities; they can also build capacity to scale effective programs.
- Philanthropic sector can partner by supporting governments' efforts to improve NTD programs.
- Private sector can support improved supply chain and enhanced distribution networks and raise awareness about treatment and prevention of these diseases.
- Civil society can continue advocating for NTDs and share lessons to improve program effectiveness and remove stigma.

Together we can end the neglect.



The END Fund is a private philanthropic initiative to end the five most common NTDs. It advocates for innovative, integrated, and cost-effective NTD programs. The END Fund also facilitates strong partnerships with the private sector. This has had a tremendous impact on lessening the burden of NTDs in Africa and will be key to unlocking the potential of seeing the end. The ultimate goal is to ensure that all people across Africa enjoy healthy and prosperous lives without the risk of NTDs.

To date, the END Fund has raised over \$50 million to treat people at risk of NTDs. In sub-Saharan Africa, the END Fund has supported partners in 20 countries to distribute over \$300 million worth of treatment to nearly 59 million people at risk of NTDs and train more than 247,000 health workers, volunteers, and officials in NTD prevention, control, and treatment strategies.

To learn more, visit end.org.