



ESPEN

The Expanded Special Project for
Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases:

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Workshop:

New Impulses from the WHO-NTD-Roadmap 2030



ESPEN's Mission: To accelerate Elimination of NTDs in Africa



1. A group of **like-minded partners from both public and private sectors** fighting to eliminate the most prevalent NTDs in Africa.
2. **ESPEN provides technical and operational support to endemic countries** in their efforts to control and eliminate NTDs through large-scale distribution of high-quality, safety-tested NTD medicines (Mass Drug Administration).
3. **Pharma sector donates lifesaving drugs to WHO.** To ensure that these drugs reach all who need them, it is crucial to support delivery programs such as ESPEN.

ESPEN tackles the 5 most common NTDs
= largest medicine donation and delivery program



SCHISTOSOMIASIS



ONCHOCERCIASIS



LYMPHATIC
FILARIASIS



SOIL-TRANSMITTED
HELMINTHIASIS



TRACHOMA

ESPEN STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



SCALING UP MDA TO ACHIEVE 100% GEOGRAPHIC AND EFFECTIVE COVERAGE

Leaving no one behind and securing access to treatment.



SCALING DOWN MDA TOWARD PC-NTD ELIMINATION AND REDUCTION OF MORBIDITY DUE TO NTDs

Supporting countries to stop treatment and obtain WHO validation as soon as elimination is reached.



STRENGTHENING INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR EVIDENCE-BASED, IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL DECISION-MAKING

High-quality data sharing tools, the ESPEN Portal and the ESPEN Collect, have been created to help African governments in their decision-making.



PROMOTE EFFECTIVE USE OF DONATED MEDICINES

Ensuring that all donated tablets are procured and distributed in a timely manner and without wastage and any unutilized drugs are appropriately stored and repurposed.

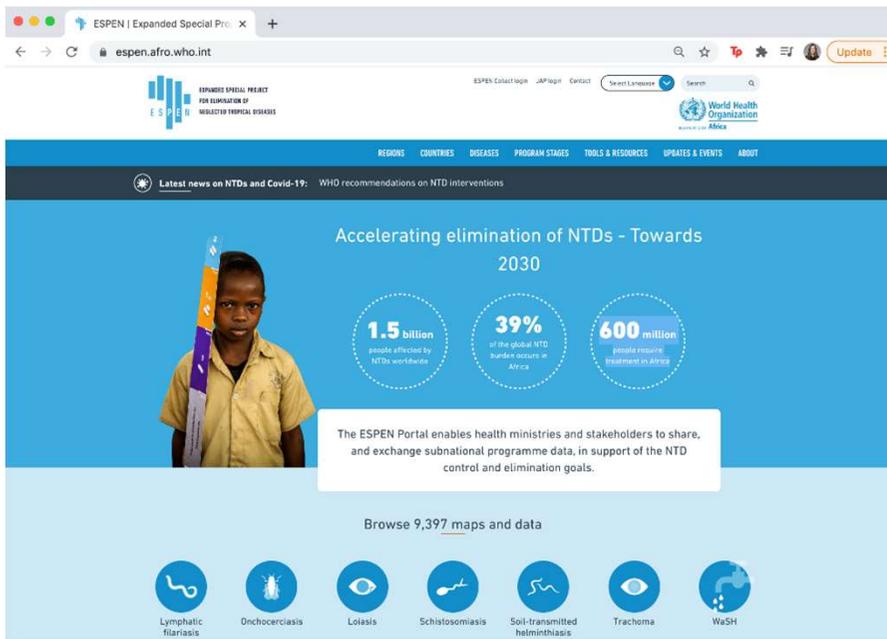


ENHANCING COUNTRY OWNERSHIP AND HEALTH-SYSTEM STRENGTHENING (HSS) FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The partnership helps governments to develop and implement national strategic plans against NTDs, and empowers countries to take greater leadership in financing their own development.

Digital tools enables data analysis to support smart, targeted investments and efficient use of donated drugs

ESPEN Portal: <http://espen.afro.who.int>



ESPEN Collect:

- Mobile application platform to collect, store and visualize real time data.
- One platform for mapping and impact assessments for NTDs including quality assured training and data collection in collaboration with partners.



COVID-19 response activities of ESPEN

- ESPEN has built up **reliable health infrastructures** by working with and through national governments and offers an **access platform for medical interventions** against COVID-19 and other future health threats..
- **Controlling NTDs can curb COVID-19:** COVID-19 and NTDs can both be prevented by taking very similar preventative measures.

1. **Empowering community health workers:**80% of the African countries have reported that NTD Community Health Workers are currently involved in COVID-19 response such as risk communication; promotion of hygiene measures; surveillance and infection prevention and control.

2. **Surveillance and capacity building:** ESPEN Labs conduct quality control/quality assurance for COVID-19 and NTDs.

3. **Supply chain management: For NTDs and COVID-19** (e.g. education, hygiene, sanitation supplies): the point of entry of medicines/supplies and distribution, inventory management, adequate distribution, storage, reverse logistics on unutilized products

4. **Strengthening information/data management systems:** ESPEN Portal and ESPEN Collect share continental wide subnational level data on NTDs and other infectious diseases such as COVID-19.

5. **Sustainability, country ownership and strengthening of health systems**

The role of endemic countries in the WHO roadmap – post COVID-19

The new Roadmap will guide countries towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal target 3.3 on NTDs.

The Roadmap seeks to promote resilience, health systems strengthening, equity and country ownership.

National governments need to define agenda:

- ✓ Critical to strengthen national health systems to ensure delivery of interventions
- ✓ Improve sustainability of programs through improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene
- ✓ Equitable access to prevention, treatment, care and support

Integrated approach:

Endemic countries should include NTDs as part of essential health packages linked to targets of UHC

Achieve synergies across health systems



Leave no one behind for NTDs and be prepared to tackle next global health challenge post COVID-19



ESPEN's impact and recent results 2017-2021

- ❑ Overall, 2,7 billion donated tablets were managed by ESPEN, through the WHO global donation program to treat targeted population in the African region.
- ❑ Improved supply chain management in 45 countries: recovery of 932,9 million tablets worth more than 106 million USD from 2017 to 2020.
- ❑ 450 million of the 600 million people affected by NTDs in Africa have been protected every year up to 2020.
- ❑ Training of several thousand Ministry of Health workers on scaling up interventions and capacity building.
- ❑ Togo successfully eliminated lymphatic filariasis in 2017.
- ❑ Ghana eliminated trachoma in 2018.
- ❑ Ethiopia achieved 100% geographical coverage for trachoma MDA in 2019.
- ❑ Malawi eliminated lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem in 2020.
- ❑ The Gambia eliminated trachoma and Niger eliminated river blindness in 2021.
- ❑ 45 endemic countries have been supported to develop and implement their NTD Master plans.
- ❑ ESPEN Portal: accessible online platform launch - 10.000 maps and data sets (of 45 countries) are available; planned to be extended to HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, COVID-19 data.
- ❑ ESPEN Collect mobile app for data collection.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- NTDs community-based interventions ensure nobody is left behind.
- Quality data collection and analysis will be critical to success to enable evidence-based planning and decision-making.
- Availability, efficient delivery and distribution of high-quality medicines is the cornerstone of the NTD elimination strategy.
- Building capacity for African Governments strengthens their health and information systems and provides the NTD quality services populations deserve.
- Treatment gap: 350 million people are not reached due to lack of funding for treatment distribution.
 - ✓ With access to about €15 billion in drugs donated by pharma partners, ESPEN reduces the cost of treating all 5 high-burden diseases to just €0.50 per dose making it one of the public health's best buys
 - ✓ If sustainable funding of NTD delivery programs is not guaranteed, achieved progress is at risk.
- Controlling NTDs can curb COVID-19 and other future health threats:
 - ✓ Both can both be prevented by taking very similar preventative measures: promotion of hygiene measures; surveillance; infection prevention and control
 - ✓ Leveraging and re-purposing existing communication channels and health care infrastructures established to COVID-19 response.





**Thank you for your commitment
For an AFRICA FREE of NTDs**

