



## Call for Action by the European Networks

at the European Congress for Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH) 2025  
Hamburg, September 29, 2025

### Act now – for global health equity!

The NTD community is responding to global crises with innovation, cooperation, and a willingness to take responsibility. But without long-term political support and secure funding, there is a risk of setbacks in the fight against preventable diseases and poverty.

### Now is the time to act – for a fairer and healthier world.

#### Growing challenges are threatening progress:

- **Declining global health funding** is threatening decades of progress against NTDs reduced investment risking disease resurgence just as elimination targets come within reach.
- **Climate change** is driving vector-borne diseases like dengue and leishmaniasis in to previously non-endemic regions including Europe.
- **Migration, conflict and instability** are complicating prevention and established mitigation measures and creating new transmission pathways.
- **Future NTD control, elimination and eradication** efforts are increasingly dependent on how countries strengthen their pandemic prevention, preparedness and response frameworks under emerging global health accords.
- **Rising antimicrobial resistance** is undermining existing treatments for several NTDs, requiring urgent investment in new therapeutic approaches.
- **Combating multimorbidity** and chronic disease progression requires integrated, cross-sectoral care and delivery approaches.
- **Fragmented global health governance** and competing priorities create siloed approaches that ignore the interconnected nature of NTDs with climate, health and development challenges.

## **We urgently call on European leaders and allies to coordinate and commit to:**

### **1. Strengthen research and innovation through:**

#### **Increased and sustained European funding commitments:**

- Greater integration of NTDs into EU research programs (e.g., Horizon Europe) and aligned with dedicated national funding lines.
- Long term partnerships with Global South institutions that strengthen country ownership, enable on-site production of medicines and vaccines, and build sustainable local capacity for NTD control
- Cross-sector platforms combining research, product development and community-led implementation.

#### **One Health approaches:**

- Prioritize climate-NTD research mapping emerging risk areas and adaptation strategies
- Incorporate systems-based approaches considering animal and environmental risk factors
- Community-centred research recognizing interconnections between human, animal, and environmental health
- Take gender-specific dimensions of disease into account

#### **Universal access:**

- Register NTD treatments in European national health systems for vulnerable populations
- Support transparent data platforms enabling surveillance in NTD affected communities.

#### **Ensure access to drugs for NTDs:**

- Donation of NTD medicines to endemic countries continues through WHO. In Europe, however, some treatments (e.g. for schistosomiasis, strongyloidiasis) should be registered and made available via national health systems to ensure access for vulnerable patients.

### **2. Political and structural anchoring of NTDs through:**

#### **Integration into core policies and health and development strategies:**

- Anchor NTDs in national public health plans, poverty reduction strategies, and pandemic preparedness frameworks.
- Recognize that NTD affected communities are among the most vulnerable to emerging pandemic threats.

#### **Binding international commitments:**

- European nations must actively support the Kigali Declaration on NTDs and the WHO NTD Roadmap
- Actively champion and integrate NTDs into international cooperation programs (GFATM, GAVI, G7, G20, United Nations Climate Change Conference, etc.)
- It must be ensured that the WHO's recent decision to merge the malaria and NTD departments does not lead to NTDs being neglected again.

#### **Including persons and communities affected by NTDs in public platforms and decision-making processes.**

- Actively listening and responding to the preferences of those with lived experience of NTDs
- Opening up political and policy spaces to representatives of communities affected by NTDs, so that no decision about their lives is made without their contributions
- Ensuring that adequate resources are allocated to enable the presence and representation of persons and communities with lived experience in policy discussions.

**The NTD community stands ready to deliver innovation, expertise, and implementation—but only governments can provide the political leadership, sustained funding, and international coordination needed to prevent a global health crisis. Every month of delay increases the risk of irreversible setbacks. Act now!**

This call for action is also endorsed by: Canadian Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Tropenmedizin (DTG/ German association for tropical medicine), Federation of European societies for tropical medicine and international health (festmih), Uniting to Combat NTDs (UTC)



as well as by following youth organizations:



### **Background**

At ECTMIH 2025, stakeholders from science, politics, and civil society who are committed to the fight against neglected, poverty-related tropical diseases (NTDs) met to jointly develop strategies for greater visibility, funding, and effectiveness. In the face of growing challenges and drastic cuts in international support programs, the NTD community is calling for decisive action.

More than 1.6 billion people worldwide, including Europe, are affected by or at risk of NTDs. If left untreated, these diseases lead to chronic suffering, disability, or even death. Yet they often remain overlooked—in research, politics, and the public eye—because they primarily affect the poorest and most marginalized populations.

The NTD community had already launched a public appeal during the Italian (2024) and Canadian (2025) presidencies of the G7 countries. Now it is once again calling on all decision-makers to continue the fight against NTDs.)