

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT FOR

ESPEN SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

WHO COUNTRY OFFICE 2022

ENDEMIC NTDS REQUIRING PC

LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS
ONCHOCERCIASIS
STH
SCHISTOSOMIASIS
TRACHOMA

NTDS TARGETED WITH PC

LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS
ONCHOCERCIASIS
STH
SCHISTOSOMIASIS
TRACHOMA



BACKGROUND

In its mandate to assist countries towards the elimination of neglected tropical diseases amenable by preventive chemotherapy (PC-NTDs), the Expanded Special Project for the Elimination of NTDs (ESPEN) has been supporting Ethiopia in scaling up and scaling down interventions notably by filling the gaps on Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaigns, supporting mapping/surveys for PC NTDs and facilitating the PC NTD drug donation through the Joint Application Package (JAP).

In 2022 workplan, the WHO country office had requested and obtained **475,935 USD** from ESPEN to support MoH on various activities including quantification and importation of PC medicines for MDA, NTD managers training, conducting NTD annual review meeting and research symposium, conducting integrated supportive supervision for PC NTDs during and after MDA, cascading of woreda level toolkit on WASH NTD integration, conducting Data Quality Assessment (DQA) for PC NTDs, strengthening onchocerciasis regional laboratory and conducting onchocerciasis Post Treatment Surveillance (PTS).

SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:



1. 2023 Joint Request for Selected PC Medicines (JRSM) and 2021 Joint Report Form (JRF) was supported and timely submitted through the JAP. This was facilitated through a quantification workshop involving regional NTD managers and implementing partners. Mass Drug Administration campaigns were undertaken for Preventive Chemotherapy NTDs (Onchocerciasis, Lymphatic Filariasis, Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis and Schistosomiasis) in the endemic areas of the country. Tigray regional state was not covered due to security reasons. The number of people received treatment (at least once) in 2022 for the diseases in all areas is indicated in the below table with the corresponding geographical coverages.

	Pre_SAC	SAC	Adults	Total	Geographical coverage
Lymphatic filariasis	Not eligible	804,404	1,614,876	2,419,280	70.21
Onchocerciasis	Not eligible	6,174,260	12,395,111	18,569,371	63.70
Soil-transmitted helminthiasis		19,564,760	17,860,469	37,425,229	93.59
Schistosomiasis		4,521,316	1,102,990	5,624,306	43.63



2. Integrated Supportive Supervision using a revised supervision checklist involving MoH, Regional and Zonal health experts and NTD partners was conducted in **10** regions of the country and one city administration. The supervisory visit assessed the management of NTD program at all levels (regional, zonal, district and sub district), practicalities linked to the Mass Drug Administration, Supply Chain Management (SCM), monitoring, and reporting of PC NTDs etc. Based on the findings onsite and written feedbacks were provide for improvements.



3. **Fifty-five experts** /NTD managers across the country except for Tigray regional state were capacitated on NTDs. The NTD managers were trained on the overview of NTD road map, strategic implementation, intervention modalities, programmatic challenges, lessons learned and success on integrated program performance. The training was organized in collaboration with MoH and Oromiya regional health bureau.



4. NTD review meeting and research symposium was attended by more than **100 participants** held in Bahir Dar University that pulled-out recommendations to inform the next cycle of annual planning. The state minister, WHO representative and other dignitaries opened this colorful event. A round table discussion session on *One Health: Maximizing multisectoral and coordinated action to combat NTDs in Ethiopia* was moderated by WHO. On top of this, WHO presented on *Domestic financing: Strategies and domestic resource mobilization and financing continuum for NTDs*.



5. Regional level advocacy workshop on WASH-NTDs was carried out in four regions (Gambella, Somali, Afar and Benishangul Gumuz) to integrate NTD in WASH program. Woreda (districts) level technical working group and task force team were trained on Integrated WASH-NTD toolkit for joint monitoring & Evaluation of WASH investment for NTDs elimination.



6. Data Quality Assessment (DQA) for PC-NTDs was conducted in collaboration with Collaborative Research Center for NTDs, Arbaminch University and MoH. Routine Health Information System data quality and use was analyzed at regional and district levels based on the adapted WHO recommended tools. The assessment was conducted in **12** districts selected from 9 regions of the country. Recommendations were formulated and communicated on the identified gap.



7. Onchocerciasis Post Treatment Surveillance (PTS) was supported in two regions of the country where more than **100** program officers from the government and implementing partners participated in the consultative meeting. Experiences were shared and technical guidance provided on how to enhance community awareness, participation, and ownership as per the WHO guideline.



8. As part of strengthening the onchocerciasis regional molecular laboratories, capacity building of the regional laboratories' personnel was given to enhance entomological and epidemiological field assessment and laboratory analysis. In this exercise, field and laboratory manual for onchocerciasis elimination monitoring was developed. Training was also provided on onchocerciasis elimination monitoring activities for **78** laboratory personnel and program managers. The practical sessions of the training encompassed, conducting river prospections to identify black fly breeding sites; collect blackflies, identification, and laboratory work; identifying infected black fly using pool screening PCR analysis; Dried Blood Spot (DBS) collection; labeling, shipment to central lab, storage, and Ov-16 serology analysis as well as laboratory analysis of skin snip microscopy and skin snip PCR.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

1. **423,453 USD** was transferred to various institutions by Direct Financial Cooperation (DFC) as indicted in the below table.

S.NO	Direct Financial cooperation (DFC)	Purpose	Amount transferred in USD
1	Oromia Regional Health Bureau	NTD Managers Training	33,526
2	Arbaminch University	Data Quality Assessment (DQA)	144,025
3	Gambella Regional Health Bureau	WASH-NTD	17,129
4	Afar Regional Health Bureau	WASH-NTD	11,200
5	Benishangul Gumuz Regional Health Bureau	WASH-NTD	20,816
6	Ethiopian Public Health Institute	To strengthen Oncho regional lab	105,511
7	Somali Regional Health Bureau	WASH-NTD	14,069
8	Amhara Regional Health Bureau	Oncho Post Transmission Surveillance (PTS)	9,608

9	SWE Regional Health Bureau	Oncho Post Transmission Surveillance (PTS)	10,016
10	Bahir Dar University	NTD Annual Review Meeting and Research Symposium	57,553
Total			423,453

2. **31,151 USD** used for staff salary/SSA holder at the WHO Country office
3. **16,056 USD** used for medical supplies expense/settling custom clearances and for supporting the implementation of PC-NTDs
4. **5,275 USD** is available currently which will be used to support the 2023 work plan