

STEADY PROGRESS TOWARDS ELIMINATION, ERADICATION OF NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

- Significant progress continues to be registered in the control and elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) towards the global targets, with 19 countries¹ in the African Region eliminating at least one NTD as a public health problem.
- WHO has supported countries to implement integrated NTD programmes, to conduct multiple rounds of mass drug administration (MDA) campaigns, with surgical management of complicated cases, and capacity building for the management of NTDs. This has allowed for the implementation of strategies such as surgery for trachomatous trichiasis, antibiotic treatment for infection, facial cleanliness, and environmental improvement to reduce transmission of trachoma.
- To ensure early detection and treatment of Noma cases, WHO AFRO provided technical assistance to develop an online training course for primary healthcare workers, and to train 740 healthcare workers from the 10² high-burden countries to boost timely diagnosis and management.

Key achievements include the following:

- The Democratic Republic of the Congo was certified free of Guinea worm disease transmission in December 2022, bringing to 42 the total number of Member States certified free of Guinea worm disease.
 - Lymphatic filariasis transmission was interrupted nationwide in seven countries³, with Malawi and Togo achieving elimination of LF as a public health problem.
 - Niger submitted its onchocerciasis elimination dossier for review by the Regional Independent Verification Team.
 - Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal have reduced the prevalence of Soil-transmitted Helminthiasis (STH) to less than 2%.
 - WHO handed Togo a certificate recognizing the country's elimination of four NTDs - lymphatic filariasis (commonly known as elephantiasis), human African trypanosomiasis (or sleeping sickness), the bacterial eye infection trachoma and Guinea worm – in August 2022.
 - Two more countries achieved elimination of trachoma as a public health problem – Benin (April 2023) and Mali (April 2023) – bringing to six the total number.
 - Seven countries⁴ were validated for the elimination of Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT) as a public health problem.
- WHO AFRO will continue to support Member States to implement integrated NTD programmes and the NTD Road Map, as well as towards achieving certification and validation of targeted NTDs.

¹ Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, The Gambia, Togo, Uganda

² Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo

³ Benin, Cameroon, Comoros, Eritrea, Mali, Sao Tome and Principe, Uganda

⁴ Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Rwanda, Togo, Uganda