



NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM



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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

More than two billion people worldwide are affected by one or more neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). These diseases disproportionately impact poor and rural populations who lack access to safe water, sanitation, and essential medicines. They cause sickness and disability, compromise maternal health and fetal growth, inhibit children's mental and physical development, and can result in blindness and severe disfigurement.

In September 2006, RTI International was awarded the Neglected Tropical Disease Control Program. The 5-year

program is designed to support national NTD control and elimination programs and to integrate and scale up delivery of preventive chemotherapy for the following five targeted NTDs: lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, trachoma, onchocerciasis and soil-transmitted helminthiasis.

Leveraging the generous donations made by GSK, Johnson & Johnson, Merck & Co, Inc, and Pfizer of the proven effective treatments for NTDs—albendazole, mebendazole, Mectizan® and Zithromax®, the Program provides critical funding to allow countries receiving these donated drugs to distribute them effectively and to scale up treatment to full, national scale.

NTD CONTROL PROGRAM SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL PROGRAMS

- 385 million NTD treatments provided since the beginning of the program
- US\$2 billion of medicines donated through global pharmaceutical donation programs
- 69 million people treated in Year 4



NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

Lymphatic filariasis
(elephantiasis)

Onchocerciasis
(river blindness)

Schistosomiasis
(bilharzia; snail fever)

Soil-transmitted helminthiasis
(intestinal worm infection)

Trachoma
(blinding eye infection)



Photo credit: Andrea Peterson

KEY PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Additionality. The Program works with governments committed to integrated NTD control by supplementing existing government resources and donor support. This additional funding allows the countries' integrated NTD control programs to achieve expanded coverage of all at-risk populations.

Grants for country programs.

The Program awards grants to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) through a competitive process to support the integrated implementation of national NTD control programs by Ministries of Health.

Implementation of integrated NTD control programs.

Working through its NGO grantees, the Program is developing models for integrated control of NTDs. The Program will measure effectiveness of various approaches, with the goal of identifying the most successful models, and focusing on the following priorities:

- **Integration** of planning, implementation, supervision and monitoring;
- **Capacity development** of country implementers, working with existing or strengthened government health systems; and
- **Developing tools for integration**, such as guidelines for implementation and tools for planning, budgeting, and monitoring.

Mobilizing resources for NTD

control. The Program advocates at local and international levels to mobilize the resources required to achieve disease elimination and control.

Documentation and dissemination of best practices.

The Program highlights best practices through reports, peer-reviewed journal articles, a program web site, and representation at major international conferences.

A Technical Advisory Group. Working closely with WHO, the Technical Advisory Group ensures that the program is guided by state-of-the-art scientific findings, best practices, and lessons learned.

PARTNERS AND GRANTEES

- Ministries of Health of affected countries
- Health and Development International
- Helen Keller International
- IMA World Health
- Liverpool Associates in Tropical Health
- Malaria Consortium
- Schistosomiasis Control Initiative, Imperial College, London
- Task Force for Global Health
- World Vision, Inc.
- World Health Organization (WHO)

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