



DEFEATING MENINGITIS BY 2030 A GLOBAL ROAD MAP



World Health
Organization

Launch of the Defeating meningitis by 2030 global road map

Event Agenda

Tuesday, 28 September 2021

15.00-16.30 Geneva Time

1. Moderator greeting

- Ms Nyka Alexander, Team Lead, Emergencies, Department of Communications, WHO

2. Introductory remarks/opening comments

- Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO

3. PANEL ONE | What is the impact of meningitis today?

The impact of meningitis is as profound as it is diverse: it can kill within hours, disrupts health systems, impedes education and child development, devastates families and communities, and causes lifelong disabilities. Meningitis epidemics are unpredictable and can strike anywhere, affecting people of any age, including healthy children and young adults.

- Dr Amit Rawal, Meningitis Advocate
- Dr Ziad Memish, Director, Research & Innovation Centre, King Saud Medical City, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Dr Abdou Salam Gueye, WHO Regional Emergency Director (*on behalf of the WHO Regional Director for Africa*)
- Dr Daniela Garone, International Medical Coordinator, Médecins Sans Frontières
- Dr Mike Ryan, Executive Director, WHO Health Emergencies Programme

4. The power of partnership

A video featuring people who have made a key contribution to defeating meningitis, including Technical Task Force (TTF) Member Representatives, national and regional leaders.

5. PANEL TWO | Defeating meningitis: a need, an opportunity, and a moral imperative

The meningitis road map—developed through a robust, multidisciplinary consultation process—represents an unprecedented opportunity to channel the wave of “defeat meningitis” momentum into a concrete plan of action. Defeating meningitis is not only feasible, but also critical to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and will strengthen many aspects of the health system – from disease surveillance, to immunization, to primary health care and universal health coverage, to improving services for persons living with disabilities.

- Dr Seydou Ouattara, Director, Health and Population Protection, Ministry of Health, Burkina Faso
- Dr Chris Elias, President, Global Development, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Dr Rochelle Walensky, Director, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Dr Aboubacar Kampo, Director, Health Section, Programme Division, UNICEF

6. Defeating meningitis “Around the World”

This segment will feature a short video that highlights the work being undertaken by local civil society partners and organizations to share knowledge of meningitis, highlight efforts to defeat meningitis, and/or showcase individuals with lived experience (Members of the Confederation of Meningitis Organisations)

7. Remarks on the business case for the implementation of the “Defeating Meningitis” global road map

- Dr Keith Klugman, Director, Pneumonia, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Dr Gail Rodgers, Senior Program Officer, Pneumonia, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

8. PANEL THREE | Let’s get to work: coming together to implement the road map

Here is how the global community will come together to defeat meningitis under the auspices of the global road map. The five pillars of the road map each address a critical need in the fight against meningitis: prevention and epidemic control, prompt diagnosis and treatment, disease surveillance, support and care for people (and families) affected by meningitis, and advocacy and engagement. How do we leverage the road map to facilitate impact? This panel will share some of the major strides we have already made and provide a view on what the future holds.

- Dr Greta Munoz, President of the Advisory Commission on Immunization Practices, Republic of Ecuador
- Ms Zheng Hui, Associate Researcher, National Immunization Programme, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- Dr Seth Berkley, CEO, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
- Sir Jeremy Farrar, Director, Wellcome
- Dr Katherine O’Brien, Director, Dept of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals, WHO
- Dr Ren Minghui, Assistant Director-General, Universal Health Coverage / Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases
- Mr Mike Davies, Meningitis Advocate

9. Sign-off from the moderator

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