

Time (CET)	AGENDA
12:00–12:10	Welcome remarks and objective of the meeting <i>Dr Maria Rebollo</i>, WHO <i>Dr Chukwuemeka Makata</i>, GONE Vice-Chair, Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria
12:10–12:20	The importance of country-driven cross-border collaboration to accelerate elimination goals <i>Professor Julio Rakotonirina</i>, Director of Health and Humanitarian Affairs, AUC
12:20–12:35	Call for Action and zero draft MoU for cross-border collaboration in NTD elimination <i>Dr Georges Nko'Ayissi</i>, Cameroon <i>Dr Salissou Adamou</i>, Niger
12:35–13:20	Exchange with Countries on the Zero Draft MoU and Endorsement Procedures Moderated by <i>Dr. Clarer Jones</i>, Tanzania • MoU Endorsement Example – <i>Dr Ngayo Sy</i>, Senegal • Interventions from Countries ◦ Burkina Faso – <i>Dr Kabore/Mr Justin Compaore</i> ◦ Ghana – <i>Dr Joseph Opare</i> ◦ Ethiopia – <i>Mr Tesfahun Bishaw</i> ◦ Equatorial Guinea - <i>Dr Policarpo Ncogo</i> ◦ Sierra Leone – <i>Dr Abdulai Conteh</i> ◦ South Sudan – <i>M Yak Yak Bol</i> ◦ Togo – <i>Dr Piham Gnossike</i> ◦ Rwanda – <i>Mr Ladislav Nshimiyimana</i> ◦ Democratic Republic of Congo – <i>Dr Jean-Paul Tambwe</i> ◦ Uganda – <i>Dr Alfred Mubangizi</i> • Open Discussion
13:20-13:30	Wrap-up of agreed next steps: <i>Dr Chukwuemeka Makata</i>

CALL TO ACTION

Geneva, May 2025

Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria

**"We endorse this call to action, which invites WHO Member States, regional and multilateral agencies, and international development partners to take the following measures, as appropriate:
Member States"**

Validate cross-border actions aimed at eliminating NTDs in the following specific areas:

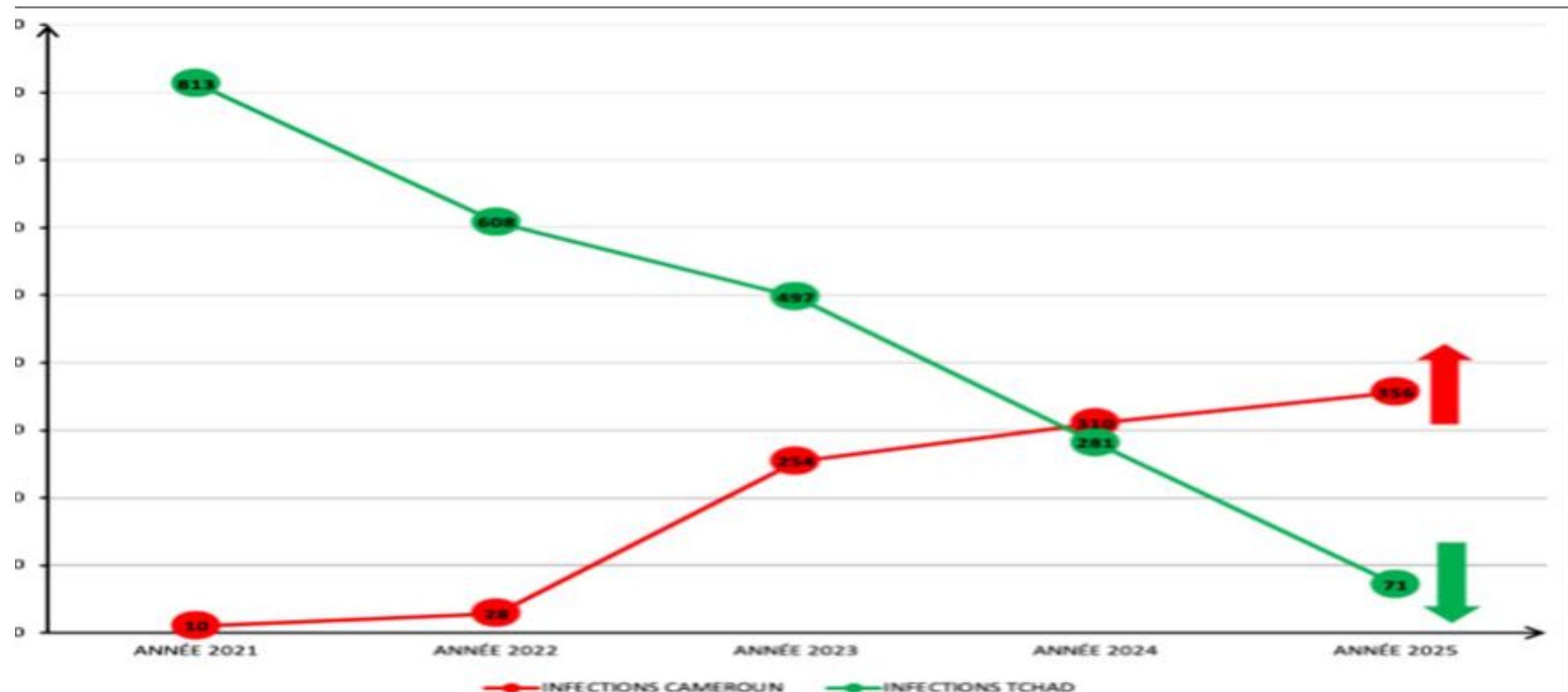
Priority areas

- ✓ *joint planning, interventions and monitoring,*
- ✓ *Synchronisation of disease eradication interventions on both sides of the border,*
- ✓ *Sharing data from neighbouring districts,*
- ✓ *Use of existing expert committees and forums (e.g., One Health approach) on NTDs as platforms for regular exchange and coordination of cross-border collaboration activities,*

Priority areas (continued)

- ✓ the integration of cross-border collaboration on NTDs into existing health collaboration memoranda of understanding,*
- ✓ Facilitation of the safe and free movement of joint cross-border health teams, supplies and field equipment when needed.*
- ✓ Collaborating on advocacy and awareness-raising by mobilising resources, including technical support and logistical arrangements, to support cross-border activities.*
- ✓ assume overall responsibility, ownership and leadership for the implementation of cross-border collaboration activities to achieve disease elimination.*

Case study on the need for action in cross-border collaboration (the case of Guinea worm disease between Cameroon and Chad)



Graphique I: Évolution des infections du VG au Cameroun et au Tchad de 2021 à 2025

DECLARATION DE N'DJAMENA SUR L'INTERRUPTION DE LA TRANSMISSION DE LA MALADIE DU VER DE GUINEE DANS LA SOUS REGION

Nous, Ministres de la Santé du Cameroun, de la République Centrafricaine (RCA) et du Tchad réunis le 17 septembre 2024, à N'Djamena en République du Tchad en présence du Premier Ministre, Chef du Gouvernement, représentant du Président de la République du Tchad, Chef de l'Etat,

Reconnaissant les progrès réalisés par les pays depuis la signature de la déclaration d'Abu Dhabi du 22 mars 2022 aux Emirats-Arabs-Unis,

Constatant le nombre élevé des cas et des infections animales au Tchad, faisant de ce pays l'épicentre de la Maladie du ver de Guinée d'une part et la notification des cas humains et infections animales par le Cameroun et la RCA d'autre part, tous deux certifiés, dans les districts de santé frontaliers au Tchad,

Notant avec une attention particulière le nombre élevé et inquiétant des infections animales du Tchad et du Cameroun,

Conscients de la nécessité de mobilisation des ressources additionnelles pour une intensification de la surveillance de la maladie du ver de Guinée et plus particulièrement dans les pays frontaliers précités pour l'arrêt de la transmission d'ici à 2026,

S'engagent à contribuer à l'Eradication mondiale de la Maladie du Ver de Guinée d'ici à 2030 conformément à la feuille de route pour les maladies tropicales négligées 2021-2030, en prenant les dispositions pratiques suivantes :

1. L'intensification de la surveillance à base communautaire de la maladie du ver de Guinée dans les zones endémiques et non endémiques avec un accent particulier dans les zones frontalières

2. Le plaidoyer en liaison avec le secteur en charge de l'hydraulique pour la réalisation des infrastructures d'accès à l'eau potable dans tous les villages endémiques et à haut risque d'ici à la fin 2025

3. La mise en place et la mise en œuvre des dispositions légales et réglementaires pour la régulation de la population des chiens et des Chats afin d'arrêter la propagation la maladie du Ver de Guinée, mais aussi de la rage au sein des communautés ;

4. Le renforcement des interventions synchronisées transfrontalières dans les districts endémiques ;

5. Le maintien et la mobilisation plus accrue des financements internes alloués aux programmes nationaux pour l'arrêt de la transmission de la maladie du ver de Guinée dans les zones endémiques y compris les zones transfrontalières

Sollicitent enfin l'appui des partenaires techniques et financiers pour la mobilisation des ressources additionnelles nécessaires à l'éradication de la maladie du Ver de Guinée d'ici à 2030.

Adopté à N'Djamena, Tchad, le 17 Septembre 2024

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

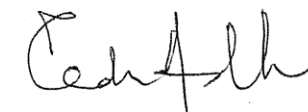
REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE

REPUBLIQUE DU TCHAD

ENSEMBLE EN SOLIDARITÉ



PAIGE ALEXANDER
PRESIDENTE DIRECTRICE GENERALE
LE CENTRE CARTER



DR TEDROS ADHANOM GEBREYESUS
DIRECTEUR GENERAL
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE

The challenges posed by endorsement

- *Transmission of the official request by the Director-General of the WHO*
- *Review within the Ministries of Health by the technical health services, legal services and services responsible for cooperation*
- *Review at interministerial level for commitments not falling within the health sector*
- *Transmission for endorsement authorisations to the Prime Minister's Office and/or the Presidency of the Republic.*
- *The return of the VISA from these sovereign bodies for the endorsement of the Declaration by the Minister of Public Health on behalf of the Government.*

**Key points of the
memorandum of
understanding for cross-
border collaboration in the
elimination of NTDs**

Dr Salissou Adamou
Coordinator of the National
Filariasis and Onchocerciasis
Control Program
in Niger

BACKGROUND

- Several countries moving towards elimination of NTDs
- Given the persistence of transmission in some countries
- In view of the objectives of the WHO recommendations, which encourage countries to eliminate at least one NTD by 2030
- Therefore, to preserve the gains made, a memorandum of understanding covering all NTDs between bordering countries is an absolute necessity.

OBJECTIVE OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

- ✓ Strengthen cross-border collaboration for the elimination of NTDs.
- ✓ Ensure the implementation of synchronized interventions,
- ✓ Ensure data sharing and joint planning between neighboring countries.
- ✓ Align efforts in line with regional and global frameworks (e.g. WHO roadmap, CDC Africa, Agenda 2063) for NTDs.

MOU areas of collaboration

- Coordinate efforts in cross-border regions through joint planning and implementation of interventions (MDA, monitoring).
- Coordinate cross-border activities by setting up focal points or coordination committees.
- Regularly exchange data on cross-border activities between countries to inform decision-making.
- Synchronize cross-border interventions to improve quality (coverage rates, completeness, etc.).

MOU areas of collaboration

- Strengthen cooperation in resource mobilization, intersectoral collaboration under the "One Health" approach and research initiatives,
- Facilitate the cross-border movement of joint health teams and the pooling of logistics and field equipment, to ensure rapid and effective implementation.

PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS

Multi-sectoral coordination and country ownership.

Integration of efforts to combat NTDs into broader health and development objectives.

Recognition of NTD elimination as a high-return investment (e.g., \$25 for \$1 investment).

Commitment to equity, universal health coverage and sustainable development.

Period of validity is until elimination, with biennial reviews and the possibility of extension.

Can be revised by mutual consent to strengthen collaboration.

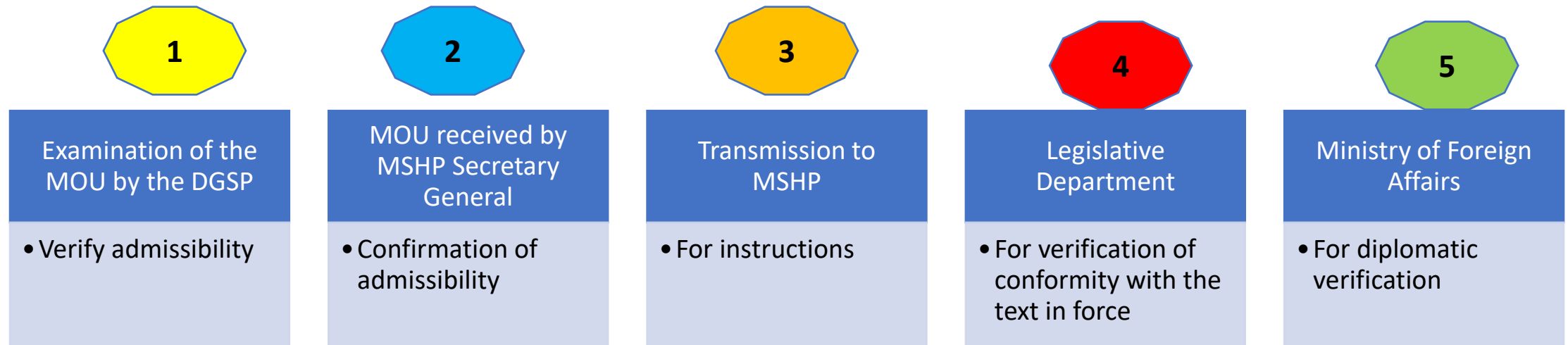
The protocol does not entail any financial commitment on the part of signatory countries;

Other countries or organizations may join with the agreement of the current signatories.

Chronology of the MoU approval process

Approval process facilitated by the African Union Commission with support from WHO and partners					
1: Consultation between MTN Programs (September-October 2025)	Sept-Oct 2025				
2: Alignment and feedback on draft MoU (September-October 2025)		Sept-Oct 2025			
3. Letter and draft MoU sent to Minister's office (October 2025)			November /25		
4. Review by relevant authorities (legal department, NTD/MoH departments, external relations departments, minister's office) (September-December 2025)				November -Dec 2025	
5. Inform the Minister of the Memorandum of Understanding and obtain signature (January-March 2025)					January-March 2026

MoU approval process for Niger



Approval of a memorandum of understanding for cross-border collaboration to eliminate onchocerciasis between Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Senegal

Presented by

Dr Ngayo SY

**Coordinator, National Program for the Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis and Onchocerciasis
Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene, Senegal**

PRESENTATION PLAN

- ❑ **Memorandum of understanding: Objective & areas of cross-border collaboration**
 - ❖ **Background**
 - ❖ **Objective**
 - ❖ **Areas of collaboration**
- ❑ **Chronology of the approval process**
- ❑ **Challenges and benefits of a memorandum of understanding**

Memorandum of understanding: Objective & areas of cross-border collaboration (1/3)

Context:

- Onchocerciasis is a major public health problem in the cross-border areas of the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of Mali and the Republic of Senegal;
- Shared transmission zones on both sides of their national borders;
- Status of onchocerciasis;
 - ✓ *Senegal in post-treatment border surveillance*
 - ✓ Risk of recrudescence or reinfection of regions or zones where transmission has been interrupted/eliminated
- Elimination *of* onchocerciasis across borders coordinated and concerted approach between countries.

Main objective:

- Establishment of a collaborative framework between signatory parties to strengthen onchocerciasis control and elimination in cross-border areas through joint and coordinated interventions.

Memorandum of understanding: Objective & areas of cross-border collaboration (2/3)

Areas of collaboration:

Scope and cooperation

- ✓ implementation of harmonized and synchronized treatment strategies across borders
- ✓ establishment of a platform for cross-border onchocerciasis surveillance and joint monitoring of progress towards elimination through onchocerciasis epidemiological and entomological data and impact assessments ;

Implementation mechanisms and responsible authorities

- ✓ Commitment of the Ministries of Health of Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali and Senegal designated as the authoritative bodies responsible for the execution of this MoU;
- ✓ A cross-border coordination committee will be set up to oversee the implementation of this MOU;
- ✓ Organization of regular meetings between senior officials and technical experts of the parties to ensure proper implementation of agreed activities.

Memorandum of understanding: Objectives & areas of cross-border collaboration (3/3)

Responsibilities and procedures

- ✓ Alignment of activities with national onchocerciasis elimination strategies and WHO guidelines;
- ✓ Regular exchange of treatment plans and progress reports;
- ✓ Collaboration in advocacy and awareness-raising, resource mobilization, including technical support, and logistical arrangements, to support cross-border activities.

Monitoring and data sharing

- ✓ Joint implementation of surveillance activities in border areas;
- ✓ Sharing of collected data between countries, regional health organizations and donors;
- ✓ Organization of joint monitoring and evaluation exercises;
- ✓ Establishment of a common data repository to monitor elimination progress in cross-border areas.

Commitments of the parties

- ✓ Respect and implement jointly defined strategies for the elimination of onchocerciasis;
- ✓ Mobilize the necessary resources for the effective implementation of planned actions;
- ✓ Ensure the sustainability of actions through integration into national public health programs.

MoU Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mali, Senegal:

Chronology of the approval process

MAIN ACTIVITIES					
Senegal designated by countries to propose draft MOU Meeting with Health authorities of Ministries to share and submit document with NTD departments Draft submitted to the Ministries Legal Affairs Department	march/2025				
Feedback from health authorities on document from DG and Ministers (legal affairs department)		april/2025			
Correction of the document and consideration of inputs by NTD department			May/2025		
Republishing of document by NTD department				May-June 2025	
Presentation of the draft at the Senegal and Guinea Bissau expert committee meeting				August-September 2025	
Document shared with all countries Memorandum of understanding signed by 4 health ministers					September 2025

Memorandum of understanding: challenges / approval process & benefits

Challenges and solutions:

- ❖ Absence of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cross-border collaboration for the sustainable elimination of onchocerciasis draft MOU developed in March 2025 and submitted for approval
- ❖ Validation of the final version of the MOU
September 30, 2025 deadline for all countries involved

Advantages & Benefits for a cross-border AP

- ❖ For a country to be able to verify the elimination of onchocerciasis transmission, it must demonstrate that cross-border collaboration has been undertaken and that it has led to the elimination of cross-border transmission foci.
- ❖ strong, effective and active cross-border coordination is needed to prevent any recrudescence or reinfection, in order to achieve the goal of eliminating Onchocerciasis transmission