Webinar

NTDs and COVID-19: impact, response, perspectives

15 October 2021 - 14:00-15:15 CEST

1. Structure and objectives

The WHO Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) will host a webinar that will focus on the relationship between COVID-19 and neglected tropical disease (NTDs) since the beginning of the pandemic. The webinar will consist of three main sessions, dedicated to impact, response and perspectives, with the following objectives:

- **Impact:** to illustrate the impact of COVID-19 on NTD services. NTD programmes are among the most severely affected across the whole health system, notably in developing countries, and discussions are expected to highlight the collateral damages produced by the pandemic beyond COVID-19 morbidity and death. This session will also illustrate the likely mid-to-long-term consequences of the interruption of NTD activities, notably recrudescence of transmission and its possible consequences on the achievement of milestones and targets set by the 2021-2030 road map.
- **Response:** to analyze the response that WHO and the global partners community have deployed to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on NTD programmes. This includes issuance of WHO guidance on adaptation or safe resumption of activities; its further tailoring by partners and implementers (e.g. derivative tools); the intensification of virtual support; and the development of online resources, including webinars and training courses.
- **Perspectives:** to report on how the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic have also generated creative solutions: success stories from different countries and on different diseases are highlighted, with the aim of concluding the webinar under the sign of optimism and hope.

The **final session** brings reflections from another health programme (Global Malaria Programme) and how they have tackled the issue of maintaining services amidst the pandemic; wrap up on major points highlighted by panelists and final remarks close the webinar.

The structure of the webinar includes videos/infographics, interventions by panelists and Q&A sessions.