

# The importance and role of partnerships in achieving the 2030 NTD road map targets

2 December 2020

Partnership is essential to achieve the 2030 road map targets for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). For more than two decades, partners have been instrumental in scaling up and implementing programmes, particularly after the London Declaration in 2012 when a stronger, more motivated global private–public partnership fostered collaborative and coordinated action.

Strengthened collaboration facilitated policy and created opportunities to improve the work of the World Health Organization (WHO) with Member States, international agencies, pharmaceutical, insecticide and vaccine companies, nongovernmental organizations, academia, civil society and United Nations agencies.

As partners continue to accelerate work against NTDs, their involvement in cross-sectoral activities will be crucial in sustaining the progress achieved and in renewing momentum towards the targets of the new NTD road map recently endorsed by the Seventy-third World Health Assembly.

*Ending the neglect to attain the Sustainable Development Goals: a road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030* prioritizes integrated interventions and mainstreaming of NTD programmes within national health systems. The road map aims to expand access to interventions against NTDs and to improve the quality of care and the quality of life for people at risk of, and those living with, NTDs, so that “no one is left behind.” It also aims to better coordinate activities carried out in other sectors, including strengthening capacity and resources at country level.

Advocacy for NTDs has improved and collectively enhanced the prioritization of NTDs within the global health agenda, as evidenced by the inclusion of NTDs in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustaining and embracing new partnerships to strengthen local and national structures and systems for interventions against NTDs are essential to foster collaboration and drive action within communities. In-country partnerships, coordination between ministries of health and other sectors and programmes can stimulate community engagement, improve the response to and compliance with NTD programmes and accelerate cross-sectoral work in implementing programmes to support communities.

The integrated approaches advocated in the new road map are relevant, as shown during repurposing of staff during the current pandemic, even if they precede its implementation. The road map encourages us to work together optimally and collaboratively in a context in which we will need to do more with fewer resources. As global policies are translated further into locally integrated services, collaboration with other sectors and programmes will become more important in achieving the 2030 goals.

## The webinar

The webinar will consist of three panels, with discussions on the support needed to implement the road map goals for 2030. It will showcase examples of partnership at country level and the contribution of pharmaceutical companies, government agencies, nongovernmental organizations and research and other United Nations agencies to supporting integration and collaboration towards the achievement of the road map goals and in inspiring attendees to engage in the process.

### Webinar panels

#### First Panel

Theme: Partnership for strategy and delivery of interventions

The first panel will hear stories and perspectives from people affected by NTDs and others driving NTD activities at the country and grassroots levels. The speakers will share their personal experiences in working with health ministries, nongovernmental organizations and communities. The panel will comprise 3–4 speakers. Each panellist is expected to speak for 3–4 minutes.

#### Second panel

Theme: Partnership to support technical progress

The second panel will address research and innovation and also the need for new medicines, diagnostics and tools for control, monitoring and evaluation, including capacity strengthening needs. Representatives from pharmaceutical, insecticide companies, research institutions and academia will discuss work at various levels, such as cross-disciplinary and operational research, and the development of the companion documents to the road map (for example, the *Sustainability framework for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030*). The panel will comprise 3–5 speakers. Each panellist is expected to speak for 3–4 minutes.

#### Third Panel

Theme: Partnership to enable the delivery of the roadmap

The third panel will highlight the diversity of NTD partnerships and how each one can mobilize action across programmes, research and advocacy and the importance of aligning priorities, expertise and knowledge management to deliver the road map goals. The panel will comprise four speakers representing examples of partnerships across diseases and regional and global actions. Each panellist is expected to speak for 3–4 minutes.

### Webinar format

This moderated webinar will follow an established format: live, interactive panel discussion, with a break between panels to show a selection of short, illustrative videos and voices from the field, and moderated questions and answers.

**Duration:** 90 min

**Delivery:** Live, interactive panel discussion

## Outline

Time	Title	Overview	Speaker
14:00–14:02	Welcome	Opening and introductory remarks	Moderator
NTD video			
14:07 – 14:10	Introduction		NTD Director
14:10–14:27	Panel One	<i>Partnership for strategy and delivery of interventions</i>	Moderator
14:27 – 14:32 – Q&A			
Video or music			
14:37–14:54	Panel Two (2-3 min per speaker)	<i>Partnership to support technical progress</i>	Moderator
14:54 – 14:59 – Q&A			
Videos or voices from the field			
15:04 – 15:21	Panel Three (2-3min per speaker)	<i>Partnership to enable to delivery of the roadmap</i>	
15:21 – 15:26	Q&A		
15:26 –15:30	Closing remarks & announcements		Moderator