



USAID: EXPANDING GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS TO SUSTAINABLY ELIMINATE NTDs

To improve health and development, national leaders and partners must align actions to ensure routine services are available for ALL Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- To achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), NTD services must be strengthened in conjunction with other priority health programs.
- People need access to routine prevention AND treatment services for ALL disabling NTDs.
- USAID's NTD Program is expanding to support governments undertaking initiatives to strengthen national systems to address all relevant NTDs.
- Progress towards disease elimination accelerates when Government leaders establish priorities and action plans at national and sub-national levels to incorporate NTDs in policies, planning, budget, and service delivery systems.

EXPANDING APPROACHES TO ADDRESS ALL NTDs

The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated more than 20 diseases as Neglected Tropical Diseases. They result in substantial illness and disability for over 1 billion people primarily in under served communities where people have limited access to health services and inadequate water and sanitation. They can impact an individual across their lifespan: limiting childhood growth and development, blocking access to education and employment, and stigmatizing individuals and households.

Countries, with support from global stakeholders, have made significant progress in the control and elimination of some NTDs—those primarily controlled or eliminated with prevention measures that reside outside the Primary Health Care (PHC) system. These investments need to continue to achieve elimination, but many of the other NTDs are lagging behind, especially those requiring treatment and care through the PHC system.

Tackling all NTDs will require a strategic shift calling for stakeholders to support national efforts that ensure the prevention, treatment, and care of NTDs are provided through existing systems and contribute to the broader health system and captured into wider government policies, sectors, and services. Most NTDs require a multi-sector approach, like One Health, collaborating with education, agriculture, health, water, sanitation, and hygiene.

AT A GLANCE

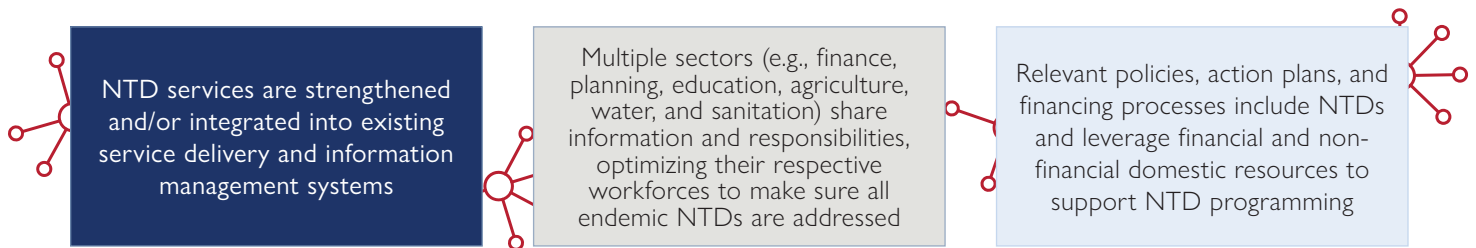
Building Effective Services that Last for All NTDs

- There are **20+** Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)
- Most countries are endemic for **MULTIPLE NTDs**, resulting in disabilities that reduce socio-economic development
- Under five and maternal mortality have declined over the past 20 years, so ensuring healthy populations is a rising priority for governments
- Global support has focused heavily on vertical prevention programs for a limited number of NTDs
- Tackling all NTDs requires a nationally led multi-sectoral approach to ensure sustainable prevention and treatment services
- NTD services need to be incorporated across government systems and services to catch-up with priority disease programs such as HIV, malaria, and maternal child health



COUNTRY LEADERSHIP TO ACCELERATE NATIONAL PRIORITIES & SERVICES FOR NTDS

To achieve UHC and the SDGs, health and other sectors are working to better optimize national systems and resources. The global NTD community is also striving to align with global strategies as reflected in the *WHO NTD Road Map 2030* and *The NTD Sustainability Framework for Action*. These strategies call on partners to move away from the heavy emphasis on vertical disease programming and instead contribute to and reinforce national priorities and systems so that:



This recognizes that tackling NTDs is a long term strategy and needs to be incorporated into broader government efforts to secure well-resourced, country-driven solutions that are less vulnerable to global trends and decreased donor funding.

USAID SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT LED VISIONS TO ELIMINATE ALL NTDS BY 2030

USAID supports National NTD Programs in their goals to control and eliminate five NTDs that can be prevented through primarily vertical community wide treatment using donated medicines. To better align with global, regional, and national policies that emphasize equity, access, and effective services for people at risk of or living with any NTD, USAID’s Program has expanded its strategy to:

- Build on WHO’s call to “accelerate programmatic action, intensify cross-cutting approaches, and change operating models and culture to facilitate country ownership”.
- Work with WHO regional offices focused on identifying and accelerating innovations that integrate and/or optimize existing government structures to enhance service delivery and achieve disease targets.
- Collaborate with national leaders to strengthen NTD services across all relevant sectors.

USAID prioritizes countries where USAID support can:

CRITERIA	Strengthen “one” government led effort to develop and implement a national NTD sustainability strategy and plan.	Leverage and strengthen national systems to deliver robust nationally planned, resourced, managed, and monitored NTD services.	Target and coordinate technical and financial assistance to maximize national and local leadership, governance, and capacity to mainstream and provide NTD services.	Monitor progress against government benchmarks from sustainability plans and other relevant national documents.
OPPORTUNITY	USAID is working with countries across Africa that have politically validated sustainability plans.	Multisector coordination is resulting in NTDs being incorporated in national financing schemes, routine work force functions, and non-health sector platforms.	National systems have existing capacity and resources that can be leveraged to address technical and systems challenges in country.	National benchmarks more accurately reflect government priorities and systems.

USAID’s traditional support for NTDs will continue, but as more countries achieve elimination there is a growing need to respond to the demands around NTDs that are dependent on the PHC system and other sectors. Given the changing environment, USAID is looking to engage with countries prioritizing systems approaches to address all NTDs.