

[World NTD Day 2026 Webinar](#)

“Unite, Act, Eliminate”

From progress to sustainability: country-led integration for lasting NTD impact

Date: Friday, 30 January 2026, 3-4.30pm CET
Simultaneous interpretation: English and French

Register [here](#)

Background: On World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (30 January 2026), this webinar celebrates the significant progress achieved by countries in tackling Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) through many years of efforts of a very cohesive NTD community. Building on these achievements, the webinar highlights how strong national leadership and ownership are crucial to integrating the planning, delivery, and monitoring of NTD interventions within broader health services—and mainstreaming them into primary health care systems—which can further strengthen sustainability, resilience, and reach. Drawing on evidence and country experiences across health platforms, the webinar will showcase practical approaches to NTD integration, equipping national health programs and global partners with insights to sustain momentum, deliver lasting impact, and accelerate progress toward a world free of NTDs.

Agenda

Moderator: Dr Maria REBOLLO, Technical Lead Preventive Chemotherapy for NTDs, WHO

15:00-15:10:

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Context and Objectives

Key Note: Dr Daniel NGAMIJE, Director Malaria and NTDs, WHO

15:10-15:55:

Session 1: Integration in Action: Why It Matters and How to Achieve It - Country examples

Purpose of this session: The session shifts the focus from whether to integrate NTD programmes to how to do it effectively. Panelists discuss opportunities of turning integration from concept into practice by selecting the most appropriate model for different contexts and objectives. It explores the key drivers of integration and the importance of health-system mainstreaming, showing how NTD activities can be embedded within routine structures to strengthen national systems, improve sustainability, and reduce reliance on external funding. Participants will also learn practical strategies for aligning campaigns, overcoming operational challenges, and scaling successful approaches.

Panelists

- *Dr Salissou ADAMOU BATCHIRI, LF and Oncho coordinator, Ministry of Health, Niger*
- *Dr Lelisa AMANUEL JIRA, Senior advisor to the state minister for health services and programs, Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia*
- *Dr Ahmed ELBIRRY, Director General of Tropical Diseases Department, Ministry of Health and Population, Egypt*
- *Dr Marlhand HEMILEMBOLO, Director of the National Program for the Control of onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis and soil-transmitted helminths, Ministry of Health and Population, Republic of Congo*
- *Dr Gace MAGEMBE, Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, United Republic of Tanzania*
- *Mr Abel MAROME, Technical Advisor Leprosy and NTD, National Department of Health, Papua New Guinea*
- *Dr Aimable MBITUYUMUREMYI, Division Manager for Malaria and Other Parasitic Diseases, Rwanda Biomedical Center/Ministry of Health, Rwanda*
- *Dr Jose NELY ALPHONSE, Head of NTD Department, Ministry of Public Health, Madagascar*
- *Dr Mousab SIDDIG ELHAG, Director of Primary Healthcare, Federal Ministry of Health, Sudan*

15:55-16:25:

Session 2: Charting the Path Forward – Opportunities for Collective Action:
Guiding questions:

- What strategies can partners use to align multiple funding streams, timelines, and delivery platforms for more efficient and impactful NTD integration?
- How can partners support countries in building strong country ownership and ensuring integrated NTD services are sustainably embedded and resilient over the long term?
- What lessons can partners share from successful collaborations that have strengthened program sustainability, efficiency, and coverage?

Panelists:

- *Dr Isaac CHIKWANHA, Senior Director, Infectious Diseases Programs, Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity*
- *Dr Philip DOWNS, Technical director for NTDs, Sightsavers*
- *Dr Alison GOLDBERG, President of the MSD Foundation*
- *Dr Carol KARUTU, Vice-President International Programs, The END Fund*
- *Dr Jordan TAPPERO, Deputy Director for NTDs, Gates Foundation*

16:25-16:30: Closing

Dr Maria REBOLLO, WHO