



ADVOCACY BRIEF

# End the Neglect of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

JUNE 2024

## Urgent Need for Domestic Investment in NTD Programs

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) programs in endemic countries are playing both technical and managerial roles in addressing NTDs to achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Significant achievements towards the elimination and control of these diseases are being made and recorded. Unfortunately, most of the interventions are funded by external donors while both the National and County Governments, who are the gatekeepers to protecting health of individuals, continue to provide very limited funding.



“...Investing in NTD programs and fostering community engagement are crucial steps toward sustainable health improvements and achieving universal health coverage...”

**Patricia Jeckonia,  
Program Manager  
Policy and  
Partnerships, LVCT  
Health**



# 1

## Increased domestic investment including both funding and optimizing existing health systems and resources

- **Increase Funding:** Sustain NTD progress with more domestic financing
- **Allocate Budgets:** Counties should incrementally budget for NTD activities
- **Use Existing Resources:** Leverage current human resources for NTD services
- **Integrate NTDs:** Combine NTD screening and management with other health services
- **Institutionalize NTDs:** Include NTDs in public health policies, County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP), and Annual Work Plans (AWP) with consistent funding



“...Essentially, NTD elimination is a return on investment and not merely an investment need...”

**Florence Wakesha,  
Schistosomiasis and Soil  
Transmitted Helminthiasis  
Focal Person, MOH**



“...Multi-sectoral coordination requires political commitment and leadership, clear objectives, and an understanding of how different sectors contribute to respective goals, roles and responsibilities...”

**Dr. Daniel Langat, Head,  
Department of Disease  
Surveillance and Response,  
MOH**

# 2

## Strengthen multisectoral approach collaboration on NTDs

**Broaden Collaboration:** Engage government, NGOs, private sector, and community groups to maximize the impact of NTD programs, promote prevention, and enhance overall human development.





### 3

#### Foster and Prioritize Community Ownership in NTD Programs

- **Engage Communities:** Actively involve affected communities in program design, implementation, and sustainability, including post-elimination surveillance
- **Include Civil Society:** Involve civil society leadership in decision-making to adapt to community contexts and strengthen governance
- **Empower Community Health Structures:** Strengthen community health structures to enable communities to drive their own health interventions and monitor progress



### 4

#### Foster and Prioritize Community Ownership in NTD Programs

- **Plan for Self-Sufficiency:** Transition from relying on donations to acquiring quality NTD drugs independently
- **Budget Allocation:** Allocate national and county funds for NTD supplies



# 5

## Sustain Research and Development for NTDs

- **Strengthen Research Units:** Enable counties to redesign NTD programs sustainably, generate effective interventions, and support evidence-based data collection for best practices

“ ..Generate effective NTD interventions and support evidence-based data collection for best practices... ”

**Dr. Wycliff Omondi, Head,  
Division of Vector Borne & Neglected  
Tropical Diseases, MOH**

