The APOC new directions in its transformation into an entity for the elimination of lymphatic filariasis (2020), onchocerciasis (2025) and for providing support to other preventive chemotherapy neglected tropical diseases (PC-NTDs) require the increase of financial resources. This is why APOC Management has mandated Pr Sidi Ely Ahmedou, Community Ownership and Partnership Officer (COP), to visit some countries of the Arab world from 28 March to 10 April 2014 to enquire about the appropriate approach and strengthen fruitful partnership with the APOC Programme. Two countries were visited as part of the first phase of the mission: the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia. In Abu Dhabi (UAE), contacts were made with the Abu-Dhabi Fund for Development, the Sheikh Zayed Humanitarian Fund, and the Emirati Red Crescent. Pr Ahmedou’s interlocutors showed interest in the presentation relating to the Programme activities and its prospects before expressing their willingness to provide support. In Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), where the Islamic Development Bank is more and more interested in social and health areas, namely PC-NTDs, the officials met expressed their willingness to support APOC in eliminating lymphatic filariasis and Onchocerciasis, as a target.

In both countries, the representatives of the institutions targeted specific areas which they could support and which will be the foundations of a memorandum of understanding to be established in a near future.

The NOCP in Chad, strengthening its strategy by developing a communication plan

Communication actions of the Chad National Onchocerciasis Control Programme (NOCP), patchily conducted in the past, are now supported by clear and precise guidelines. From 28 April to 14 May 2014, the NOCP benefitted from the support of the Communication and Advocacy Officer (CAO) for the development of a communication plan for Onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis control. With the technical support of the WHO Office and the NOCP, the mission, deployed for a couple of days to Moundou in the Western Logone et Doba in the Eastern Logone, conducted the collection of communication data from stakeholders and beneficiaries of Onchocerciasis control in Mballa, Tilo, Bebedja, Lheur, and Doumgabo.
The General Assembly of the WHO Staff Association in Burkina (ASOB) was held on 27 March 2014 in the WHO/CO-ISTWA conference hall under the chairmanship of the Acting President, Dr François Sobela. Various activities and achievements drawn from the 2013 track record were highlighted. At social level: farewell parties, New Year wishes ceremony, support to colleagues for happy or unhappy events, setting up of the Country Office Cafeteria, developing a construction project for the APOC cafeteria. At the level of sports, leisure and culture, the following aspects have been highlighted: availability of a fitness room for ASOB members, yoga teaching, aerobics and hiking sessions, contribution to health promotion day, and a recreational trip.

It should also be noted the collaboration with sister Associations (FISCA) that contributed to the training of an ASOB member in Geneva in October 2012 on the procedures of legal recourse for the members of the United Nations Staff Associations. Along the same line, three other ASOB members were initiated to the method of the GS salary surveys in Ouagadougou in December 2013.

For the time being, challenges to be taken up are: collecting monthly membership contributions, payment of the salaries of sports instructors, and attendance to ASOB activities. Following the resignation of the President of ASOB in October 2013, the General Assembly authorized the Vice-President to play his role until the close of the Executive Board’s mandate at the end of June 2014.

The Representative of the WHO Office in Burkina Faso, who attended the meeting, commended the Executive Board for the efforts made and the achievements, while urging them to continue. The President thanked her for inviting ASOB to administrative activities such as the staff recruitment sessions and the New Year wishes to the Ministry of Health of Burkina Faso. ♦ Antoinette Ilboudo

As a reminder, although the country has had a Master Plan for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) control since 2012, it has not yet been implemented. While waiting for its effectiveness to be proven, the communication plan will first be used for Onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis control activities which the NOCP is responsible for.

Dance show in the Canton of Mballa

Family Spirit

Ordinary General Assembly of ASOB:
Looking for better well-being of the members

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Together, they laid the foundations for a better future