NGDOs in Ouagadougou
Reinforcing partnership to produce better results with limited resources

The Coordination Group of Non-Governmental Development Organizations (NGDOs) for onchocerciasis elimination started on 8th March 2014 in Ouagadougou a series of meetings organized by APOC, with the stakeholders of onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis (LF) elimination. On this occasion, the Director of the African Programme for onchocerciasis control (APOC) requested the NGDOs support for the elimination of both diseases despite the current budgetary constraints, while welcoming the members of the group on behalf of the Representative of the WHO Office in Burkina Faso.

Dr Jean-Baptiste Roungou highlighted how the governing bodies (Committee of the Sponsoring Agencies and the Joint Action Forum) were interested in getting better results at the end of the year, despite the significant budget gap. Therefore, onchocerciasis control treatment of 120 million people and an increase of 20% of the number of people treated against LF must be achieved by all means. More specifically, it should be constantly borne in mind that joint implementation of onchocerciasis and LF activities are not simply a theoretical issue but an objective that should be translated into facts.

Under the leadership of the Chair, Dr Frank Richard, the sessions were articulated around reviewing prior elimination activities and the challenges of the transition before the establishment of the new entity for onchocerciasis, LF and other preventive chemotherapy neglected tropical diseases control/elimination.

This two-day meeting hosted by APOC welcome representatives of twelve NGDOs, namely: Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW), Christoffel-Blindenmission (CBM), Helen Keller International (HKI), Mectizan Donation Program (MDP), Mission to Save the Helpless (MITOSATH) Organisation pour la prévention de la cécité (OPC), SightSavers International, the Carter Center, United Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, Seeing is Believing (IAPB) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

APOC was represented by the Director and some of its senior staff. 

March 8th 2014: International Women’ Day. Men presented APOC women with flowers. Thank you on behalf of these women for the gift!

Chief Editor: Jean-Baptiste Roungou
Advisor: Laurent Yaméogo
Editor: Thérèse Belombo
Translator: Augustin R. Kima
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