Onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis control stakeholders looking for harmonized and adapted response to the requirements for elimination

«Now is indeed the time for action. We need results. And especially more results!». It is with this appeal for general mobilization that the Director of the African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control (APOC) opened his remarks on 17 March 2014 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, at the review and planning meeting of the activities for the elimination of onchocerciasis and LF in Africa.

Before an audience of almost one hundred stakeholders and partners for the control of the two diseases mentioned above, Dr Jean-Baptiste Roungou described the challenges faced during the time of this meeting at this period of transition towards the establishment of a new entity. Six points were then noted including: the international community’s perception of the control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) as a major concern for development, the paradigm shift from control to elimination that requires close collaboration between the stakeholders of Onchocerciasis and LF and increased production of results, transparency in the management required by donors, the need for clear objectives from the start for reaching better results, the need for getting familiarized with the WHO Committal tool named “Direct Financial Cooperation” (DFC), and finally the urgent necessity to see all stakeholders actively participate in the efforts for the elimination of NTDs.

To respond to these expectations, there is need to avoid resistance to change and to adopt some alternative working methods, said the Director of the Programme.

The meeting hosted by APOC pays particular attention to a situational analysis; mapping and the way forward for years 2014 and 2015; onchocerciasis and LF epidemiological and entomological evaluations, and the development of national plans. 

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