Monatélé, a small town located on the left bank of the Sanaga River, the longest river in Cameroon, hosted the launching ceremony of the activities for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) control. This place was carefully chosen because, like in all riverside communes, it is where onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis and leprosy have made their home to a point of being of greatest concern to the Ministry of public health, Non-Governmental Development Organizations (NGDOs), and community leaders for almost two decades.

Opening the mass drug administration campaign for NTD control in 2014, Mr. André Mama Fouda called for the unity of the goodwill of all including populations themselves so that the elimination of these diseases should be quickly achieved in Cameroon. The Minister of health expressed his greatest gratitude to technical and financial partners for the control of these diseases for their dedication, with a special attention to community directed distributors, “weakest link but vitally indispensable” who, sometimes, benefit from funds collected from community members and from the donation of foodstuffs by NGDOs and communes. He, then, responded positively to the request formulated by the Mayor of Monatélé in his welcome remarks, by promising that the technical platform of the city’s district hospital will be rehabilitated.

The ceremony, which welcomed the Director of APOC alongside the WHO Representative in Cameroon, the NGDO coalition, national and international humanitarian organizations as well as administrative and traditional authorities, attracted a huge crowd, despite the rain prior to the event. The ceremony took end with the administration of drugs to some of the pupils gathered in great numbers in the venue of the event.

That same day, Dr Jean-Baptiste Roungou, Dr Charlotte Faty Ndiaye (WHO Representative), Mrs Anne Tarini (President of the Coalition of NGDOs) and some staff of APOC HQ, NOCP from Cameroon and the Democratic Republic Congo met with the community of Lenouck village, located at about a dozen of kilometers from Monatélé. Together, they shared their desire to overcome NTDs.