Oncho and LF Programme Managers in Ouagadougou to hold the torch of the fight at a very high level

The tenth meeting of the Coordinators of the National Onchocerciasis Control Programmes (NOCP) has been taking place since September 23, 2013 in Ouagadougou, at the African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control’s headquarters. As stated by the Director, Dr. Jean-Baptiste Roungou at the opening of the meeting, the annual meetings contribute to APOC performing well thanks to the discussions and sharing of experience that take place. That is why he invited the participants to hold the torch of the fight at a very high level.

This consultation, which will end on September 27, 2013, gathers together more than forty managers and their partners in the field from around thirty countries, working at the heart of the operations. The participants are working on key objectives such as the review of national performances relating to the implementation of CDTI, the review of treatment data of co-implementation, training, and the non-governmental development organizations and Governments’ contributions, the situational analysis of the activities across the borders, including their strengths and weaknesses, the review of epidemiological and entomological evaluations, the sharing of experiences between countries, and the preparation of national presentations for the December 2013 Joint Action Forum.

Dr. Mamadou Oumar Traoré, Coordinator of the NOCP- Mali, is the successor to the Coordinator of Tanzania, as Chair of this meeting. The meeting began with a presentation of a documentary movie on the strategy of community directed treatment with ivermectin, followed by explanations provided by Dr. Grace Fobi, head of the Sustainable Drug Distribution Unit.

In order to promote increased knowledge among the participants, the meeting welcomed two special guests: Dr. Alexandre Tiendrébéogo from WHO Africa Office and Dr. Mauricio Sauerbrey, Director of the Onchocerciasis Elimination Programme in the Americas. With the view of strengthening the development of the 2016-2025 Strategic Plan of the Programme, three consultants also joined the meeting. Representatives of SightSavers, Christoffel Blindenmission, the Carter Center, and OPC are also attending the meeting.

Country representatives and headquarters staff, moved by the same elimination goal
The meeting in pictures