

GLOBAL PLAN TO COMBAT NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES 2008–2015



“Neglected Tropical Diseases: Hidden successes, Emerging opportunities”

Goal

To prevent, control, eliminate or eradicate neglected tropical diseases towards achievement of health in the Millennium Development Goals.

Targets 2008–2015

To reduce significantly the burden of diseases for which effective, inexpensive or donated drugs are available for their prevention and control, such as onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis and yaws; and to make progress towards eradication of dracunculiasis and elimination of leprosy and lymphatic filariasis in line with resolutions of the World Health Assembly and WHO regional committees.

To ensure that interventions using new approaches are readily available, promoted and accessible for diseases for which cost-effective control tools do not exist and where large-scale use of existing tools is limited, such as Buruli ulcer, Chagas disease, dengue, human African trypanosomiasis and leishmaniasis.

Strategic areas

1. Assessing the burden of neglected tropical and zoonotic diseases
2. Developing multi-intervention packages for disease control
3. Strengthening national health-care systems and capacity building
4. Disseminating evidence for advocacy
5. Ensuring free and timely access to high-quality medicines and diagnostic and preventive tools
6. Improving access to innovation
7. Strengthening integrated vector management
8. Building partnerships & mobilizing resources
9. Promoting intersectoral and inter-programmatic approaches

Principles for action

- Existing health systems or infrastructures as a setting for interventions
- A coordinated response with other sectors such as education and agriculture
- Integration and equity
- Intensified control of diseases alongside pro-poor policies

Neglected tropical diseases: a symptom of poverty and disadvantage

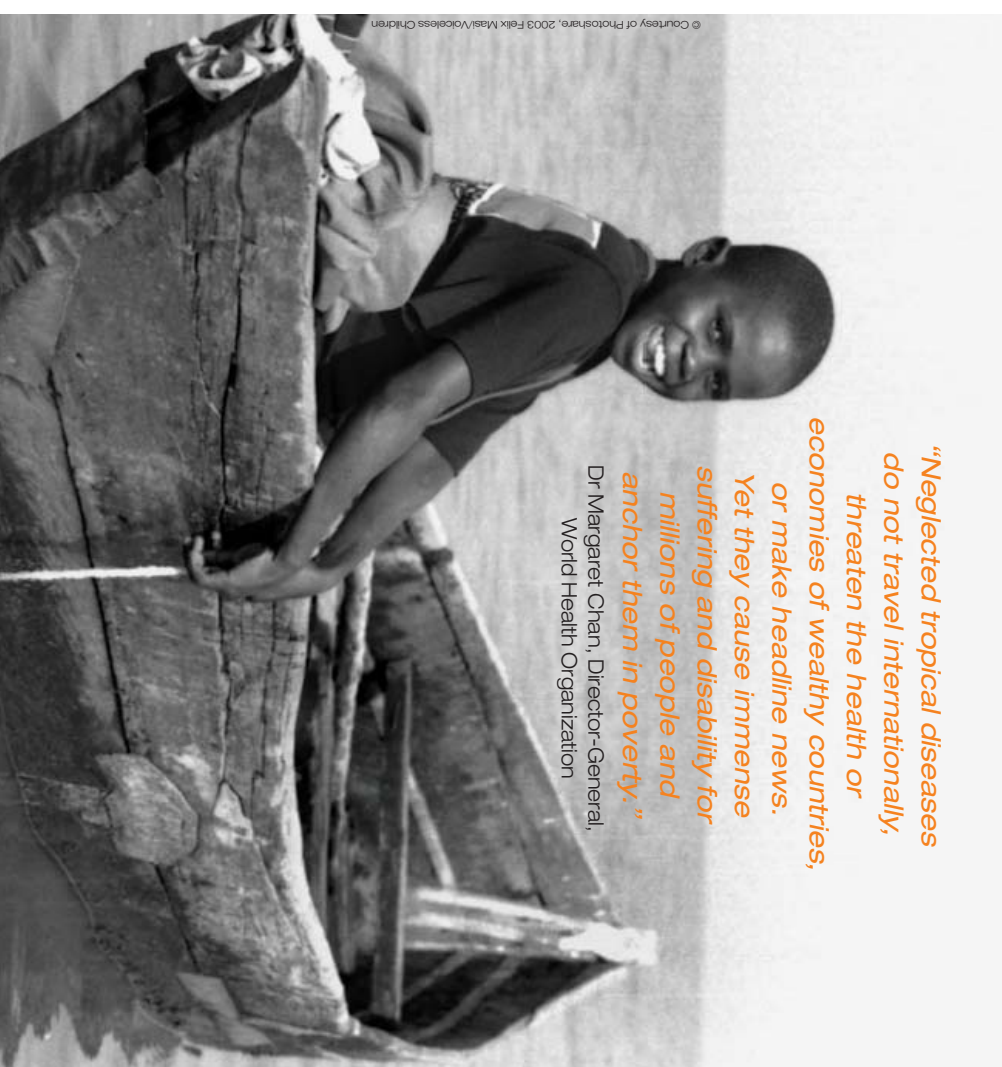
The communicable diseases of the poorest populations

- 1 billion people are infected, with 2 billion at risk in tropical and subtropical countries/areas.
- 100% of low-income countries are affected simultaneously by more than five diseases.
- Those most affected are the poorest, often living in remote rural areas, urban slums or in conflict zones.
- The diseases flourish under conditions linked to poverty – unsafe water, poor sanitation, substandard housing and reservoirs for insects and other disease vectors.
- Children and women are disproportionately affected and may suffer the consequences (severe physical pain, irreversible disability, gross disfigurement) for life. In some cases, death may result.
- Social stigmatization and discrimination compound these consequences.
- Many neglected tropical diseases can be prevented, eliminated or even eradicated simultaneously with improved access to a package of safe and cost-effective tools.

Diseases to be addressed within the Global Plan

The list of neglected tropical and zoonotic diseases is not exhaustive and has regional and national variations. Initially, WHO will focus on the following diseases: Buruli ulcer, Chagas disease, dracunculiasis, human African trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis, leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiases and yaws as well as zoonotic diseases such as anthrax, brucellosis, cysticercosis, echinococcosis and rabies.

The international community is increasingly paying attention to these diseases. Progress is advancing in unprecedented ways based on a foundation of ambitious international goals, proven interventions and a solid evidence base for achieving benefits for better health.



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“Neglected tropical diseases do not travel internationally, threaten the health or economies of wealthy countries, or make headline news. Yet they cause immense suffering and disability for millions of people and anchor them in poverty.”
Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General,
World Health Organization



**World Health
Organization**

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