TCC met in Ouagadougou to discuss APOC strategic and technical issues in the context of transition from APOC to PENDA

The 39th session of the Technical Consultative Committee (TCC) a statutory body of the African Programme for Onchocerciasis control (APOC), opened its session on 8 September 2014 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

In the five-day agenda, APOC activities Review and Planning meeting, Elimination of Onchocerciasis infection and interruption of transmission, Research on new control and surveillance tools by collaborating institutions and the Transitional Task Force (TTF) report, are key issues to be discussed during the session. In the context of transition, the meeting has been expanded to technical advisors and former directors.

Three new project proposals from Ethiopia, ten annual technical reports of 1st to 6th year of ongoing projects and forty five on line reports have been submitted to this TCC.

At the opening of the meeting, the TCC Chair, Prof. Mamoun Homeida, welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of this session taking place within a transition period.

In turn, Dr Jean-Baptiste Roungou, Director of APOC, welcomed all the participants and particularly hailed the attendance of OCP and APOC former directors, despite their busy schedules. He pointed out the fact that this session is taking place at “a critical point where APOC needs to tap on available expertise in Onchocerciasis and Lymphatic Filariasis as well as in other PC-NTDs to address technical issues faced now”. Finally, he briefed the meeting on matters arising from the 145th, 146th and 147th sessions of the Committee of Sponsoring Agencies (CSA). The issues basically concern the governance structure of PENDA (Programme for the Elimination of Neglected Diseases in Africa), the review of APOC management, the Transitional Task Force (TTF), the expanded CSA, the reduction of 2015 APOC budget, the refinement of the PENDA plan and budget, and the 20th Joint Forum Action (JAF 20), scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa from 8 to 12 December 2014.

Before the TCC session, APOC management invited some experts to a consultative meeting to discuss how to operationalize alternative treatment strategies during the 2014-2015 period in problem areas in order to accelerate elimination of onchocerciasis and Lymphatic Filariasis.

During this meeting, algorithms for decision making were developed, the problem areas categorized and alternative treatment strategies identified for each type of area.

The outcomes from this meeting will be shared with the TCC.
Meeting in pictures

Prof. Mamoun Homeida  
TCC Chair

Dr Jean Baptiste Rougou  
APOC Director

Dr Yankum K. Dadzie  
OCP Former Director

Dr Azodoga Sékétéli,  
APOC Former Director

Dr Uche V. Amazigo  
APOC Former Director

APOC Director with former Directors

A view of some participants