Terms of Reference
STAG-NTD Working Group on Monitoring, Evaluation and Research (WG-MER)

Mission -- Develop a framework and monitor and evaluate the progress made against the NTD road map 2021-30, and identify gaps requiring further research.

Background and Rationale

The WHO Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases manages a diverse portfolio of around twenty diseases, each with its own unique epidemiology and programmatic challenges. The last decade has seen significant progress in the battle against NTDs–including the development and delivery of new preventive measures and interventions, the expansion of donor support, the establishment of new strategies and guidelines, and the strengthening of NTD-related structures, collaboration and country-level commitment.

While substantive progress has been made on various fronts, not all the 2020 targets are likely to be met, and the road to eliminating and controlling NTDs is not over. Learnings from the past decade show further action is required across the full scope of 20 diseases and along particular dimensions. These include the development of new interventions, diagnostic methods and tools; operational and implementation research; programme management and delivery; effective surveillance, monitoring and evaluation; and adequate financing mechanisms for each disease and for cross-cutting approaches.

WHO is now in the process of developing the next 10 years road map from 2021-2030. The roadmap outlines specific and measurable 2030 targets and interim milestones (for 2023 and 2025) related to the eradication, elimination and control of each of the 20 diseases, as well as cross-cutting targets aligned to WHO’s 13th General Programme of Work and the SDGs. This roadmap seeks to encourage three fundamental shifts in the approach to tackling NTDs. Firstly, increased accountability for impact by using impact indicators instead of process indicators. Secondly, programmatic approaches that move away from siloed, disease-specific programmes towards cross-cutting perspectives centered around people and community needs in the context of UHC and lastly, greater programme ownership on behalf of countries.

Monitoring and Evaluation was noted to be one of the 4 major gaps cutting across multiple diseases as well for tracking and reporting on the progress being made both globally as well as by endemic countries.


There have been substantial advancements on monitoring and evaluation of NTD programmes over the past 10 years, notably a positive culture change, vital advancements in the development of integrated tools in response to national programme needs, revision and development of new standardized disease-specific guidance. However, some critical gaps remain, such as the mainstreaming of monitoring and evaluation of NTDs into national health information systems and the development of a coherent and comprehensive framework embracing all NTDs.
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The WG-MER will aim to attain the following main roles and functions:

- Provide advice to the STAG-NTD and the NTD Department on standardized definitions of the overarching and cross-cutting indicators; Coordinating efforts to identify, prioritise and provide technical advice on critical monitoring, evaluation and research actions to address gaps and support reporting on the global indicators outlined in the NTD Road map 2021 – 2030.
- Review and standardize tools for reporting on the indicators, their base-line values for 2020 and subsequent annual figures
- Identify gaps in the current knowledge and understanding of the NTD road map indicators and advise the Department on how to fill the knowledge gaps
- Advise the Department on the use of modelling to forecast progress and macro level programmatic decisions to meet the 2030 goals and targets.
- Advise the Department on the state of art tools for data visualisation for widest and easy access of analysed information for decision making and information sharing
- Promote inter-programmatic learning on best practices for integration and mainstreaming of M&E for NTD programmes into national health information systems.
- Facilitating inter-agency and inter-sectoral interactions and technical collaborations for innovation to harness the potential of other information systems and surveillance platforms to complement or supplement M&E for NTD programmes.
- Review the Work of any sub-group established by the WG-MER for a particular purpose.