

ENVISION TECHNICAL BRIEF SERIES

Health Systems Strengthening

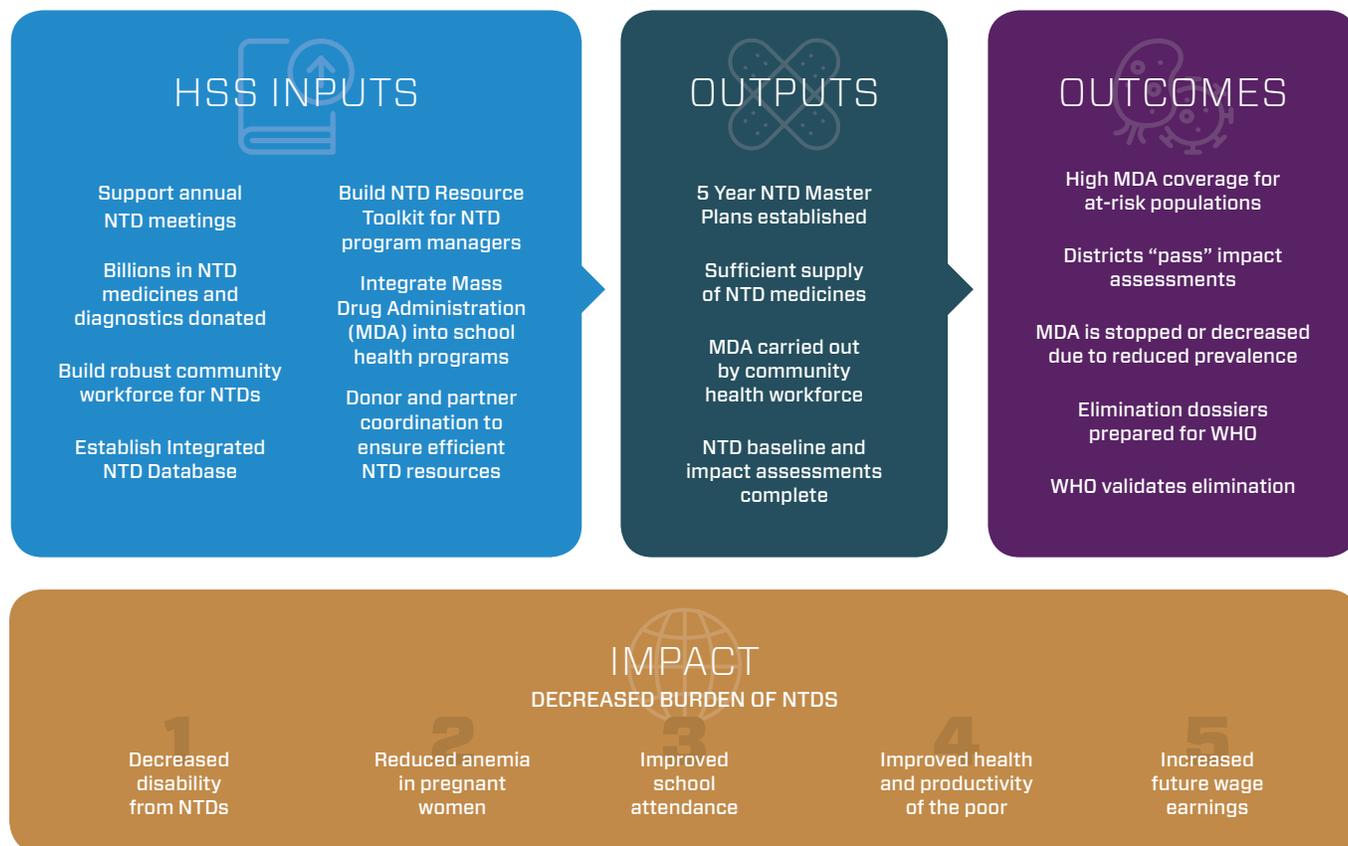
FOR THE CONTROL AND ELIMINATION OF NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) represent a group of diverse diseases that cause significant morbidity and mortality worldwide. More than 1 billion people – one – sixth of the world’s population – suffer from one or more NTDs. These diseases affect the world’s most vulnerable populations, almost exclusively poor and powerless people living in rural areas and urban slums of low-income countries. Their impact on individuals and communities is devastating. Many of them cause severe disfigurement and disabilities, including blindness.

A coordinated global effort to control and eliminate NTDs by 2020 is being led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and ministries of health with unprecedented support from pharmaceutical companies, donors such as USAID, and non-profit organizations. As we move closer to global targets, **strong national health**

systems will be critical to ensure progress towards NTD control and elimination not only accelerates but is sustainable – recognizing that these targets can only be met with health systems that can successfully prevent, detect, and treat NTDs.

USAID’S ENVISION project provides technical assistance to national NTD programs working towards 2020 targets for NTD control and elimination, as outlined in the WHO Roadmap for Implementation¹. To support national NTD programs in achieving these ambitious targets, **ENVISION uses a health systems approach**. Through a health systems strengthening (HSS) lens, we see how the global NTD community is strengthening institutions and catalyzing lasting transformations in health systems to achieve impact through the decreased burden of NTDs.



¹ Accelerating work to overcome the global impact of neglected tropical diseases - A roadmap for implementation. World Health Organization. 2012.

ENVISION works across each WHO HSS building block, built on the WHO HSS Framework that was developed in 2010 as a blueprint to strengthen institutions that transform a country's health system and lead to improved health outcomes.

ALIGNMENT OF ENVISION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH WHO BUILDING BLOCKS FOR HSS

WHO Building Block for HSS	ENVISION Technical Assistance
 <p>Leadership and Governance</p>	<p>ENVISION Objective: Country leadership in NTD programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the MOH to lead annual work planning • National coordinating committees ensuring NTDs not only have a Master plan but that NTDs are reflected in the broader health sector development plan and budget • Participates in global partnerships for NTD advocacy through the WHO Global Forums and collaboration for management of NTD global forums
 <p>Healthcare Financing</p>	<p>ENVISION Objective: Efficient use of donor resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of the Tool for Integrated Planning and Costing (TIPAC), a tool to forecast NTD program costs and funding gaps • Supports MOH coordination of partners for implementation of comprehensive NTD programs • Facilitates advocacy for domestic NTD resource mobilization
 <p>Health Workforce</p>	<p>ENVISION Objective: Increased access to WHO guidelines and tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional and country capacity building for WHO Integrated NTD Database and Data Quality Assessment Tool • Establishment of the NTD Toolbox, an online repository of the most-used NTD tools and resources for national NTD programs • Supervision of MDA and disease-specific assessments
 <p>Access to Medical Products and Technologies</p>	<p>ENVISION Objective: Availability of medicines at points of distribution; diagnostics for impact assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverages global donation programs and assists with timely application for donated medicines and diagnostics • Post-MDA coverage surveys to understand drug stock-outs • Procures diagnostics for impact assessments and surveillance activities • Operations research for new NTD diagnostics • Ensure reverse supply chain and physical inventory counts following MDA campaigns
 <p>Health Information Systems</p>	<p>ENVISION Objective: Quality data for decision making and tracking progress towards elimination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline mapping of NTDs • Supports MOH to set up a national Integrated NTD Database with up-to-date information on disease prevalence and programmatic coverage • Supports preparation of LF and/or trachoma elimination dossier • Use of WHO's Tropical Data, an end-to-end epidemiological survey support and training service
 <p>Service Delivery</p>	<p>ENVISION Objective: Ensure that everyone who needs treatment, gets it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of existing platforms for drug distribution • Promotes of integrated approaches for training, drug administration and assessments where feasible • Promotes collection of sex-disaggregated data in reporting forms • Supports expansion of MDA to all endemic districts • Aims to achieve sufficient MDA program/epidemiological coverage in all treated districts, as defined by WHO

Moving forward, ENVISION will retain a keen focus on health systems strengthening to erase the burden of neglected tropical diseases. In FY16 alone², ENVISION supported the distribution of 291 million treatments to 144 million people and supported training of more than 715,000 community drug distributors across 13 countries. To date, 165.5 million people are no longer at risk for lymphatic filariasis (LF) and 61.3 million people are no longer at risk for trachoma in ENVISION-supported countries.

Together with the global NTD community, we will continue our resolute ambition to remove the burden of NTDs by building strong health systems and paving the way for healthier and stronger communities.

² FY16 includes Oct 2015 – Sept 2016