



22 October 2020

The Mectizan® Donation Program (MDP) is pleased to announce a Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA (Merck)-sponsored grant opportunity for non-profit organization (NGO) partners working to eliminate onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis (LF). The grant opportunity supports funding needs to mitigate the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 when implementing mass drug administration (MDA) with Mectizan in communities endemic for onchocerciasis and LF.

Specifically, this grant opportunity supports the implementation of the World Health Organization's (WHO's) [recommended precautionary measures](#) and national policies to decrease the risk of the spread of SARS-CoV-2 during MDA activities to eliminate onchocerciasis and LF.

Merck & Co., Inc., the manufacturer and donor of Mectizan, is making funds available in the amount of \$30,000 per proposal to NGO partners that are part of the NGO Coordination Group for Onchocerciasis Elimination and/or LF NGO Network.

Applications will be considered by a sub-committee of the Mectizan Expert Committee, an independent body of experts established by Merck to provide technical oversight of MDP.

Priority for funding will be given to programs:

- With existing funding to implement the MDA
- That design a SARS-CoV-2 transmission mitigation plan that aligns with WHO and country specific policies
- Unable to raise additional sufficient resources to implement the SARS-CoV-2 transmission mitigation plan

Application Instructions:

1. Please provide a brief statement of why your organization is applying for this grant and how the project conforms to the priorities stated above.
2. Please describe the activity that will be supported by the grant, including the country where the activity will be implemented, population to be served, and expected timeline for implementation.
3. Please describe the SARS-CoV-2 transmission mitigation activities that will be implemented and indicators of success.

4. Please describe how community drug distributors and other program personnel will be protected from COVID-19 transmission (e.g. provision of personal protective equipment) and any training activities.
5. Please share other sources of funding for the planned MDA and detail the remaining funding needs.
6. Please describe how you intend to work with the local government, involve communities and ensure information, education, and communication is provided on the SARS-CoV-2 transmission mitigation plan.
7. Please attach a general budget indicating how the funds will be used (e.g. PPE, training, transportation, hand-washing stations, etc.)
8. Please forward completed applications to:

Ms. Joni Lawrence
Mectizan Donation Program
325 Swanton Way
30030 Decatur, Georgia USA

Email: JLawrence@taskforce.org
Phone: +1-404-687-5610

Approved proposals will be subject to a grant agreement between the Task Force for Global Health and the grant recipient specifying the conditions, timeframe, disbursement schedule, and reporting requirements.