

## ***Governments and private donors pledge US\$812 million around five-day summit in Geneva; Wo***

GENEVA, Switzerland, April 19, 2017/ -- This week, leaders from governments, pharmaceutical compa

The meeting comes five [years after the launch of the](http://APO.af/5jKHBH) ( <http://APO.af/5jKHBH> ), a commitment b

NTDs are some of the oldest and most painful diseases, afflicting the world's poorest communities. One

### **New Report Shows Dramatic Progress**

A new report titled [Integrating Neglected Tropical Diseases in Global Health and Development](http://APO.af/GaR2bN) ( <http://APO.af/GaR2bN> ) by the WHO rev

“WHO has observed record-breaking progress towards bringing ancient scourges like sleeping sickness

The report detailed progress against each disease, citing countries and regions that are reaching contr

- **Lymphatic filariasis (LF) reaching toward elimination** (Cambodia, Cook Islands, Maldives, Mars
- **Fewest-ever cases of human African trypanosomiasis (HAT) in sleeping sickness** (the amyl
- **Eighty-two percent decrease in visceral leishmaniasis (VL) cases in India, Nepal and Bangla**
- **Guinea worm disease nearing eradication** Guinea worm disease have reduced from an estimated 3.5 millio

### **Global Donors Pledge Additional Support**

Governments and other [The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](http://APO.af/5jKHBH) committed \$835 million in grants over the

“NTDs are some of the most painful, debilitating and stigmatizing diseases that affect the world's poorest

“Thanks to this partnership, these neglected diseases are now getting the attention they deserve so few

The Belgian government also pledged an additional \$27 million, spread equally over the next nine year

As part of its commitment to eliminating HAT, Vestergaard pledged to donate 20 percent of its insectici

These commitments build on the UK Government's announcement earlier this week, in which it pledged

## Industry Contributions Expand Scale and Reach of NTD Program

Progress against NTDs has been enabled by the large-scale donation of medicines by 10 pharmaceutical companies.

In a [statement](#) ( <http://APO.af/55buit> ) released today, industry leaders said:

“The London Declaration is a powerful example of the impact of strong partnerships and shared commitment to ending NTDs.”

In addition to donations, pharmaceutical companies are [working together](#) ( <http://APO.af/55buit> ) with academic and public health institutions to develop new medicines and improve delivery systems.

- Sanofi and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases (DND) have agreed to jointly develop and distribute a new oral treatment for lymphatic filariasis.
- Several companies are working to develop pediatric formulations of existing NTD medicines, including ivermectin, albendazole, and diethylcarbamazine.
- AbbVie, Bayer, Eisai, Johnson & Johnson and Merck KGaA are part of the Macrofilaricide Drug Accelerator Program.
- Bayer is working with DND to develop emodepside, an oral treatment for lymphatic filariasis.
- Eisai is working with DND to develop ravuconazole, a new oral drug currently in phase 2 clinical trials for onchocerciasis.
- GlaxoSmithKline and DND have agreed to jointly pursue the pre-clinical development of a new oral treatment for onchocerciasis.
- In 2015, Eisai, Shionogi, Takeda, AstraZeneca and DND launched the [NTD Drug Accelerator Program](#).

### Discovery Booster

<http://APO.af/bbHZQG>

- Many companies – including AbbVie, AstraZeneca, Bayer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene, ChemoCentryx, Eisai, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Merck KGaA, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, Takeda, and Vertex – are working with DND to develop new medicines and improve delivery systems.
- Gilead is collaborating with the US Department of Defense, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and DND to develop a new oral treatment for onchocerciasis.

Companies are also working with partners to solve supply chain problems, develop program strategies, and improve community engagement.

## Addressing the Challenges Ahead

Though tremendous progress has been made in reducing the burden of NTDs, global control and elimination remain a challenge.

### Financial Resources

Although nearly a billion people received NTD treatments in 2015, more funding is needed to ensure that everyone has access to the medicines and services they need.

In addition to government funding, private philanthropy is helping to address these gaps by supporting research, development, and delivery of new medicines and services.

### Political Commitment

Strong leadership from affected countries is vital to sustaining progress against NTDs, particularly in the areas of financing, policy, and implementation.

“Ethiopia is fully committed to realizing ambitious, yet achievable, elimination targets for trachoma and onchocerciasis,” said the Minister of Health.

### New Tools and Innovations

The <http://APO.af/oloCnt>  
[NTD Summit](http://APO.af/oloCnt)  
<http://APO.af/mEY60y>

## About Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases:

Established in 2012, [atNTDs.org](http://atNTDs.org) ([Uniting to Combat NTDs](http://UnitingToCombatNTDs.org) (<http://UnitingToCombatNTDs.org>) is a group of org

The 10 diseases covered by the (London Declaration included [http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009\\_05\\_14/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009_05_14/en/)) Guinea v

### About the London Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases:

The [London Declaration on NTDs](http://APO.af/O) ( )