

THE KIGALI DECLARATION ON NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES: 2022-2024 PROGRESS REPORT



**MOBILISING POLITICAL WILL,
COMMUNITY COMMITMENT,
RESOURCES AND ACTION TO END NTDs**

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OCTOBER 2024

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What is the Kigali Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases?

The Kigali Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) was launched at the Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDs on 23rd June 2022, which was held alongside the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and hosted by the Government of Rwanda.



The Declaration was announced by H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and then Chair-in-Office of CHOGM, in front of Heads of State, global influencers, CEOs, philanthropists, and community champions, many of whom had already endorsed the Declaration.

The Kigali Declaration on NTDs is a high-level political declaration that is mobilising political will, community commitment, resources, and action, securing the commitments needed to end the suffering caused by NTDs. At the time of its launch, it galvanised the largest collective financial pledge towards NTDs, amounting to US\$1.5 billion and 18 billion donated tablets / units of medicine from governments, pharmaceutical companies, and NGOs.



As we reach the change in Chair-in-Office of CHOGM, this report provides a timely overview of the progress achieved since the Declaration's launch. It highlights the momentum generated by increased global support and financing, especially within the African continent, where leadership and commitment have been pivotal. Over the past two years, significant strides have been made, positioning the global NTD community better than ever to build on this progress and accelerate efforts toward a world free from NTDs.

Why is the Kigali Declaration important?

The Kigali Declaration has emerged as a pivotal milestone in the global effort to combat NTDs, significantly amplifying advocacy and action. By uniting high-profile leaders and stakeholders around a common cause, the Declaration has elevated the visibility of NTDs on the international stage. This heightened awareness has not only attracted unprecedented levels of global attention and support, but has also energised a worldwide movement dedicated to eliminating these diseases. The Kigali Declaration has also reinforced the Continental Framework on Neglected Tropical Diseases and the Common African Position, frameworks providing guidance and recommendations on how to best control and eliminate NTDs to member states in Africa, to ensure a unified and robust approach to tackling NTDs on the continent.

High-visibility, people-centred declarations like the Kigali Declaration play a crucial role in generating demand for prioritising NTDs within endemic countries. When nations see their peers making tangible progress against NTDs and being celebrated for their actions and commitments, it sparks ambition and motivation to join the fight. This peer-driven encouragement fosters a collaborative environment where countries are inspired to increase action and investment to fight NTDs.

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“It is only through country leadership and ownership that we can truly end these diseases. I commit to offer my full support and call on world leaders to commit and endorse the Kigali Declaration on NTDs.”

**H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President,
United Republic of Tanzania**

However, convincing new as well as existing donors to prioritise NTDs remains a significant challenge without visible leadership from affected countries. The Declaration underscores the continued importance of country leaders in raising the profile of NTDs, as their active participation signals a strong commitment to tackling these diseases. By steering national action, dedicating national resources, and calling for increased external funding, leaders not only address the health needs of their populations but also make a compelling case to the international community.

The growing political commitment to the Kigali Declaration has galvanised unprecedented action. The expanded engagement from the 54 Commonwealth member states has solidified the Declaration’s role as a catalyst for global action. As the 2030 deadline for SDG3 approaches, the Kigali Declaration remains as relevant as ever, continuing to garner new commitments and providing the framework for resource mobilisation, political will and co-ordinated action at national, regional and global levels.

“Investing in NTD elimination programmes creates a ripple effect in society. It leads to better education, health and employment outcomes. It transforms lives and our communities. It helps reduce gender inequity and stigma. That is why I am proud to endorse the Kigali Declaration on NTDs.”

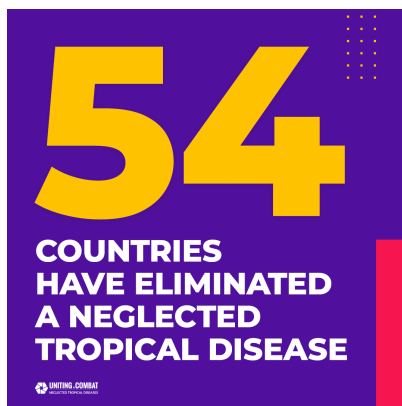
**Hon. Nana Akufo-Addo,
President of Ghana**



Progress and Political Commitment

Global Milestones

Significant progress has been made in combating NTDs. In 2022, over 1.6 billion people required interventions against NTDs, a 26% reduction from 2010, when 2.19 billion people required treatment. While this is a significant achievement, it is clear that more efforts are needed to meet the 2030 target of a 90% reduction in the number of people requiring interventions, as outlined in the WHO NTD road map for 2021-2030¹. Despite this, the progress made thus far lays a solid foundation for accelerated action toward global elimination targets.



A total of 54 countries have successfully eliminated at least one NTD, pushing the world more than halfway toward the WHO roadmap target of eliminating NTDs in 100 countries by 2030. In 2024, seven countries have successfully eliminated a NTD, including Jordan which became the first country to eliminate leprosy. Also, Pakistan, Viet Nam and India achieved the elimination of trachoma as a public health problem, bringing India's total NTD eliminations to three. This accomplishment places India among only five countries globally that have eliminated three and four NTDs, a huge achievement.

African Region Successes

The African continent has played a central role in driving the global fight against NTDs. Since 2010, the number of people requiring interventions against NTDs across Africa has decreased by 35 million. This impressive reduction is due to sustained efforts from African governments, international donors, and local communities.

A total of 22 countries in Africa have eliminated at least one NTD, with several countries having eliminated up to four NTDs. The impact of elimination has a ripple effect, as some countries have gone on to eliminate multiple NTDs. For example, Togo became the first country globally to eliminate four NTDs: Guinea worm disease, lymphatic filariasis, sleeping sickness (also known as human African trypanosomiasis), and trachoma. Benin has



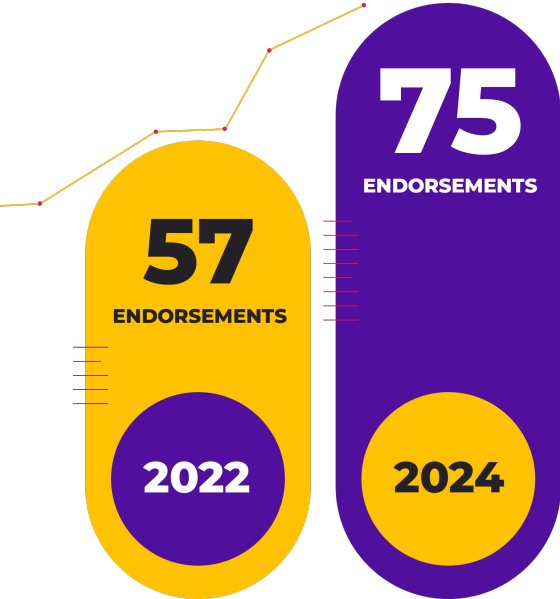
¹ Ending the neglect to attain the Sustainable Development Goals: A road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030

eliminated three NTDs: Guinea worm disease, sleeping sickness, and trachoma. These accomplishments reflect the strength of political will, robust community engagement, and the strategic use of resources in public health interventions across the continent.

Additionally, sleeping sickness is on the verge of elimination across Africa. Since 2019, fewer than 1,000 cases have been reported annually. Eight countries have successfully eliminated sleeping sickness as a public health problem, with Rwanda achieving this milestone in 2022. This remarkable progress illustrates the potential for even more countries to achieve elimination status in the coming years.

Political Endorsements

Since the launch of the Kigali Declaration on NTDs, political endorsements have continued to grow, reinforcing the global commitment to eliminate NTDs by 2030. At the time of the Summit in 2022, 57 partners had endorsed the Declaration. As of October 2024, this number has increased to 75 endorsements, marking a significant expansion of global and regional support.



Among these, 11 endemic countries had endorsed the Kigali Declaration at the time of the Summit. Since then, three more countries, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, and Guatemala have added their endorsements. This growing number of country endorsements, particularly from endemic regions, reflects a critical shift toward increased country ownership and leadership by affected countries in the fight against NTDs. Notably, more Heads of State from endemic countries have endorsed the Declaration than donor countries, underscoring the shift towards stronger country-led initiatives.



In addition to national commitments, endorsements by sectors that work across NTDs show a broad range of support:

KIGALI DECLARATION ENDORSEMENTS BY SECTOR

Sector	Number of endorsements
Academic and Research	8
Donor Country Governments	8
Philanthropists/Foundations	2
Multilateral Organisations	3
NTD Endemic Country Governments	14
Non-governmental, Civil Society and Community-based Organisations	32
Industry and Private Sector Organisations	8
Total	75

This diverse coalition demonstrates the growing recognition of the importance of multisectoral collaboration in the global effort to eliminate NTDs.

A crucial element driving this progress is the strong political will and leadership emerging from Africa. Rwanda, as host of the 26th CHOGM and the Kigali Summit in 2022, has played a pivotal role in galvanising momentum. Under the auspices of the African Union, African Heads of State have endorsed both the Kigali Declaration on NTDs and the Continental Framework, which envisions a continent free of NTDs by 2030. This Framework provides clear guidance on the strategies that need to be implemented to achieve this goal, supported by the Common African Position, which outlines Africa's approach to addressing NTDs.

Financing

KIGALI DECLARATION FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS BY SECTOR

Sector	US\$ Value of Commitments
Academic and Research	136
Donor Country Governments	438
Industry and Private Sector Organisations	205
Philanthropists/Foundations	442
Non-governmental, Civil Society and Community-based Organisations	408
NTD Endemic Country Governments	23
Total	1.7 billion

AT THE TIME OF THE KIGALI SUMMIT, US\$1.5 BILLION OF FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS WERE ADDED. TWO YEARS LATER, THIS FIGURE STANDS AT US\$1.7 BILLION

2022

US\$1.5
BILLION

2024

US\$1.7
BILLION

KIGALI DECLARATION COMMITMENTS IN US\$ BY SECTOR

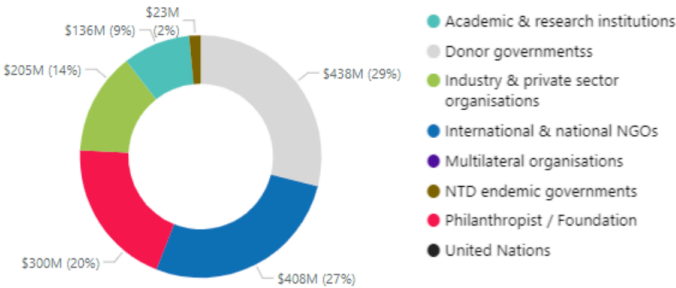


Chart displayed on the Kigali Declaration Commitment Tracker dashboard.

Increased financial commitments needed to sustain progress through 2030

While substantial commitments have been made through the Kigali Declaration to achieve the targets outlined in the WHO NTD road map for 2021-2030¹, financial commitments made for 2021 through 2024 account for 81% (US\$1.3 billion) of the total commitments projected through to 2030 – meaning that only 19% of these funds are available for 2025 through 2030. Increasing commitments over the next six years is critical continued progress².

COMMITTED FINANCIAL RESOURCES ALREADY MADE THROUGH 2030



We encourage existing endorsers to sustain or increase their commitment towards NTDs year-on-year and continue to update their data via the Kigali Declaration Commitment Tracker Commitment Tracker. This will allow the NTD community and beyond to see a clear picture of financial flows and resource allocation covering the second half of the NTD road map period, to help identify gaps that need addressing to meet 2030 elimination targets.

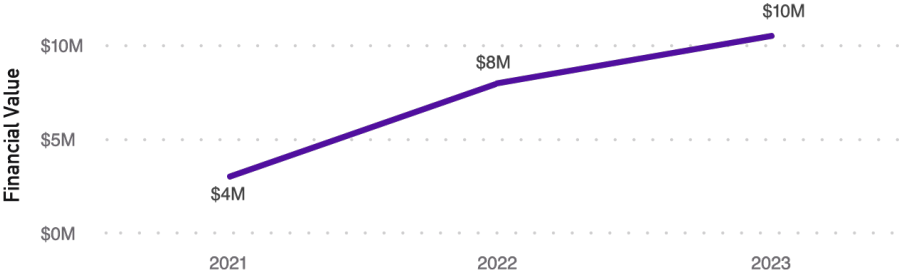
² Partners contribute both retrospective and forward-looking data to the Tracker. Partners are encouraged to update the Tracker annually with revised and new commitments. For some partners, such as NGOs, the addition of commitments for future years is more straightforward compared to other partner groups.

Endemic Country Government Commitments

Five endemic country governments have made commitments towards NTDs totalling **US\$23.3 million**, these are: Ethiopia, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Vanuatu.

BREAKDOWN OF ENDEMIC COUNTRY GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS	Financial	US\$18.9 m
	Health product	US\$754 k
	In-kind	US\$3,6 m
	Policy	US\$23 k
	Total	US\$23.3 million

Generally, endemic countries record their NTD commitment data on the Tracker retrospectively, aligning it with government expenditures³. Financial commitments from endemic countries have shown a positive trend between 2021 and 2023, reflecting their dedication to eliminating NTDs.



- In **2021**, the financial commitment was **US\$4 million**.
- This amount doubled in **2022**, reaching **US\$8 million**.
- By **2023**, the commitment further increased to **US\$10 million**.

This trend highlights the growing investment and commitment from countries towards achieving targets set out in the WHO NTD road map 2030. Sustaining and increasing domestic resourcing is crucial for stronger country ownership and long-term sustainability.

³ In future years, Uniting will collaborate with governments to add forward-looking approved/appropriated budgets to the Commitment Tracker. However, this may not be feasible.

Examples of types of commitments made by endemic country governments include:

Financial Contributions:

- **Salaries and Support:** Funding directed towards the salaries of national personnel and regional healthcare workers dedicated to the NTD programme. This also includes essential office equipment and technical support.
- **Advocacy & Communication:** Efforts to eliminate NTDs are bolstered by robust advocacy and communication strategies.

Health Products:

- **Procurement and Management:** Countries are investing in the procurement and management of drugs and diagnostics. This also covers tax exemptions and importation fees, making these vital health products more accessible.

In-Kind Contributions:

- **Education and Outreach:** Activities such as behavioural change education, outreach, micro-planning, and mapping. Stakeholder and cross-sector coordination to ensure unified and effective efforts.
- **NTD Interventions:** These include district supervision, surveillance, active case finding, and the development of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plans and protocols.

Policy Initiatives:

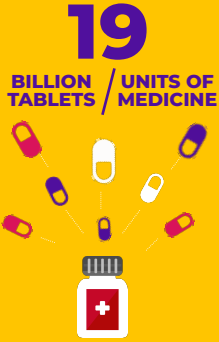
- **Cross-Ministerial Agreements:** Policies to enhance Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives. Agreements to eliminate profit margins on essential serums and vaccines, including those for rabies, to improve access.
- **National Coordination:** Policies are also focusing on establishing national multi-sectoral coordination platforms and committee structures to streamline efforts and maximize impact.

Pharmaceutical Industry Contributions

Elimination of NTDs is achievable when partners come together to prioritize and invest in them, and a key player in this effort is the pharmaceutical industry.

Through large-scale drug donation programmes, significant financial and other commitments, and investment in R&D, the pharmaceutical industry is helping accelerate progress against NTDs. In particular, drug donation programmes provided by the pharmaceutical industry provide essential medicines that are critical for both treating and preventing a range of NTDs. National governments use these donated medicines in mass drug administration (MDA) interventions, ensuring that millions of people receive lifechanging treatments to help break the cycle of transmission of NTDs.





The pharmaceutical industry and other partners donating medicines to NTDs include AbbVie, Bayer AG, Eiken Chemical Company Ltd, Eisai Co. Ltd, Fundacion Mundo Sano, Gilead, Global Access Diagnostics, GSK, Johnson & Johnson, Medicines Development for Global Health, Merck & Co. (MSD), Merck KGaA, Novartis, Pfizer, and Sanofi.

At the time of the Kigali Summit, 18 billion tablets / units of medicine were donated by pharmaceutical companies for preventing and treating NTDs. In the two years since the launch of the Declaration, an additional 1 billion tablets / units of medicine have been entered into the Tracker, bringing the total to 19 billion.



In addition, the pharmaceutical industry has further committed financial and in-kind donations for the period of 2021 and 2030, currently amounting to **US\$182 million**. These additional contributions support the work of the WHO and other partners.

This includes the [GSK announcement on World NTD Day 2023](#).

“GSK is further extending its donation commitment for soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH) to 2030, a disease which affects more than 1.6 billion people per year, predominantly from the most underserved communities. Alongside an ongoing commitment to donate our medicines until Lymphatic Filariasis is eliminated as a public health problem everywhere, we will donate up to 100 million doses for STH per year from 2026 to 2030. At GSK, we remain 100% committed to ending NTDs in alignment with the WHO road map.”

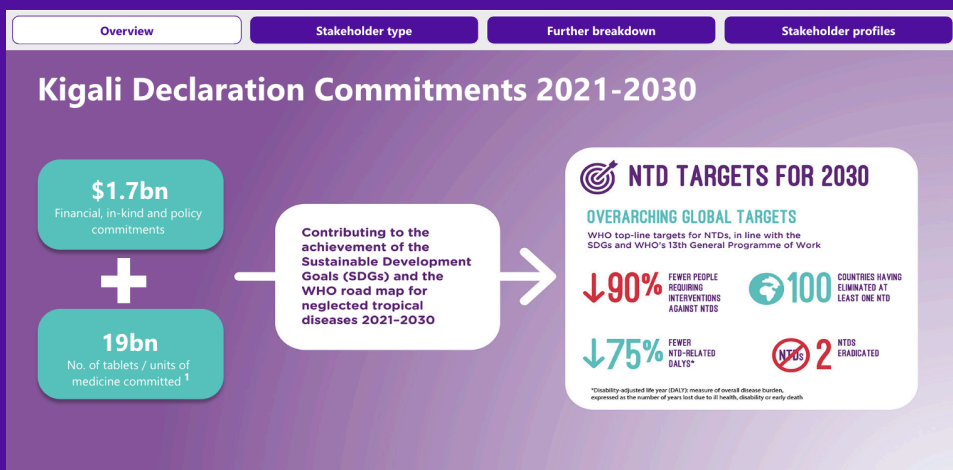
Tijana Williams MBA MPH, Director Albendazole Donation Programs, Global Health Access, GSK

Tracking Commitments

What is the Kigali Declaration Commitment Tracker?

A critical tool in the global NTD elimination effort is the [Kigali Declaration Commitment Tracker](#). This innovative, public-facing accountability mechanism is the only financing tracker specifically designed for NTDs, making it a key resource for tracking commitments and driving further investments. This online platform was developed to capture, track and monitor the commitments made by governments, NGOs, industry and private sector organisations, and other key stakeholders in the NTD space. It plays a pivotal role in ensuring that the Kigali Declaration is actionable and implementable as well as transparent and accountable, allowing stakeholders to see how resources are being invested in NTD programs and to hold Kigali Declaration endorsers accountable for their pledges.

Since its launch, the Commitment Tracker has enabled partners within the NTD community to understand the volume and distribution of resources dedicated to NTD programmes. It serves as an essential tool for advocates who need to stay informed on donor commitments, leverage on real-time data to push for additional investments, and ensure accountability of stakeholders on both new and existing commitments.



73
PARTNERS
COMMITTED

To date, 73 partners have entered their commitments into the platform, each maintaining full ownership and control over their commitment data. The core principle of the Tracker is partner data ownership, enabling stakeholders to directly manage, update, and adjust their information as needed.⁴

Looking ahead, the Commitment Tracker holds significant potential to inform strategic decisions in NTD elimination efforts. By providing a clear picture of financial flows and resource allocation, the Tracker has the ability to identify gaps that need addressing to meet the 2030 elimination targets. As the tool develops further, and partners continue to update their commitments, it has the potential to become the premier accountability mechanism for the NTD sector.

NTD partners are encouraged to actively use the Commitment Tracker, entering their new / updated commitments from 2024 and beyond. By doing so, they can contribute to a growing body of evidence that highlights progress and identifies areas for future investment. The Tracker's ability to consolidate commitments across sectors ensures that NTD elimination efforts are coordinated, visible, and on track to meet global elimination targets.

⁴ The underpinning principle of the Tracker is partner data ownership. While Uniting to Combat NTDs undertakes a validation process for each commitment, at times partners revisit their data and adjust and update their data this can result in fluctuating totals.

Tracking NTD commitments: Tanzania's perspective



President of Tanzania, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan signing and endorsing the Kigali Declaration on NTDs

The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Dr Samia Hassan, endorsed the Kigali Declaration for NTDs in January 2022.

Dr Clarer Jones, NTD Programme Manager, Ministry of Health, Tanzania shared how this endorsement has supported NTD progress in the country, increasing the recognition of the NTD burden and building political will at all levels.

This has resulted in increased budget allocation for interventions aiming to eliminate NTDs and further commitments being made including towards the [Reaching the Last Mile Fund at COP28 in December 2023](#).

Collecting and inputting data for the Commitment Tracker has supported this process, as Dr Clarer outlines:

“At the country level, we have benefited from the tool a lot. The tracker has helped the programme to analyse the contribution of the government in sustaining NTD interventions, as well as the gaps to ensure that we have sustainable financing. It has also brought to light the need to have a more robust data management system to inform decision-makers.”

In engaging with a number of departments to collect the data including Policy and Planning at national level to Program Delivery at district level, Tanzania was able to clearly see where they were doing well and where there were gaps to improve, whilst having the key players at the table to make changes for the future. She explains:

“This tool has really helped us a lot to increase visibility and improve coordination within other departments in the Ministry and those outside the Ministry who are supporting the programme. At a national level, it has helped us in terms of budgeting as well as human resources. At district level, it has helped us to identify the key activities which actually directly impact elimination efforts which can really be measurable.”

Dr Clarer is looking forward to continuing to use the tool for future planning and encourages other countries to go through this process, utilising the Commitment Tracker in their NTD elimination efforts. She says:

“My advice to other countries is it's one thing you should start doing because it gives you time to plan for the future to see where you are in terms of reaching the goals of the WHO NTD road map, to ensure that we eliminate NTDs come 2030. Let's unite, act and eliminate neglected tropical diseases.”

Tracking NTD commitments: Rwanda's perspective



Prime Minister of Rwanda H.E. Édouard Ngirente signing and endorsing the Kigali Declaration on NTDs

Rwanda has played a key leadership role with the Kigali Declaration on NTDs since the outset, with the Declaration being officially launched by H.E Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda, at the Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDs in June 2022.

The country was also the first in Africa to enter its domestic investment for NTDs into the Kigali Declaration Commitment Tracker.

Ladislav Nshimiyimana from the Government of Rwanda shared how this has helped to maximise visibility of the NTD programme within the country.

Ladislav highlighted how collecting data and engaging with different governmental departments has enabled internal advocacy, raising saliency of NTDs and pushing stakeholders to consider how they can work together better and invest in NTDs. He explains:

“The process for domestic funding and reporting is important. As we are working with different sectors, we are conducting an NTD programme review in collaboration with other partners in order to evaluate the progress made, but also to redefine NTD indicators and establish a multi-year framework to make sure that we have quality data.”

Ladislav noted how the Commitment Tracker has become a useful global tool for showing a more complete picture of NTD funding at this scale. He says:

“The Commitment Tracker is an important consolidated platform for information on NTD funding, where we can assess and be aware of availability and gaps in funding.”

As the first country to input their data, Ladislav called on others to utilise the Commitment Tracker to ensure that NTDs are prioritised at all levels. He declares:

“It is my pleasure to call on countries that are starting to collect data and input this into the Commitment Tracker to maximise engagement of government agencies and stakeholders to increase the visibility of NTDs in their budget plans. It is important to do so in order to achieve our goal of eliminating NTDs by 2030.”

Calls to action

“More commitments and endorsements for the Kigali Declaration on NTDs are needed, to achieve a better future for our people and reach the 2030 targets”.

H.E. Dr Edouard Ngirente, Prime Minister,
Republic of Rwanda

As we reach the bi-annual change in Chair-in-Office of CHOGM and reflect on the progress made since the launch of the Kigali Declaration on NTDs in 2022, now is the moment to take stock, gather the momentum, and build on gains so far, so that we beat NTDs once and for all.

In order to do so:

We call

on more partners and leaders worldwide including countries, organisations, companies and institutions to endorse the Kigali Declaration on NTDs, to demonstrate their leadership and dedication, and make commitments to end NTDs. We have a collective responsibility to ensure that affected communities are not left behind. Further political will, investment, and action shown by endorsing the Declaration and making commitments will allow us to deliver for these communities.

We strongly encourage

existing endorsers to champion the Declaration and prioritise these preventable and treatable diseases through continued investment. We encourage existing endorsers to sustain or increase their commitment towards NTDs year-on-year, as per Tanzania’s example, and continue updating their data via the Commitment Tracker. This will allow the NTD community and beyond to see a clear picture of financial flows and resource allocation covering the second half of the NTD road map period, to help identify gaps that need addressing to meet 2030 elimination targets, and ensure that we beat NTDs once and for all.

We urge

partners and leaders worldwide to advocate for innovative funding mechanisms to provide robust, predictable, long-term financing for NTDs. Recognising the challenging environment that we face, this sustainable, predictable, long-term funding is desperately needed. We call on all partners to advocate for the establishment of a dedicated disease elimination funding track within the 21st replenishment of the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA21), and to support the expansion of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM) to include NTD funding beyond co-morbidities and co-infection to health system strengthening. By rallying behind these initiatives and pledging the necessary resources, action, and collaboration, we can end the burden of NTDs once and for all.

For more information on how to endorse the [Kigali Declaration](#) or update commitments via the [Commitment Tracker](#), contact commitments@unitingtocombatntds.org.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN
UNITE, ACT,
AND ELIMINATE NTDs**



Uniting to Combat NTDs is a global advocacy organisation that exists to end neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) by mobilising resources in support of the World Health Organization's NTD road map and the Sustainable Development Goals. We envision a world where no-one suffers from these preventable and treatable diseases. We work with over 150 partners around the world to create the political will and an enabling environment for change to collectively address the NTD crisis. Together, we champion investment for NTDs.

<https://unitingtocombatntds.org/>
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