In May 2013, the World Health Assembly resolved to accelerate efforts to overcome the 17 neglected tropical diseases. This landmark resolution calls on Member States and international partners to intensify support for control, elimination and eradication. It further calls for mobilization of resources from sectors other than health, a stronger focus on leadership and ownership of programmes, and increased initiatives for research and development.

In order to scale up interventions, the resolution calls for integration of control activities into primary health-care systems and the strengthening of country-level capacity to implement interventions to reach targets outlined in the WHO roadmap and further elaborated in the second WHO report on neglected tropical diseases.

Although diverse and challenging, neglected tropical diseases provide opportunities to strengthen public health systems. As a consequence, WHO is asked to provide increased technical guidance to monitor and evaluate progress towards reaching the roadmap’s goals.

**NEW MANDATE, STRONGER SUPPORT, UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITIES**

In May 2013, the World Health Assembly adopted a comprehensive resolution aimed at accelerating efforts to overcome the 17 neglected tropical diseases.

Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General World Health Organization commenting on an integrated approach to tackling neglected tropical diseases as one area where market failure calls for innovation.

Dr Lorenzo Savioli, Director Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases commenting on WHO’s drive to fully implement targets of the 2015–2020 roadmap.

"This resolution reinforces the growing commitment of Member States in defeating neglected tropical diseases."

2 DISEASES TARGETED FOR ERADICATION

- Dracunculiasis
- Yaws

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"This is one area where we need new thinking about public–private partnerships."

"This is one area where market failure calls for innovation."

Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General World Health Organization

"This is one area where market failure calls for innovation."
**TARGETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Expected result</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lymphatic filariasis</strong></td>
<td>- Reduced morbidity by 2020&lt;br&gt;- Eliminate filariasis in 80% of foci (2015)&lt;br&gt;- Reduce mortality by 50% (2020)&lt;br&gt;- Achieve global elimination by 2020&lt;br&gt;- Achieve regional elimination in the Mediterranean region by 2020&lt;br&gt;- Achieve regional elimination in South East Asia by 2020</td>
<td>- Increased access to diagnostics and treatment services&lt;br&gt;- Improved awareness and behavioral change&lt;br&gt;- Improved vector control&lt;br&gt;- Improved control and surveillance systems&lt;br&gt;- Improved case management and integrated management activities&lt;br&gt;- Improved understanding through research and development&lt;br&gt;- Improved reporting and data sharing&lt;br&gt;- Improved access to azithromycin and ivermectin&lt;br&gt;- Improved access to diagnostic and treatment services in endemic areas</td>
<td>Global elimination by 2020&lt;br&gt;Regional elimination in the Mediterranean region by 2020&lt;br&gt;Regional elimination in South East Asia by 2020&lt;br&gt;Reduction in incidence by 80% (2020)&lt;br&gt;Reduction in deaths by 50% (2020)&lt;br&gt;Elimination in identified areas</td>
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