

Committee A
Agenda item 11.6
A77-4 and EB154-11

Roadmap for neglected tropical diseases 2021 – 2030

We appreciate the honorable DG of WHO for providing the comprehensive report on NTD diseases in EB154-11 and A77-4 documents. The decrease in financial support from international organizations for this program as well as the impact of risk factors such as climate change are worrisome. Tackling with NTDs cannot be considered irrespective of risk factors affecting their increase such as poverty, climate change, migration, population displacement, rapid population growth, and natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, etc.

We suggest the following actions in order to improve this program:

- Providing a detailed report of on the experiences of successful countries in eliminating NTDs or preventive interventions to control NTD diseases burden for the use of other countries
- Analyzing and presenting the reasons for the delay and incomplete reporting in 2022
- Promotion and strengthening intra-sectoral and inter-sectoral cooperation (i.e. One Health) through integration of NTD control programs in all-hazard programs such as HEPR and IHR MEF. Such an initiative can strengthen technical and financial support to these programs
- WHO support in the implementation of the control of NTD diseases transmitted by vectors such as: Leishmaniosis, dengue, schistosomiasis, fasciola, as well as hydatid cyst, regionally for Iran and its neighboring countries at higher management levels and cross-border provinces in order to carry out joint activities to reduce cases

Some lessons learned by I.R. Iran in controlling NTD diseases could be exchanged with interested countries as such:

- After the great earthquake in Bam city of Kerman province in 2003, in response to an increase in the number of Leishmaniosis cases, control measures were carried out. Those actions led to significant capacity building in the affected region, such as the development of its laboratory network in the areas of parasitology and entomology, afterward led to elimination of the disease in some endemic areas of the country. Accordingly, the disease burden was significantly reduced from 3000 annual cases to less than 200 cases. Subsequently, the built capacity helped conduct training courses for international Leishmaniosis in Iran.

- With the cooperation of Rabies collaborating center in Iran's Pasteur Institute (IPI), more than 700 centers are established and integrated in PHC countrywide, where they offer rabies prevention services (such as washing, vaccination and serum injection) free of charge for all cases of animal bites. Last year more than 380 thousand people received services in the previous year. In this regard, Iran needs WHO support in the following areas:
 - Capacitating domestic production of rabies vaccines for animals as well as serums for humans
 - Strengthening the vast network of rabies care centers and diagnostic lab in IPI with modern requirements