Poor compliance with and low coverage of treatment for LF is consistently seen in some districts of the remaining five Member States, mostly urban. New districts in the remaining four Member States are failing in the LF TAS, requiring these to be put on continued MDA intervention. There are delays in reporting, poor quality of data, and inability to take timely corrective measures based on local data.

Visceral leishmaniasis has emerged in new foci in all three Member States that are highly endemic.

### The Way Forward

**Sustain**
- Plan of action on LF and trachoma post-validation surveillance in Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- High level task force mission to Indonesia and Myanmar for the respective endemic NTDs: Indonesia – LF, yaws and yaws-variant, Myanmar – LF and trachoma.

**Accelerate**
- Expansion of triple-drug MDA (IDA) roll-out for LF in India, and IDA was successfully introduced in Timor-Leste with 100% geographical coverage.
- Introduction of triple-drug MDA (IDA) for LF in Indonesia, Myanmar and Nepal.
- Adoption of new leprosy guidelines in all endemic Member States.
- National programmes reviewed undertaken in at least 3 Member States in a year.

**Innovate**
- Develop a learning module on leprosy patient management.
- Web-based kala-azar surveillance and monitoring platform with kala-azar tracker developed in Bangladesh, India and Nepal.
- Visceral involvement of the region: member States with ongoing MDA.
- New treatment guidelines, including for kala-azar (VL), PKDL and VL/HIV coinfection.

**Impact of achieving flagship target**
- The Region will continue to be the most important contributor to the billion treatments while also achieving NTD elimination in additional countries, thus contributing significantly to the GPW13.

- Following NTDs would be eliminated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Trachoma</th>
<th>Lymphatic Filariasis</th>
<th>Yaws</th>
<th>Kala-azar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>India</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td></td>
<td>India</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td></td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td></td>
<td>Timor-Leste</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to eliminating NTDs, the updated Priority now includes eliminating other diseases on the verge of elimination, including malaria and mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis. In recent years the Region has recorded the largest decline in malaria incidence of any WHO region, while Maldives and Sri Lanka have been certified malaria free. In 2016 Thailand was validated for EMTCT of HIV and syphillis with Maldives achieving the same in 2019. The Region as a whole continues to make strong progress on these and other diseases on the verge of elimination, which it will accelerate in coming months and years.

**Challenges**
- Poor compliance with and low coverage of treatment for LF is consistently seen in some districts of the remaining five Member States, mostly urban.
- New districts in the remaining four Member States are failing in the LF TAS, requiring them to be put on continued MDA intervention.
- There are delays in reporting, poor quality of data, and inability to take timely corrective measures based on local data.
- Visceral leishmaniasis has emerged in new foci in all three Member States that are highly endemic.
The Flagship Priority Area of finishing the task of eliminating diseases on the verge of elimination (kala-azar, leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, trachoma and yaws), identified in 2014*, has made significant progress and has also gained significant political commitment. This Flagship Area is also well aligned with the SDGs and the WHO 12th General Programme of Work (GPW 13). The SDG target aims to end the epidemics of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) by 2030. GPW 13 commits that WHO will work with partners to place elimination efforts for NTDs on a sustainable footing by 2023. This will build a healthier population and an estimated 1 billion more people to enjoy better health and well-being.

The Flagship was updated in 2019 to include other diseases on the verge of elimination - malaria and mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis.

**BACKGROUND**

The Region has had a major role in NTDs progress in the WHO South-East Asia Region. Ministers of the Region endorsed the Strategy at the 50th World Health Assembly in 2017, committing to "keep the promise of eliminating NTDs on time in the Region".

The 2018 progress update aims to set minimum targets for 2023 and an achievable goal of ending NTDs by 2023, in line with SDG 3.5.

**PROGRESS**

- Myanmar is preparing for the polio-elimination survey of trachomatous inflammation – follicular (TF) and India has achieved the target for trachomatous inflammation – follicular (TF) but lacks active surveillance to enable trachomatous Inclusion (TI) tracking.
- For lymphatic filariasis (LF), Bangladesh is under post mass drug administration (MDA) surveillance. MDA is required and continuing in five Member States (India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal and Timor-Leste) of the Region. Based on the recommendation of the Regional Programme Review Group (2016), Timor-Leste will be preparing for a transmission assessment survey (TAS) in most of the endemic districts. Currently, there are 366 districts/implementation units requiring MDA or preparing for TAS in all five Member States.
- While the Region is massively scaling down MDA for LF as more districts achieve the elimination threshold, treatment for soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH) is expanding.
- Bhutan, DPR Korea and Maldives are reporting less than 20 new leprosy cases annually and are progressing towards a zero leprosy incidence potential target for the future global leprosy strategy.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Five Member States have already achieved and have been formally acknowledged (India – kala-azar, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand – LF, Nepal – trachoma).
- The completion of elimination of other Member States in the pipeline: Bangladesh – LF (2016), Myanmar in this stage of elimination of leishmaniasis as a public health problem and will submit dossier in 2018.
- In 2017, more than 1.5 billion people globally were treated for at least one NTD, 56% of which were for the WHO South-East Asia Region.

**TARGETS**

Key Performance Indicator and Regional Targets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Key Performance Indicators</th>
<th>2013 (Total endemic Member States/areas)</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>Target 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Number of countries that have achieved and validated lymphatic filariasis elimination as a public health problem.</td>
<td>None / 9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Number of countries that have achieved and validated trachoma elimination as a public health problem.</td>
<td>None / 3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Number of endemic areas* that have achieved the kala-azar elimination target of less than 1 case per 10 000 population.</td>
<td>440 / 751</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Number of countries that have achieved and certified cases elimination (interruption of transmission).</td>
<td>None / 0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Number of countries that have achieved less than 1 new leprosy case with grade 2 disability per million population at national level.</td>
<td>3 / 11</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Block level for India, Upazila for Bangladesh and District for Nepal.

**Disclaimer:** © World Health Organization. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of an opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.}

**REFERENCES**

1. Integrated NTCP for India developed and approved in 2019.
2. Data are for the year 2019 unless otherwise stated.
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Target achieved
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Yaws
Verified / Validate for elimination
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Lymphatic Sc

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filariasis, trachoma and yaws), identified in 2014*, has made significant progress and has also gained significant political

BACKGROUND

The Flagship Area of finishing the task of eliminating diseases on the verge of elimination (kala-azar, leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, trachoma and yaws), identified in 2014*, has made significant progress and has also gained significant political commitment. This Flagship Area is also well aligned with the SDGs and the WHO 12th General Programme of Work (GPW 12). The SDG target aims to end the epidemics of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) by 2030. GPW 13 commits that WHO will work with partners to place elimination efforts for NTDs on a sustainable footing by 2023. This will build a healthier population and enable 1 billion more people to enjoy better health and well-being.

Currently, there are more than 20 diseases and conditions under this umbrella affecting primarily poor communities in the developing world. Some are fatal if untreated, others may cause lifelong disabilities and disfigurement, leading to a high level of stigma and social isolation. More than 1 billion people across the world, mostly living in poorer and lower middle-income countries, are affected by NTDs, and an estimated 500 000 die each year due to these. At least one NTD is endemic in each of the 11 Member States of the WHO South-East Asia (SEA) Region. Ministries of the WHO-recommended NTDs affected Member States in the Region and in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 2017 to reaffirm their commitment to “Keeping the Promise: Ending NTDs on time in the SEA Region”.

The 30th target of GPW 13 aims to eliminate at least one NTD in 30 additional endemic Member States. By 2020, the total number of Member States with an eliminated NTD would be 45.

PROGRESS

- Myanmar is preparing for the validation survey of trachoma elimination – folicular (TF) and India has achieved the target for trachoma elimination – folicular (TF) but intraocular (IO) surgery is required to clear trachomatous Infiltrate (TF) backlog.
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- While the Region is massively scaling down MDA for LF as more districts achieve the elimination threshold, treatment for soil-transmitted helminths (STH) is expanding.
- Bhutan, DPR Korea and Maldives are reporting less than 20 new leprosy cases annually and are progressing towards a zero leprosy goal (potential target for the future global leprosy strategy).

NTD progress in the WHO South-East Asia Region

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Five Member States have already achieved and have been formally acknowledged (India – yaws, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand – LF, Nepal – trachoma).
- Validation of elimination of two other Member States in the pipeline Bangladesh – LF [2020], Myanmar is in the final stage of elimination of leprosy as a public health problem and will submit dossier in 2020.
- In 2017, more than 1.5 billion people globally were treated for at least one of the preventive chemotherapy NTDs (PC-NTDs), 56% of which was for the WHO South-East Asia Region.

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The 30th target of GPW 13 aims to eliminate at least one NTD in 30 additional endemic Member States. By 2020, the total number of Member States with an eliminated NTD would be 45.

*Block level for India, Upazila for Bangladesh and District for Nepal.

Achievements

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**BACKGROUND**

The Flagship Area of finishing the task of eliminating diseases on the verge of elimination (kala-azar, leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, trachoma and yaws), identified in 2014, has made significant progress and has also gained significant political commitment. This Flagship Area is also well aligned with the SDGs and the WHO 12th General Programme of Work (GPW 12). The SDG targets aim to end the epidemics of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) by 2030. GPW 13 commits that WHO will work with partners to place elimination efforts for NTDs on a sustainable footing by 2023. This will build a healthier population and would enable 1 billion more people to enjoy better health and well-being.

The SDG targets aim to end the epidemics of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) by 2030. GPW 13 commits that WHO will work with partners to place elimination efforts for NTDs on a sustainable footing by 2023. This will build a healthier population and would enable 1 billion more people to enjoy better health and well-being.

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</tr>
</tbody>
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**PROGRESS**

- Myanmar is preparing for the validation survey of trachomatous inflammation – follicular (TF) and India has achieved the target for trachomatous inflammation – follicular (TF) but has not achieved surgery in treatment to clear trachomatous conjunctivitis (TCC) backlog.
- For lymphatic filariasis (LF), Bangladesh is under post-mass drug administration (MDA) surveillance. MDA is required and continuing in five Member States (India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal and Timor-Leste) of the Region. Based on the recommendation of the Regional Programme Review Group (2016), Timor-Leste will be preparing for a transmission assessment survey (TAS) in most of the endemic districts. Currently, there are 366 districts/postenumeration units requiring MDA or preparing for TAS in all five Member States.
- While the Region is massively scaling down MDA for LF as more districts achieve the elimination threshold, treatment for soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH) is expanding.
- Bhutan, DPR Korea and Maldives are reporting less than 20 new leprosy cases annually and are progressing towards a zero leprosy risk (a potential target for the future global leprosy strategy).

**NTDs progress in the WHO South-East Asia Region**

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Five Member States have already achieved elimination and are being formally acknowledged (India – yaws, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand – LF, Nepal – trachoma).
- Elimination of lymphatic filariasis in other Member States is in pipeline (Bangladesh – LF 2029, Myanmar is in the final stage of elimination of lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem and will submit dossier in 2024).
- In 2017, more than 1.5 billion people globally were treated for at least one preventive chemotherapy NTDs (PC-NTDs), 56% of which was for the WHO South-East Asia Region.
Poor compliance with and low coverage of treatment for LF is consistently seen in some districts of the remaining five Member States, mostly urban. New districts in the remaining four Member States are failing in the LF TAS, requiring these to be put on continued MDA intervention. There are delays in reporting, poor quality of data, and inability to take timely corrective measures based on local data.

Visceral leishmaniasis has emerged in new foci in all three Member States that are highly endemic.

**IMPACT OF ACHIEVING FLAGSHIP TARGET**

- **Plan of action on LF and trachoma post-validation surveillance in Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.**
- **High level priority mission to Indonesia and Myanmar for the respective endemic NTDs; Indonesia – LF, yaws and schistosomiasis, Myanmar – LF and trachoma.**

**ACCELERATE**

- **Expansion of triple-drug MDA (IDA) roll-out for LF in India, and IDA was successfully introduced in Timor-Leste with 100% geographical coverage.**
- **Introduction of triple-drug MDA (IDA) for LF in Indonesia, Myanmar and Nepal.**
- **Adoption of new leprosy guidelines in all endemic Member States.**
- **National programmes review undertaken in at least 3 Member States in a year.**

**INNOVATE**

- **Develop e-learning modules on leprosy patient management.**
- **Web based kala-azar surveillance and monitoring platform with kala-azar tracker developed in Bangladesh, India and Nepal.**
- **Introduction of triple-drug MDA (IDA) for LF in Indonesia, Myanmar and Nepal.**
- **Adoption of new leprosy guidelines in all endemic Member States.**
- **National programmes review undertaken in at least 3 Member States in a year.**

**SUSTAIN**

- **Plan of action on LF and trachoma post-validation surveillance in Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.**
- **High level priority mission to Indonesia and Myanmar for the respective endemic NTDs; Indonesia – LF, yaws and schistosomiasis, Myanmar – LF and trachoma.**

In addition to eliminating NTDs, the updated Priority now includes eliminating other diseases on the verge of elimination, including malaria and mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis. In recent years the Region has recorded the largest decline in malaria incidence of any WHO region, while Maldives and Sri Lanka have been certified malaria free. In 2016 Thailand was validated for EMTCT of HIV and syphilis with Maldives achieving the same in 2019. The Region as a whole continues to make strong progress on these and other diseases on the verge of elimination, which it will accelerate in coming months and years.

**IMPACT OF ACHIEVING FLAGSHIP TARGET**

- **The Region will continue to be the most important contributor to the billion treatments while also achieving NTD elimination in additional countries, thus contributing significantly to the GWP13.**
- **Following NTDs would be eliminated:**

**FINISH THE TASK OF ELIMINATING NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES (NTDs) AND OTHER DISEASES ON THE VERGE OF ELIMINATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>LF</th>
<th>Member State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lymphatic Filariasis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yaws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yaws</td>
</tr>
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<td>2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
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<td>Yaws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>India</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td></td>
<td>Timor-Leste</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DA: ivermectin, diethylcarbamazine citrate and albendazole; LF: lymphatic filariasis; PKDL: post kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis; VL: visceral leishmaniasis.
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Visceral leishmaniasis has emerged in new foci in all three Member States that are highly endemic.

**THE WAY FORWARD**

**SUSTAIN**
- Plan of action on LF and trachoma post-validation surveillance in Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- High-level advocacy mission to Indonesia and Myanmar for the respective endemic NTDs: Indonesia – LF, yaws and schistosomiasis; Myanmar – LF and trachoma.

**ACCELERATE**
- Expansion of triple-drug MDA (IDA) roll-out for LF in India, and IDA was successfully introduced in Timor-Leste with 100% geographical coverage.
- Introduction of triple-drug MDA (IDA) for LF in Indonesia, Myanmar and Nepal.
- Adoption of new leprosy guidelines in all endemic Member States.
- National programme reviews undertaken in at least 3 Member States in a year.

**INNOVATE**
- Development of a learning module on leprosy patient management.
- Web-based kala-azar surveillance and monitoring platform with kala-azar tracker developed in Bangladesh, India and Nepal.
- Introduction of triple-drug MDA (IDA) for LF in Indonesia, Myanmar and Nepal.
- Adoption of new leprosy guidelines in all endemic Member States.
- National programme reviews undertaken in at least 3 Member States in a year.

**IMPACT OF ACHIEVING FLAGSHIP TARGET**
- The Region will continue to be the most important contributor to the billion treatments while also achieving NTD elimination in additional countries, thus contributing significantly to the GPW13.
- Following NTDs would be eliminated:
  - In addition to eliminating NTDs, the updated Priority now includes eliminating other diseases on the verge of elimination, including malaria and mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis. In recent years the Region has recorded the largest decline in malaria incidence of any WHO region, while Maldives and Sri Lanka have been certified malaria-free. In 2016 Thailand was validated for EMTCT of HIV and syphilis with Maldives achieving the same in 2016. The Region as a whole continues to make strong progress on these and other diseases on the verge of elimination, which it will accelerate in coming months and years.

**CHALLENGES**
- Poor compliance with and low coverage of treatment for LF is consistently seen in some districts of the remaining five Member States, mostly urban.
- New districts in the remaining four Member States are failing in the LF TAS, requiring them to be put on continued MDA intervention.
- There are delays in reporting, poor quality of data, and inability to take timely corrective measures based on local data.
- Visceral leishmaniasis has emerged in new foci in all three Member States that are highly endemic.

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**WHO / Leonard Ortega**

**GlaxoSmithKline**