



NTD-SC

# Operational Research to Eliminate NTDs

Update from the Neglected Tropical Diseases Support Center

March 7, 2016

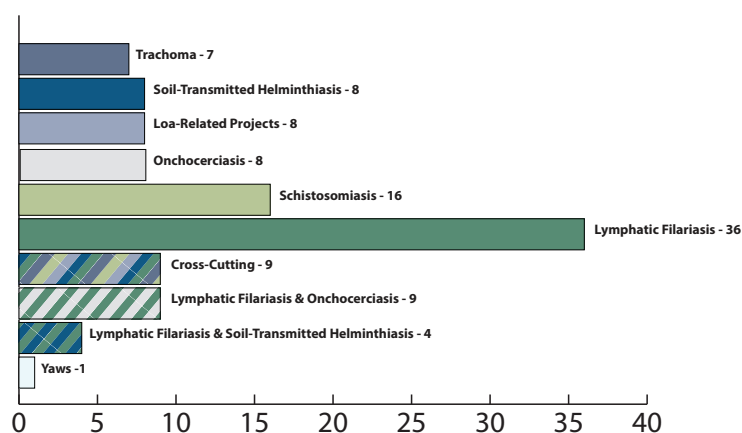
## Research Project Support

The Neglected Tropical Diseases Support Center (NTD-SC) at the Task Force for Global Health currently facilitates 110 projects spanning 52 countries.

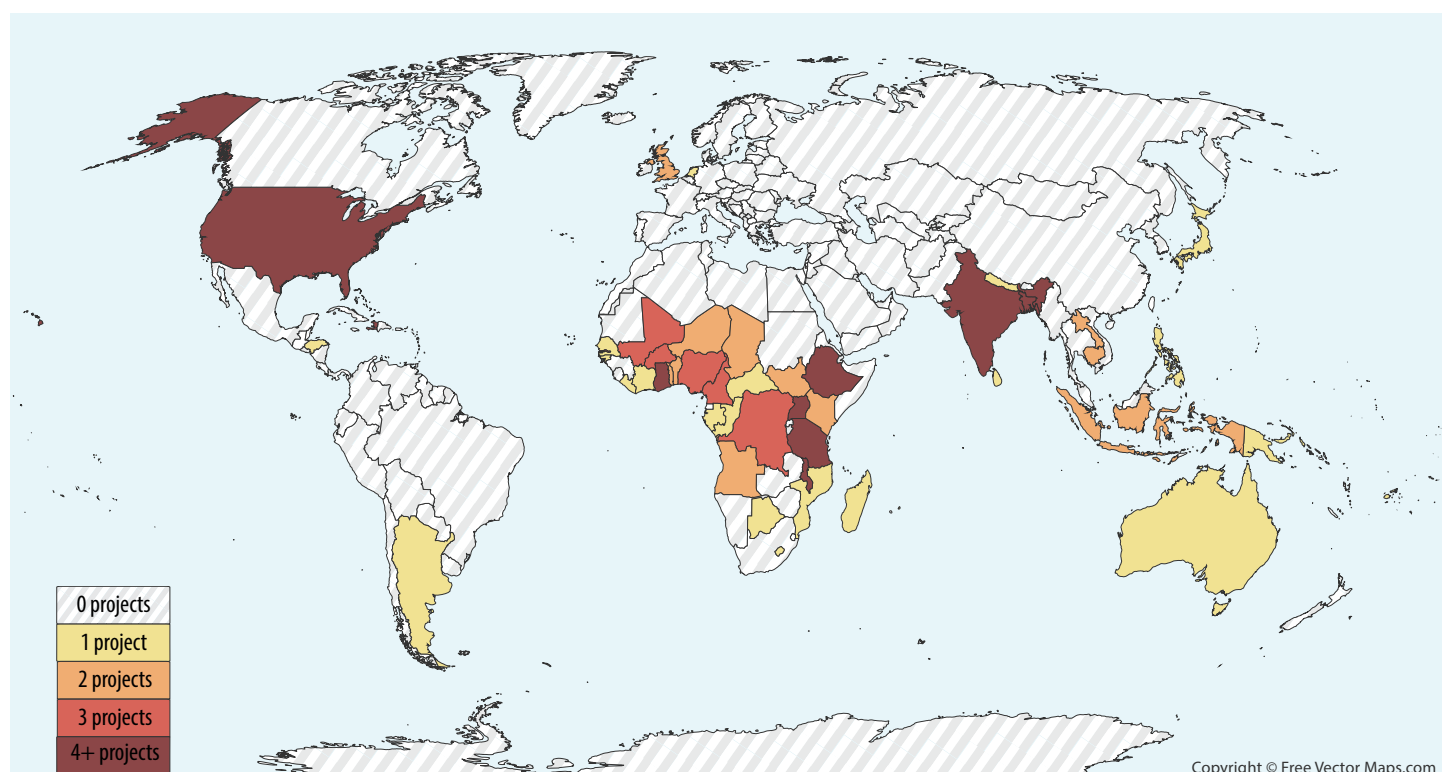
These efforts target all five neglected tropical diseases amenable to preventative chemotherapy (PC-NTDs) – lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, schistosomiasis and trachoma – with a few additional projects focused on *Loa loa* and other NTDs. New supported work includes mapping the co-endemicity of lymphatic filariasis and loiasis.

Funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), with the cooperation of more than 100 partners, supports researchers addressing operational challenges arising as national programs strive to reach the World Health Organization's targets for NTD control and elimination.

As Secretariat of the Coalition for Operational Research on Neglected Tropical Diseases (COR-NTD), a growing group of researchers and program implementers, the NTD-SC helps to foster important collaborations in working towards the shared goal of eliminating these infections.



**Projects by Disease** - The NTD-SC has facilitated 110 collaborative projects focusing on PC-NTDs, with 31 of those efforts already completed.



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**Projects by Country** - As of March 2016, the NTD-SC has collaborated with more than 100 different partners, including 42 ministries of health, to facilitate operational research that addresses NTDs.

## AFRO NTD Initiative

(Progress Report from the WHO African Regional Office)

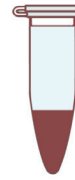
The AFRO Mapping Project, a joint effort with WHO's African Regional Office, is nearing completion of Phase I – the district-wide assessments for PC-NTDs. Building on countries' earlier mapping efforts, eighty-five percent of districts in the AFRO region now are fully mapped for these diseases.



More than 4,500 mapping surveys have been conducted since the start of the project.



41 out of 47 countries have been fully mapped, representing 85% completion.



Mapping logistics are 100% complete, with more than 800,000 diagnostic tests shipped.

### Progress of Note

Significant progress has been made within the research portfolio managed by the NTD-SC, including the recent completion of two studies as well as the addition of ten new studies. Key highlights include:

- The project to **establish a predictive model for efficacy of lymphatic filariasis mass drug administration** is now complete, yielding publications in [BMC Medicine](#) and [Parasites & Vectors](#).
- Piloting of the **Coverage Supervision Tool** in Cross River State, Nigeria is now complete, and was very positively received at a meeting of WHO's Regional Program Review Group (RPRG).
- The **D-FEAT strategy** has been presented and positively received at the RPRG meeting (Cameroon), at The Carter Center and at the AFRO/WHO meeting in Brazzaville.
- NTD-SC's portfolio now includes new projects on **mobile diagnostic readers, co-endemicity of loiasis and lymphatic filariasis** and **comparisons of diagnostic tests for schistosomiasis**.
- New program tools are now available on the NTD-SC's website, including [video instructions](#) for using the Alere Filariasis Test Strip and a [Confirmatory Testing Calculator](#) for Transmission Assessment Surveys.
- A commentary about the novel **rapid research response model** supported by COR-NTD - co-authored by BMGF and USAID - has been published in [International Health](#).
- The venue has been secured and the [save-the-date](#) issued for the **2016 COR-NTD Meeting** in Atlanta, Georgia.

Together, these projects – conducted in coordination with many partners – address challenges facing NTD programs not only in effectively **scaling up**, but also in successfully **scaling down** when their goals are reached and then **sustaining** these achievements. To learn more about the operational research being managed by NTD-SC and partners, visit the [Operational Research Inventory](#).

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**Contact:** Chelsea Toledo, Partnerships & Communications Manager, +1 404.592.1466, [ctoledo@taskforce.org](mailto:ctoledo@taskforce.org)  
Andrew Majewski, Senior Associate Director & Operations Manager, +1 404.687.5621, [amajewski@taskforce.org](mailto:amajewski@taskforce.org)

*The Neglected Tropical Diseases Support Center is a program of the Task Force for Global Health in Decatur, Georgia (USA).*

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