

## Achieving the Goals of Ending NTDs

The END Fund is the only private philanthropic initiative dedicated to ending the five most common neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) - a group of parasitic and bacterial infectious diseases, such as river blindness and intestinal worms.

By engaging a community of activist-philanthropists and taking a systems approach, we are working in collaboration with governments, NGOs, pharmaceutical, and academic partners to end these diseases in our lifetime.

Since our founding in 2012 through 2019, with our partners, the END Fund has provided over 920 million treatments for NTDs worth more than \$1 billion. In 2019 alone, we reached more than 121 million people with more than 196 million NTD treatments, which represents an almost 10-fold increase from 2012.

### Key Messages:

#### 1. The **economic case** for ending NTDs is compelling.

- o Ending the five most prevalent NTDs is achievable in our lifetime. Treatments are available, generously donated by the pharmaceutical industry.
- o The ROI for growing economies is significant. Like youthful demographics or improvements to infrastructure, ending these debilitating diseases can improve the productivity of workforces, creating a potential 'health dividend' – put simply, the socio-economic benefit of having a healthier workforce – on national levels.

#### *Supporting data points:*

- **\$27 - \$42** – **worth of economic benefit** produced for every dollar invested in NTD control and elimination.
- **Nobel-prize winning economists** found that children who are dewormed are **25% more likely to attend school**
- **\$4 billion** - the annual value of the pharma industry's largest-ever donation program that

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provides the drugs which can easily remedy these human capital issues.

- Deworming treatment has the potential to **increase an adult's earnings by 20%**.

2. The END Fund's **unique fund model and systems approach** make us efficient and effective.

- o We convene savvy, international investors interested in impact-driven investments that make the most efficient use of their private capital – “the best bang for buck.”
- o We are an example of how taking a systems-level approach can affect change, and we're proud to share insights on this model at events hosted by Skoll, Aspen, the Bill Melinda Gates Foundation and WEF.
- o We bring stakeholders together around high-impact opportunities to tackle one of the world's complex, interconnected problems and scale innovative solutions.

*Supporting data points:*

- **Over 920 million** – the number of generously donated treatments we've delivered since inception through the end of 2019.
- **Over \$1 billion** – the value of the treatments we've delivered since inception through the end of 2019.
- **Over 2.7 million** – the number of people trained in NTD control and prevention methods since inception through the end of 2019.
- **5** – years in a row that the END Fund's deworming programs have been a top pick of **GiveWell**, the independent evaluator of the most effective altruism.
- **\$100 million** – the amount committed to the **Reaching the Last Mile Fund** - an initiative of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, who recently chose the END Fund to manage the initiative to eliminate river blindness and lymphatic filariasis over the next ten years in strategic countries throughout Africa and the Middle East.
- **43** – number of partners the END Fund has supported in 31 countries worldwide since inception.

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**NTD Fast Facts:**

- o Over 1.7 billion people worldwide need treatment for NTDs. These diseases are disabling and debilitating and cause early death (~170,000 per year) if left untreated.
- o About 1 billion children need treatment for NTDs globally.
- o Of the 120 million people with lymphatic filariasis (LF), which can cause elephantiasis, 40 million are incapacitated or experience unwanted physical damage by the disease.
- o A roundworm lays 200,000 eggs a day in a child's stomach, these worms can block the intestine, causing the child severe pain, vomiting, and a tender bloated belly.
- o The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 1.9 million people are blind or visually impaired due to trachoma and 2.5 million people need surgery to prevent blindness.

**The 5 Most Prevalent NTDs:**

- o **Intestinal worms** - The most common NTD worldwide, it is caused by a group of parasitic worms. In the body, adult worms live in the intestines and produce thousands of eggs a day. These cause a variety of symptoms, such as anemia, malnutrition, swelling of the abdomen, weight loss, diarrhea, and more. (More than 1.7 billion people are in need of treatment worldwide.)
- o **Schistosomiasis** - A chronic disease caused by parasitic worms that live in freshwater snails. It is the second most devastating parasitic disease in tropical countries, one of the most debilitating and causes the most fatalities of NTDs. It can infect the urinary tract, intestinal tract, or the body tissue causing long-term morbidity. (More than 228 million people are in need of treatment worldwide.)
- o **Lymphatic filariasis** - A mosquito-borne disease that is caused by parasitic roundworms. It can lead to severe unwanted physical damage and disability caused by swelling from fluid build-up in the lymphatic system. This symptom is often known as elephantiasis and is the most recognizable characteristic of the disease. (More than 892 million people are in need of treatment worldwide.)
- o **Blinding trachoma** - The leading cause of infectious blindness worldwide, is a bacterial infection of the eye. It is spread through direct contact with people who are infected, as well as

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contact with flies. If untreated, the eyelids turn inwards and eyelashes scratch the cornea causing extreme pain and discomfort and eventual blindness. (More than 142 million people are in need of treatment.)

- **River blindness** – Is an eye and skin infection that is caused by a parasitic worm transmitted by the bite of a black fly that lives and breeds on the banks of fast-flowing rivers and streams. (More than 217 million people are in need of treatment.)