



TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

Neglected Tropical Diseases

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) affect over 1 billion people worldwide, with 1.6 billion requiring NTD preventative and curative interventions. This group of diseases primarily impacts those living in poverty, who lack access to basic hygiene and sanitation, with women and children disproportionately affected.

Preventing, controlling and eliminating NTDs is critical, as they impact the achievement of most health and development indicators. NTDs reduce socioeconomic and educational attainment by inhibiting children from learning and developing to their full potential and preventing adults from working and supporting their families. NTDs also place a vast economic burden on communities due to productivity losses and strains on the health system. Furthermore, NTDs often lead to physical deformities along with disability, stigma, social isolation and shame.

IMA World Health has been working to address NTDs for more than 20 years in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. IMA World Health projects have targeted the five preventative chemotherapy NTDs:

- lymphatic filariasis (LF)
- onchocerciasis (known as River Blindness)
- trachoma
- schistosomiasis (SCH)
- soil-transmitted helminths (STH)

IMA World Health has also addressed visceral leishmaniasis (VL), commonly known as kala-azar, in endemic areas within South Sudan and, previously, in India.

As a recognized leader in the prevention, control and elimination of NTDs, IMA World Health uses a combination of evidence-based strategies to design and scale-up NTD projects, in partnership with local governments and civil society partners. Following the NTD Road Map, IMA World Health's NTD programming is moving the needle towards meeting the WHO's 2030 control and elimination goals.



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In Practice

Urgent Continuation of Visceral Leishmaniasis Services

In partnership with the END Fund, IMA World Health's Urgent Continuation of Visceral Leishmaniasis Services project has been providing lifesaving VL treatment by supporting 25 health facilities in the four VL-endemic states (Upper Nile, Jonglei, Unity, and Eastern Equatoria) of South Sudan since 2021. The project provides WHO-donated diagnostics and medication to the supported health facilities, trains health care workers on VL identification and treatment, and deploys community health volunteers (CHVs). Since 2021, 1,821 patients were enrolled in treatment, over 250 medical personnel were trained in diagnosis and treatment, 75 CHVs were engaged to support active case detection and promote community awareness, and more than 13,600 people were reached by advocacy and sensitization activities.

SAFE

Since 2014, IMA World Health has led implementation of the SAFE project across six regions of Tanzania, targeting 19 trachoma-endemic districts inhabited by nearly 4 million people. The Sightsavers-funded SAFE project focuses on strengthening district-level eye care departments, providing the technical and managerial skills and capacity to independently treat trachoma-related blindness by facilitating case finding and organizing field outreach surgeries in accordance with WHO's SAFE strategy for trachoma control. By partnering with government-sponsored clinics and tapping into faith-based networks, IMA World Health focuses on strengthening local capacity and has been able to implement in some of the most remote, hard-to-reach settings in Tanzania. In the past 9 years, IMA has managed more than 12,000 trachomatous trichiasis (TT) cases and trained 7,022 community case finders along with 87 screeners, 79 assistant surgeons and 26 surgeons.

Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis in Haiti

Through the CDC-funded Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis in Haiti project, IMA World Health works closely with the Haiti Neglected Tropical Disease Control Program (HNTDCP) to create evidence-based LF technical guidance documents and implement awareness activities to enable communities to prevent, treat and control LF. Despite the extremely challenging circumstances in Haiti, marked by social and political crises, ongoing violence and civil unrest, natural disasters, and disease outbreaks, the country team has made

significant strides in improving drug accessibility for hard-to-reach communities. They have conducted a school census to better understand the population requiring treatment and collaborated closely with key local stakeholders, such as religious leaders and teachers, to gain community acceptance. In September 2023, IMA World Health supported the rollout of the highly effective triple-drug (IDA) therapy for the first time ever in Haiti. Over a ten-day period, 45,255 people were treated, including 17,920 children, reaching 74.4% of the population in the targeted commune of Limonade. This pilot activity proved that this new and effective approach can be scaled up and has the potential to benefit over 2.4 million people.



The Corus Effect

Founded in 1960, IMA World Health is a leading public health organization that delivers solutions to health-related problems across the developing world. We work with local partners and governments to strengthen existing health systems, prevent and treat diseases, improve maternal and child health, promote nutrition and WASH, respond to sexual and gender-based violence, and contribute to global health security.

IMA World Health leads global health programming at Corus International, an organization that unites an array of world-class nonprofits and businesses, each with specialized expertise. Our reach and capabilities are amplified by the other global leaders in our Corus International family, including Lutheran World Relief, CGA Technologies and Ground Up Investing. Together, we bring the multi-dimensional, holistic needed to truly achieve lasting change.



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