

# An END to five diseases

Leading the fight against **neglected tropical diseases**

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a group of parasitic and bacterial infectious diseases that affect more than 1.7 billion of the world's most impoverished people, including over 1 billion children. Since its founding in 2012, the END Fund has been a leader in combatting the five most common NTDs with the use of leveraged funds through public and private commitments.

## Preventable causes of death and disability

An estimated 1.7 billion people are currently infected with at least one NTD and are in need of treatment. NTDs rank among the four most devastating groups of communicable diseases. They cause severe pain and long-term disability. Effects from NTDs such as deformed legs and blindness results in social isolation and a cycle of poverty. Among children, infection leads to malnutrition, cognitive impairment, stunted growth and the inability to attend school.

## The partner

The END Fund is the only private philanthropic initiative solely dedicated to ending the most common NTDs. Incubated by the Legatum Foundation, the END Fund focuses on delivering NTD treatments to those in need by growing and engaging a community of activist-philanthropists, managing high-impact strategic investments, and working in collaboration with government, NGO, pharmaceutical and academic partners.

## The philanthropic solution

END Fund follows a ten-stage approach that harnesses the highly scalable impact of low-cost mass drug administration (MDA). If MDA is effectively integrated within other public health interventions like water, sanitation and community health education, it can be an effective, sustainable solution.

Since its start in 2012 the END Fund has a track record for delivering results, while keeping their sights set on ending NTDs in our lifetime.

## The evidence

The END Fund, with its local implementing partners, has successfully provided more than 1.5 billion treatments, trained over 4.7 healthcare workers, and provided nearly 100,000 surgeries for people suffering from these preventable and controllable diseases.

## The impact

The END Fund approach to NTD control and elimination is a "best buy" among education and public health interventions. Studies show that:

- for every dollar invested in NTD control, at least USD 50 is returned in increased economic impact over time, a return on investment unparalleled in global health
- NTD treatment is the single most cost-effective means of improving children's attendance and increasing capacity to learn and concentrate in school

Location	27 countries, primarily African
Target Group	N/A
Partner(s)	Over 45 partners including local government ministries of health, academic partners and implementing partners
Duration	12 months
Program ID	52917A

All programmatic data provided by The End Fund The UBS Optimus Foundation is a grant-making foundation that offers UBS clients a platform to use their wealth to drive positive social and environmental change. The Foundation selects programs that improve children's health, education and protection, ones that have the potential to be transformative, scalable and sustainable as well as programs tackling environmental and climate issues.

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