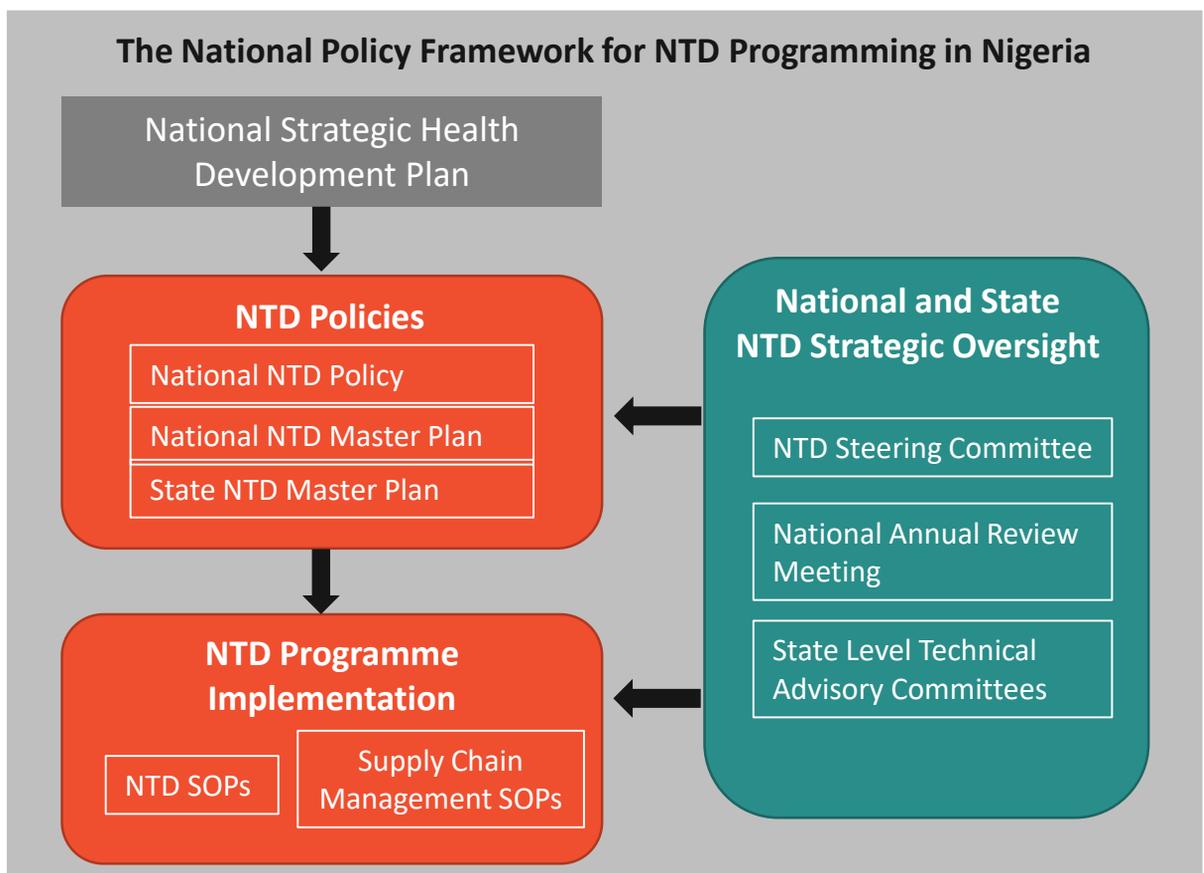


A Summary of the Neglected Tropical Disease Policy Context in Nigeria

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This document presents a summary of the current policies and structures that are guiding Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) programme implementation in Nigeria. This summary is one output from the COUNTDOWN situational analysis, which documents the current strengths and weaknesses of the NTD programme in Nigeria, specifically in Ogun and Kaduna States, with a view to identifying areas for future implementation research. For more information about the situation analysis, see the [executive summary](#) and series of 4 briefs.

Understanding the policy context of NTD programme implementation was a key part of the situational analysis to be able to situate programme bottlenecks identified within wider governance structures. We present here a summary of five core policies, strategies and standard operating procedures that were identified in the policy review. We also present a summary of the role and function of the NTD Steering Committee and National Review meetings as it is within these meetings that the National Policy on NTDs is appraised and recommendations for amendment discussed. All documents presented here were identified through internet searches, key informant interviews, and snowballing from one document to the next. The figure below presents a synthesis of how each of the documents relates to the others and shapes a broad and inter-connected guidance framework for NTD programme delivery in Nigeria.



National Strategic Health Development Plan (NSHDP) 2010 - 2015

Federal Ministry of Health, 2010

The NSHDP is the overarching document guiding the existing health systems structures through which all programmes including the NTD programme are implemented. It attempts to harmonize shared aspirations towards strengthening the health systems and improving the health status of Nigerians. The plan was developed using participatory approaches, involving stakeholders at all levels of operations in the health sector. The NSHDP outlines 8 priority areas of focus structured around WHO's 6 health systems building blocks: service delivery; health workforce; health information systems; access to essential medicines; financing; and leadership and governance. Across all six building blocks 33 strategic objectives and 70 strategic interventions are presented, translating into various activities for implementation by stakeholders at the different levels (Federal, State, Local Government Area (LGA) and Community).



National Policy on Neglected Tropical Diseases Elimination in Nigeria

Federal Ministry of Health, March 2016

This is the core policy document of the NTD programme in Nigeria and is set within the framework of the NSHDP, the National Health Act, and the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The policy is reviewed every 5 years and was last reviewed in 2016. The NTD steering committee meetings also occur bi-annually to assess programme progress and feed in relevant recommendations to the policy review process. The objective of the document is to provide guidance for planning and implementing programme activities, which should be coordinated at the highest level by the Federal Ministry of Health. The policy presents the overall goal of the programme: to improve the life expectancy and quality of life of Nigerians by eliminating NTDs in Nigeria in line with global targets. Desired outcomes are presented as the reduction of morbidity, disability and mortality as well as prevalence of NTDs. The policy draws on experience from the Community Directed Intervention (CDI) strategies of treatment with Mectizan and emphasizes a need for an integrated approach to NTD interventions to ensure their cost-effectiveness.

To achieve its broad goals and outcomes, the policy then goes on to detail a vision, mission, and four strategic objectives of the NTD programme which are: strengthening government ownership, advocacy, coordination and partnerships; enhance planning for results, resource mobilization and financial sustainability; scaling-up access to interventions, treatment and system capacity building; and enhancing NTD monitoring and evaluation, surveillance and operational research. It presents eleven strategies towards achieving this vision, which include: the provision of mass administration of medicines (MAM) to at risk populations; effective data management; planning, advocacy and social mobilization; and disease surveillance. The policy also highlights institutional frameworks for programme coordination through a cascaded system from the National Council on Health, to the National NTD Steering Committee, and to the National Disease-Specific Technical Committees. Finally, it highlights different levels of partnerships, collaboration and networking, with the specification that the NTD programme shall develop a memorandum of understanding with partners seeking to provide support in any area within its mandate.

Neglected Tropical Diseases Nigeria Multi-Year Master Plan 2015 – 2020

Federal Ministry of Health and Partners, February 2015

The Master Plan is a detailed 5-year strategic plan designed to further contextualise all elements of the National Policy on NTD elimination in Nigeria, thus guiding all the components of NTD programme implementation. It is informed by programme data and existing policy documents. Details of the endemicities of the various NTDs by state and LGAs are outlined, including mapping status i.e. whether the state or LGA has been mapped for specific diseases. The master plan is also reviewed every 5 years and is a collaborative review between NTD programme officers, WHO and other implementing partners. The plan places a strong emphasis on an integrated approach to NTD programme implementation and costing, providing a base for the country's work plan as well as partner coordination and collaboration. The document seeks to facilitate the achievement of the 2020 NTD elimination targets and goals based on four strategic priorities: i) scaling-up access to NTD-related interventions; ii) enhancing planning for results and resource mobilization; iii) strengthening advocacy, coordination and ownership; and iv) enhancing monitoring, evaluation, surveillance and research.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) Elimination in Nigeria

Federal Ministry of Health, February 2015

These SOPs represent the operationalization of the broader NTD policy and master plan. The SOPs focus on the implementation of various pillars of NTD control, elimination and management through two core areas, each of which has associated diseases. Strategies for Preventive Chemotherapy through mass administration of medicines for schistosomiasis, onchocerciasis, soil transmitted helminths, lymphatic filariasis and trachoma are documented, including information on: target populations; eligibility for treatment; management of adverse reactions; and specific elimination thresholds. Case Management/Innovative and Intensified Disease Management information for Buruli ulcer, Guinea worm disease, Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT), leishmaniasis, leprosy, rabies and yaws is presented including; disease definitions; signs and symptoms; and intervention measures. Finally, intervention strategies for these diseases are described including; information on their vectors; diagnosis; and elimination strategies.

Standard Operating Procedures Manual for Neglected Tropical Diseases Supply Chain Management

Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), November 2016

These SOPs represent the operationalization of the broader NTD policy and master plan in specific reference to supply chain management as a critical component of NTD programme delivery. The document provides a detailed step-by-step guide for users to ensure that the medicines and commodities required for NTD programme implementation are properly managed at all levels of operation (National, State, LGA, and Community). It consists of six chapters and provides a comprehensive explanation on: maintaining adequate supplies of NTD medicines; quantification of medicines using standardized approaches; timely submission of medicine requests; receiving and storage of medicine; medicine transportation; and waste disposal. It also provides the details on the roles and responsibilities of the different levels of personnel involved in supply chain management. Importantly, it specifies the target audience such as officers at the National, Zonal, State, LGA, health facility and Community levels, warehouse managers, logisticians, stores pharmacists and store keepers among others that should use the manual. A detailed flow chart showing the movement of medicines from the national to community levels is provided for users.

State-Level Neglected Tropical Diseases Control (NTDs) Master Plans 2015-2020

An overall summary of the two state master plans reviewed for the situational analysis is presented here, as they adopt a similar pattern in their development, design and content.

Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) and Kaduna State Ministry of Health (KSMOH), January 2015

Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) and Ogun State Ministry of Health, January 2015



These documents are guided by the Federal Level NTD Master Plan and have been adapted for the Kaduna/Ogun context. A budget estimate for the 6-year period is provided and funding gaps are identified based on the expectations from the various levels of governance. The structure of the health system within the state is clearly described. The epidemiology, burden of disease, and mapping status of the preventative chemotherapy NTDs (schistosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma) is also provided, including the survey method adopted for each disease, their co-endemicity profiles and therapeutic coverage over a 5-year period. The NTD strategic objectives and operational framework at the state level are presented, which includes: A Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis on the NTD programme and details of activities aimed towards the scaling-up of NTD interventions. The Kaduna State Master Plan focuses predominantly on the preventative chemotherapy NTDs with limited emphasis on case management and innovative and intensified disease management. The Ogun State Master plan also focuses predominantly on the preventative chemotherapy NTDs, however, it also places some emphasis on case management (particularly for leprosy and Buruli ulcer).

National and State Oversight and Review Structures: National Steering Committee on Neglected Tropical Diseases

The national steering committee meeting on NTDs is a bi-annual event that provides strategic oversight to the implementation of the NTD programme activities in Nigeria, as such, it becomes a critical activity in shaping the content and implementation of NTD policies and programmatic guidelines. During the meetings, participants drawn from a wide range of experts in NTD implementation and research, deliver presentations in areas relevant to the Nigerian NTD programme with inputs from the NTD programme members present. Issues discussed include an overview of NTD programme implementation during the last year, an update on actions taken from the last meeting, supply chain management (with a strong emphasis on drug distribution and expiration of medicines), and partner involvement and activities across the various states.

The steering committee is further sub-divided into five sub-committees who address the thematic areas of: Elimination of NTDs; NTDs and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); NTD Advocacy; NTD Technical Programme Review; and Research. Each sub-committee has side meetings and then presents back to the plenary on the current initiatives and proposed areas of focus for the NTD programme relevant to their thematic area. The output of the meeting provides the strategic direction for NTD programme implementation in the next year.

National Review Meetings

Following the annual meeting of the national steering committee on NTDs, a national review meeting is held that brings together national and state NTD programme coordinators, zonal coordinators, national disease-specific programme managers, national programme officers and representatives of Non-Government Development Organisation implementing partners. The aim of the meeting is to review NTD programme implementation at all levels of operation for the previous year. Zonal reports (compiled during zonal review meetings) are presented with details of MAM activities including presentation of programmatic coverage data, drug inventories, and Community Drug Distributor (CDD) issues and experiences. Presentations also reflect on progress made toward the previous meeting's recommendations. Capacity development components discussed include training in disease surveillance and sensitization on new disease programme activities such as yaws elimination. Monitoring and evaluation activities and feedback is also discussed. The output from this meeting serves as a guide towards improving NTD implementation activities at state, zonal and national levels for the coming year.

State NTD Technical Advisory Committees

The State NTD Technical Advisory Committees are State-level programme coordinating mechanisms similar in function to the National NTD Steering Committee. In order to strengthen coordination, collaboration and partnerships at the State level, the Technical Advisory Committees are mandated to support programme development for: implementation of control, elimination, eradication, and management of NTDs; facilitate collaboration between the State Ministry of Health, Partners and stakeholders; provide technical advice to the NTD Programme; facilitate resource mobilisation for the NTD Programme and carryout and facilitate operational research in NTD programme implementation. These committees often hold meetings for the review and assessment of NTD programme activities with partners, professionals in the academia, technical staff in the Ministry of Health and relevant line Ministries/Sectors such as Women Affairs, Information, Environment, Education, Communication Technology, Water Resources, Science and Technology and other relevant Government Agencies. Kaduna State refer to this committee as the Technical Advisory Committee 'TAC', whereas Ogun State refer to this committee as the State Advisory Committee on NTDs (SACON). Kaduna's TAC has been established for many years, whereas Ogun recently instigated the SACON in 2016.

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COUNTDOWN

Calling time on Neglected Tropical Diseases

COUNTDOWN (grant ID PO 6407) is a multi-disciplinary research consortium dedicated to investigating cost-effective, scaled-up and sustainable solutions to control and eliminate the seven most common NTDs by 2020.

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