

# The US Presidential Initiative for NTDs: *challenges and opportunities to countries and the commitment of governments*

Dr. Uche Amazigo  
Director, WHO/APOC

# Country challenges

- Health system's ***paradigm shift*** from treatment to preventive health care delivery, and to preventive health care attitude;
- Establishing and nurturing long standing and ***efficient public-private partnership*** at all levels;
- Establishing ***result-based programmes*** with measurable health, social and economic impact indicators.
- Strengthening health systems through ***integration of NTD control programmes***.

# Country challenges

- Maintaining a ***focus on people-centred approach and strong community participation*** and ownership.
- ***Sustainability*** of the NTD control programmes and projects;
- Difficulty of countries having a single policy and ***accessing funds directly***.
- ***Transparency and Accountability***

# Country challenges

- Country efficient management of ***multiple demands of the different donors.***
- ***Strengthening perennial health care delivery structures*** that will support delivery of interventions against NTDs;
- Getting the ***commitment of the African Union and the G8.***

# The opportunities

- Developing a ***national action-oriented policy*** on NTDs linked to country health system agenda and the MDGs;
- ***Mapping*** of some NTDs; determining disease overlap for baseline data for future measurement of the impact of the Presidential Initiative.
- Developing ***national plan and guidelines*** with evidence of country ownership and sustainable government financial commitment; establishment of result-based programmes

# The opportunities

- Establish ***Public-Private Partnerships*** for NTD control for strengthening health systems;
- Countries have opportunity to engage, explore and ***document the impact*** of NTD control initiatives on health systems and MDGs.
- Countries and partners can ***develop intersectoral programmes*** that are holistic – e.g...
- ***Identification and addressing specific needs*** including-
  - Country specific challenges for NTD control
  - Financial and technical support required
  - ***Exit plan/strategy from donor financing***

# The opportunities

- Develop ***NTD control programmes with strong community involvement and ownership***
- ***Task shifting*** and ***building workforces*** in areas deprived of health care services;
- Strengthen ***integrated national drug supply chains*** or put in place supply chains where there are non-existent;
- ***Promote equity of access to medicine*** and treatments especially for the rural poor, at least for the NTD drugs that are donated.
- Support health systems in ***health promotion*** and information in hard-to reach area

# How to stimulate and sustain government commitment

1. Exploring *in-country private sector/government / NTD financing mechanisms*
2. Identifying integration strategies which promote *intersectoral approaches*. For example, should the PI allow NTD control programmes to integrate with school feeding programmes, this could stimulate the interest of governments. Joint projects will be co-financed by two ministries and MOU signed between MOH + MOE +NTD programme.



# How to stimulate and sustain government commitment

- **World Bank** could use the WB grants to urge countries with inadequate government financing to allocate a defined percent of the WG grant to NTD control activities.
- Identifying **new mechanisms** to secure the financial commitment of governments benefiting from PI.
- In-country **agreed mechanism should be respected** by bilateral and multilateral agencies and civil societies. (e.g. matching counter part fund). **Government may have to decide on the programmes to implement and provide up front the counter part fund as a condition** to receive the PI award. This is matched by donor funding.