

## 11.8 Neglected Tropical Diseases

PHM welcomes WHO's draft road map for Neglected Tropical Disease 2021–2030.

NTDs and other diseases such as TB and malaria face systematic neglect. The lack of research and innovation leads to fewer drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics to meet the health challenges of NTDs. This market failure emerges as NTDs are not profitable, since people affected by NTDs are predominantly poor.

The financing model proposed for achieving the new targets relies on donors and domestic funds, which is not sustainable without a commitment from donors and the national governments.

We have seen the COVID-19 pandemic expose the flaws within the health system around the globe. For this reason, health system strengthening must be an urgent priority and not a long-term goal.

Poverty is the main driver of NTDs; therefore the social determinants of NTDs must be addressed. We call for poverty eradication, vector control, access to clean water and basic sanitation, improved living conditions, food sovereignty, and food safety. Furthermore, structural interventions are necessary for the equitable distribution of resources needed within countries. We must also review how transnational capitalism and imperialism reproduced existing inequalities and how that impacts NTDs.

We call for CSO involvement to boost community advocacy, capacity, and awareness building as a comprehensive approach to support other actions. There is a need for educating communities on health and sanitation measures through local public health initiatives.

Lastly, we call for open innovation; countries must be equipped to develop capacities to prevent market monopolies and high drug prices.