



# NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASE PREVENTION

The Carter Center's health programs enabled 35.8 million treatments in 2010—a Center all-time record—to protect against neglected tropical diseases in thousands of communities in some of the most remote and forgotten places in Africa and the Americas.

Current Carter Center neglected tropical disease programs work in conjunction with ministries of health and global campaigns to: eliminate trachoma as a cause of blindness; eliminate river blindness in the Americas entirely and in parts of Africa; and demonstrate the feasibility of eliminating lymphatic filariasis and controlling schistosomiasis in Nigeria. Because communities often are burdened by several diseases, the Center also is pioneering new public health approaches to efficiently and effectively treat multiple diseases at once, including additional integration efforts to fight malaria.

Since 1986, The Carter Center has been a leader in the control, elimination, and eradication of neglected diseases, working at the grassroots in partnership with ministries of health and low-resource communities to conduct health education and mass drug administration, and to develop health service infrastructure. The Carter Center's 10 health programs are data-driven and seek to help fill gaps in

*As a pioneer in NTD implementation, research, and impact, the Center has enabled the cumulative delivery of approximately 219 million treatments against four preventable diseases in the seven most endemic African and six most endemic Latin American countries.*

health care, looking for opportunities to eliminate or eradicate diseases wherever possible, and to control diseases that cannot be completely eliminated.

The Carter Center conducts rigorous annual peer reviews and evaluations in conjunction with ministries of health from 14 countries and other partner organizations.

*More than 99 percent of the treatments distributed in 2010 were donated and transported to the recipient countries by pharmaceutical companies: Merck (Mectizan®), Pfizer Inc (Zithromax®), GlaxoSmithKline (albendazole), and Merck KGaA through the World Health Organization (praziquantel).*

“We don't just rely on increased treatment numbers to tell us our efforts are working to improve health. The Carter Center uses evidence-based practices to carefully evaluate whether our interventions are significantly reducing the burden of disease,” said Dr. Donald Hopkins, vice president of the Carter Center's Health Programs.

## 2010 Highlights

The 2010 statistics confirm dramatic improvements in public health achieved as a direct result of the Center's disease efforts in partner countries.

- The Carter Center-led campaign to wipe out Guinea worm disease (dracunculiasis) celebrated Nigeria and Niger's elimination, and Ghana will be the next country to stop transmission.



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Important progress also was made in the remaining endemic countries of Sudan, Mali, and Ethiopia to make Guinea worm the second disease to be eradicated in human history.

- Ecuador joined Colombia as one of only two countries in history to halt transmission of river blindness (onchocerciasis) through health education and semiannual mass distribution of Mectizan.<sup>®</sup> Only five of 13 original areas are believed to remain endemic in the campaign to eliminate this disease from the Western Hemisphere by 2015.
- Nigeria—the third most lymphatic filariasis-endemic country in the world—demonstrated that elimination of the debilitating disease is possible when it announced that one-third of districts in two states in Nigeria halted transmission and another one-third are about to.
- For the first time in Amhara Region, Ethiopia, the world's most trachoma endemic area, more than 9 million treatments—covering half the population—were delivered during intensive semiannual, weeklong mass drug administrations. Since 2008,

*By partnering with national ministries of health and endemic communities at the grassroots, The Carter Center helps people acquire the tools, knowledge, and resources they need to transform their own lives. Major Carter Center Health Programs collaborators include: the United Kingdom Department for International Development, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Lions Clubs International Foundation, as well as other international agencies, governments, nongovernmental organizations, corporations, and universities worldwide.*

*Since 1986, with Carter Center assistance, hundreds of thousands of health workers and volunteers have been trained, building health infrastructure in low-resource environments.*

this health education and treatment campaign has pioneered the integration of malaria and trachoma control, allowing health workers to devote more effort during the rest of the year to target other interventions. In another milestone in 2010, trachoma control efforts were expanded in Nigeria with the distribution of the first Zithromax<sup>®</sup> treatment in the country's history.

- In Sudan, the vast and isolated desert community of Abu Hamad was on the verge of proving that river blindness can be eliminated in Africa with currently available tools.
- The Carter Center is one of few organizations assisting the Nigeria Ministry of Health to tackle schistosomiasis—a debilitating and preventable disease mainly impacting children—in the

most endemic country in Africa. In 2010, 1,328,886 praziquantel treatments were delivered.

- The Carter Center's International Task Force for Disease Eradication reported that blinding trachoma can be eliminated through the SAFE strategy for trachoma control by 2020, provided interventions are intensified soon.

*Reports and recommendations further detailing 2010 Health Programs achievements and updates on further progress in 2011 will be available on the Carter Center's website ([www.cartercenter.org](http://www.cartercenter.org)).*



**Doses of Treatment for NTDs Supported by TCC, 2010**

