



# NNN 2024 Annual Conference

WHO SKIN -NTDs WORKING GROUP

# REPORT

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# INTRODUCTION

The Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) NGO Network is a global forum for NGOs to contribute to the global control, elimination, and management of consequences of NTDs outlined within the internationally agreed World Health Organization NTD Roadmap.

NTDs are a group of treatable and preventable diseases that continue to affect over one billion of the world's most impoverished, marginalized people living in remote communities. Non-governmental organizations play a key role in the fight against these diseases; they share common strategies including community-based health interventions that can be integrated to strengthen health care systems.

NNN was established in October 2009 to create a global forum for non-governmental organizations working to control onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminthes, and trachoma. Many other diseases including leprosy and podoconiosis have since joined the forum.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As one of the world's leading forums for global health, and the only global platform for NTD practitioners, the NNN Annual Conference brings together leaders in the field of NTD programme implementation research, policy, communications, and advocacy to drive forward the global NTD elimination agenda and work towards a world where people no longer have to suffer from easily preventable diseases. The 2024 NNN Annual Conference theme is **"Collaboration for change, Fostering Global Equity and Strengthening community Engagement in NTDs."** which reflects NNNs commitment towards global equity, regional collaboration, and enhanced community level collaborations and partnerships centering endemic voices in the fight against NTDs.





# CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

## Opening Plenary

The conference began with the Chair Dr Jemish Acharya gave the introduction of the conference, welcome the members and introduction of the governance structure and highlighted the achievement of NNN Annual conference held in Tanzania 2023.

The opening Plenary also inspired all members by the Testimonial Story from Mulkat Okanlawon the president and Co-Founder Elysium Norma Survivor assassination as an affected woman by Noma from Nigeria, she gave a good assurance of the Noma that can be treated and prevented.

Here also Dr Claire Fuller introduced the launched NTDs e-learning platform [e-learning.info.NTD.org](http://e-learning.info.NTD.org)





# CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

## Skin Working Group Session

Three groups discussions were held, focusing on the NTDs WHO Indicators For Integration –Skin Working Group Discussion, with Sparkers included **Prof. Dr. Rie Yotsu and Dr Claire Fuller.**

The panel discussions were moderated by our Co-Founder Prof. Dr. Wendemagegn Enbiale

These panel discussions highlighted the WHO Indicators for Skin NTDs

Importance of advocacy, youth inclusion, and community affected individuals participation in awareness building among the community



# MEASURING PROGRESS

## Key Indicator

## Data / Outcome

**Community engagement and Empowerment**

**Improved Engagement: Providing tools in local languages fosters trust and openness, encouraging honest responses from community members.**

**Engagement of affected individual in annual conference to express their testimonial stories.**

**NGOs and Donors engagement for resource allocation, research and training**

**Stigma and discrimination elimination, Community awareness on skin NTDs and participation .**

**Number of trained health personnel increasing with capacity builded on skin NTDs management and prevention.**

**Good and passion NGOs network is builded.**

# OUTCOME

## **NNN Annual 2024 Conference achieved the following outcomes:**

**Promoted Local engagement of community** affected individuals with valuable knowledge about their challenges, informing effective prevention and treatment strategies.

**Created awareness and Education** on the importance of community involvement that help to raises awareness about skin NTDs, empowering individuals to seek care and adopt preventive measures.

**Engaged and foster dialogue**, on stigma reduction, and encouraged supportive networks for those affected to attend NNN Annual conference and give their testimony will help on stigma reduction.

**Addressed on the Community local health systems innovession** for data reporting, Monitoring and Feedback will help the community access to care.



# NEXT STEPS

## **Capacity Building**

NGOs will invest in training and resources to empower communities in managing and preventing skin Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), ensuring early access to care.

## **Community Engagement**

Involve affected communities in decision-making, training, and research processes to ensure their voices shape interventions and policies, addressing their unique needs.

## **Funding and Resource Mobilization**

Secure funding to support research and enable affected individuals to attend the NNN Annual Conference. Sharing their experiences will raise awareness and combat stigma and discrimination related to skin NTDs.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Develop frameworks to assess the impact of collaborative efforts, integrating health facility data reporting systems for adaptive learning and continuous improvement in strategies addressing skin NTDs.

## **Advocacy and Awareness Campaigns**

Promote awareness about the early management and prevention of skin NTDs by engaging youth in advocacy campaigns within the community to drive change and education.



# CONCLUSION

## WHO Staff and NNN Skin Cross cutting Group



The 15<sup>th</sup> NNN 2024 Skin NTDs Annual Conference was a **successful, raised awareness, Promoted advocacy, inclusivity** especially community affected individuals participation on **research** and **training** which actually fasten to eliminate the stigma related Skin NTDs and encouraging collective action to tackle Skin NTDs elimination towards 2030 strategies with commitment to translating our commitments into tangible actions.

This conference has opened up new paths for broader collaborations with **NGOs and Partners** aimed at achieving our collective goals towards 2030!

We believe that together, we can make a difference

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our sincere gratitude to our proud partners and collaborators who have supported and contributed to the success of NNN 2024 Annual Conference commitment to addressing Skin NTDs and its elimination promoting success, your valued and appreciated.

We would like to extend our gratitude for their invaluable contributions:

**Dr. Rie Youst**, Consultant Dermatologist in Japan and Chair of the NNN Skin Cross Cutting Group, for your expert guidance and support.

**Dr. Kingslay Asiedu**, Medical Officer at the World Health Organization, for your insights and dedication to advancing global health.

**Dr. Claire Fuller**, Chair and Consultant Dermatologist at ILDS, for your leadership and commitment to dermatological excellence.

**Dr. Daniel Agraw**, for your unwavering support and expertise in the field.

*Their collaboration and support have been instrumental in shaping the success of NNN2024 Annual Conference*



# CALL TO ACTION

To Invite all individuals from affected communities to share testimonies about their experiences with NTDs, Voices from affected individuals are powerful tools in the fight against stigma and discrimination. By standing together as NGOs Network, we will promote equity and strengthen community engagement in the battle against these skin Neglected Tropical diseases.

**Affected Voice Matters:** Sharing story shows the realities of living with NTDs and fosters understanding. It is through these shared experiences that we can combat stigma and encourage empathy within our communities.

**Collective Action for Change:** We believe that collaboration is essential. NGOs and community organizations should prioritize research, conduct training sessions, and build awareness campaigns focused on NTDs. Together, we can mobilize efforts to educate the public and promote inclusivity.

**Join Us:** Let's walk alongside individuals affected by NTDs in reducing stigma. By embracing their stories and expressions, we can cultivate a supportive environment and create lasting change. Together, we can work towards a brighter, healthier future for all.

Your participation is crucial. Share your story, get involved, and help us create a movement for awareness and action. Together, we can make a difference!



**Working group Session**



**WHO Staff and NNN Skin Cross cutting Group**

# MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERS

Emphasized critically the importance of community engagement and involvement of individuals with lived experience in our fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). Their insights and perspectives are invaluable as we develop effective research and intervention strategies.

Encourage each to step up with vision and determination. Our collective efforts can make a significant difference in the lives of those affected by NTDs. Let us stand in solidarity with marginalized communities, ensuring that our initiatives align with the strategies set for 2030.

NTDs are preventable, and together, we can create a world where everyone has the opportunity to enjoy good health. Let us strengthen our collaborations, harness our resources, and commit ourselves to a future free from the burden of these diseases.

Together, we can achieve remarkable change through dedication and passion in this important mission.

*Regards*

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