

**Dar-es-Salaam Youth Declaration  
on Neglected Tropical Diseases**



**An NTD Free Generation is within our grasp**

February 27, 2020

Neglected tropical diseases, or NTDs, are a group of debilitating infectious diseases that affect over 1.5 billion people on the planet – that is one in five people!

These diseases, whilst diverse in biological make-up, have one thing in common – they affect the poorest and most marginalized people on our planet – those most left behind. They thrive in poor resource settings, where access to healthcare, adequate sanitation and clean water is scarce.

Their impact on individuals, communities and countries, is devastating. They rob millions of their dignity. They disable, disfigure and also kill. They keep children out of school, adults out of work and trap communities in endless cycles of poverty, costing developing economies billions of dollars every year. Women bear the largest burden and consequence of infection, and often have the least access to medical attention.

As the largest demographic in the world and the largest group at risk of NTDs globally, it is only right that as young people, we are actively involved in the fight against NTDs, as we believe there is nothing for the youth without the youth.

**We, the youth leaders' gathered in Dar es Salaam, today launch the 'Youth Combating NTDs Movement' and commit to:**

1. Ending the neglect of NTDs and prepare for an NTD Free generation by 2030,
2. Bring our energy, our sense for innovation and skills with new technologies, thinking and talent in the fight against NTDs, thereby contributing towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and attaining Universal Health Coverage,
3. Build an effective global community of youth leaders who are fighting NTDs,
4. Use our voice and power to engage, empower and support our communities to be part of the conversation, and
5. Empower young leaders with a view to being actively involved in the work of the NTD community in various capacities ranging from community mobilisation to global advocacy and policy making.

**We call upon our leaders to:**

1. Strengthen political commitments through strong leadership in the form of country ownership towards eliminating NTDs,
2. Support, mainstream and integrate civil society and youth-led movements into national NTD programs,
3. Involve youth movements in the implementation of the WHO 2021-2030 NTD Roadmap, and
4. Increase domestic financing support and multisectoral action towards the implementation of NTD programs.

EMMANUEL M. NDIRABONZI

Over 100 youth leaders from Bangladesh, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe

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