

# First WHO Global Meeting on Skin Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

27–31 March 2023

**HYBRID**

**(PHYSICAL MEETING AT WHO HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA AND ONLINE)**

## **Background**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has published a strategic framework for integrated control and management of skin-related neglected tropical diseases (skin NTDs) that identifies opportunities to integrate approaches for control and management, including common learning platforms, capacity-building for case detection and delivery of treatment. The framework, a companion document to the NTD road map 2021–2030, was formally launched during a WHO-hosted webinar on 8 June 2022.<sup>1</sup>

The road map emphasizes three fundamental shifts (programmatic actions, cross-cutting approaches, country ownership) to guide implementation of NTD activities. Integration is one of the cross-cutting approaches and forms the basis of the skin NTD framework.

Skin diseases are the third most prevalent cause of illness and one of the top 10 causes of disability. They are also among the 10 most common causes of outpatient visits. Of the 20 NTDs, more than half present with skin manifestations (the so-called skin NTDs)<sup>2</sup> and are often associated with long-term disability, stigmatization and mental health problems. They all require similar detection through the examination of the skin, and case-management approaches that present opportunities for integration, which both increases cost-effectiveness and expands coverage.

Some countries have developed integrated plans to address skin NTDs with the support of partners. The research community has also embraced the skin NTD approach, and some are currently working on projects involving multiple diseases. WHO has developed a manual and an App in both Android and iOS to help primary health workers recognize and manage the skin NTDs and other common skin conditions.

The last physical meeting on skin NTDs was held in March 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland because of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The proposed meeting, on 27–31 March 2023, will be a hybrid one (physical and virtual). It will provide an opportunity to convene all skin NTD stakeholders to take stock of progress since the last meeting and to identify ways to collaborate in the implementation of the framework.

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<sup>1</sup> [Countries urged to adapt strategic framework to address huge unmet needs of skin diseases \(who.int\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> Buruli ulcer, cutaneous leishmaniasis, leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, mycetoma, chromoblastomycosis and other deep mycoses, onchocerciasis, post-kala azar dermal leishmaniasis, scabies and other ectoparasitoses, yaws.

## Objectives

- To share progress and challenges in the implementation of integrated activities on skin NTDs at the country level;
- To present advances in research of skin NTDs;
- To plan the implementation of the skin NTD framework;
- To strengthen networking among disease experts.

## Participants

1. Experts in skin NTDs and other NTDs
2. Representatives from health ministries/NTD programme officers
3. Representatives of nongovernmental organizations, partners, donors
4. Academic and research institutions
5. Representatives of WHO (headquarters, regional offices, country offices)
6. People affected by skin NTDs
7. Civil society groups

## Organization of the meeting

The 5-day meeting will be organized as follows.

<b>First WHO Global Meeting on Skin-NTDs</b>					
<b>27 – 31 March 2023, WHO HQ, Geneva, Switzerland (Hybrid)</b>					
<b>Session</b>	<b>Monday 27 March (Day 1)</b>	<b>Tuesday 28 March (Day 2)</b>	<b>Wednesday 29 March (Day 3)</b>	<b>Thursday 30 March (Day 4)</b>	<b>Friday 31 March (Day 5)</b>
09:00 - 12:00	Integration at country level	Training tools	Disability, Rehabilitation Stigma mental health and inclusion	Diagnostics	Operational research
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:00 - 14:00	Poster session	Poster session	Poster session	Poster session	Poster session
14:00 - 17:00	Integration at country level	Integrated surveillance and mapping	Transmission	Treatment including common skin conditions	Conclusions and recommendations
17:00 - 18:00	Side meetings	Side meetings	Side meetings	Side meetings	Side meetings

**Diseases:** Buruli ulcer, cutaneous leishmaniasis, postkala azar dermal leishmaniasis, leprosy, lymphatic filariasis (lymphoedema and hydroele), podoconiosis, mycetoma, onchocerciasis, scabies, tungiasis, yaws, and fungal diseases.

### **Submission of abstract**

Participants are invited to submit abstracts on the following topics using a standard template:

- experiences on integration at country level;
- large-scale project on integration involving more than one country
- advances in disease-specific research on prevention, diagnosis and treatment;
- operational research; and
- other research on skin NTDs.

All abstracts should be received by **Friday 20 January 2023**.

### **In-person attendance**

Participants wishing to attend the meeting in person should make their own financial arrangements or find their own sponsors to cover their participation.

Participants should register using the online link.

### **Languages**

The meeting will be conducted in English, French and Spanish with simultaneous interpretation.