

# Progress towards OV elimination and research update in Cameroon

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# OV control background in Cameroun

## ■ 189 health districts

- ◆ 113 OV hyper/meso endemic (under MDA, all with at least 12 years)
- ◆ 76 OV hypo endemic districts

## ■ Control strategy:

- ◆ MDA following CDTI strategy

# OV program/researchers partnering in Cameroon

## ■ 4 implementing NGDOs:

- ◆ Helen Keller International,
- ◆ International Eye Foundation,
- ◆ PersPectives,
- ◆ Sightsavers

## ■ Main research centers implementing program surveys (mapping, coverage survey, epi. Surveys)

- ◆ CRFilMT (Yaounde)
- ◆ REFOTDE (Buea)
- ◆ Independant/academic researchers

# Challenges to OV elimination in Cameroon

- Co-endemicity to loiasis (*in 95 districts, 31 hypo untreated, 64 hyper/meso under MDA*)
- Systemic non-compliance
- Still hyper-endemic areas after 15 years MDA (*hotspots*)
- Lack of funding support for OV epi assessments (*low priority of donors, research needed on OV epi assessment tools/techniques*)

# OV epidemiological assessments

## ■ Under WHO/APOC, 6 projects assessed

(max values REMO → Epi eval)

- ◆ **North** : 6.0 – 88.7 → **0.0 – 17.0**
- ◆ **Adamaoua** : 5.6-70.0 → **0.0 – 6.7**
- ◆ **SW** : 39.21 – 78.00 → 45.45
- ◆ **Centre** : 10.0 – 83.3 → **51.4 – 71.4**
- ◆ **Littoral** : 43.7 – 66.7 → **50.5**
- ◆ **West** : 60.0 – 100.0 → **1.7 – 45.8**

## ■ 4 projects never assessed in Far North, East, South, NW

# Prospects to elimination

- Continue CDTI
- Alternative strategies:
  - ◆ 2X year CDTI
  - ◆ Doxycycline 5-week regimen
  - ◆ Test and Not Treat in loiasis coendemic areas
  - ◆ Vector control
- National OV Elimination Committee (*1st meeting in Jan 2018*)
  - ◆ Need for re-mapping/impact OV assessments in hypo and some hyper/meso areas;
  - ◆ Integrate and analyze historical data at health area/community level;
  - ◆ Discuss future research with the committee

# Ongoing research projects on OV in Cameroon

## ■ Test and Not Treat by CRFiMT

- ◆ Test for L.loa mf load first. People with mf loads above 20,000mf/ml excluded from IVM intake;
- ◆ IVM for eligible individuals;
- ◆ Albendazole for excluded for high loa individuals

## ■ Massangam project

- ◆ Test and Treat (OV first) + 5 weeks doxycycline;
- ◆ 2X year IVM;
- ◆ Ground larviciding;

# Ongoing research projects on OV in Cameroon

- Countdown (alternative strategies in Meme river)
  - ◆ One round doxycycline in hostspots
  - ◆ Ground larviciding



# Last but not least!

- Clinical research is not all!
- Think about social science research:
  - ◆ Implementation problems
  - ◆ Health economics questions
  - ◆ SBCC questions
- Strengthening program staff capacity on OV diagnostic tests

Thank you