

DNDi'S COMMITMENT TO THE KIGALI DECLARATION

The past decade has seen significant advances toward meeting the needs of the world's 1.7 billion people affected by neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), but insufficient commitment to medical innovation threatens the pace of progress.

For some NTDs, interventions using existing medical tools have helped to curb transmission, for example through preventive mass drug administration campaigns. But **for most NTDs, inadequate investment in research and development (R&D) has hindered progress** toward sustainable disease elimination. **We still lack tools for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment** that are simple, safe, and effective – and that can be easily integrated into already overburdened health systems.

The Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DNDi) is an international non-profit organization that discovers, develops, and delivers **safe, effective, and affordable treatments for the most neglected patients**. Through our R&D programmes and alliances, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), we work hand in hand with medical and scientific experts, government leaders, industry and academic partners, non-governmental organizations, and affected communities. Together, we define the most pressing R&D needs, share knowledge and expertise, bolster medical research, development, and production capacity,

and accelerate access to new treatments. Our partnerships in LMICs foster engagement 'end-to-end' health R&D and strengthen innovation ecosystems that put peoples' needs first.

One remarkable example of the power of partnership for innovation is fexinidazole – the first all-oral treatment for sleeping sickness – developed in close collaboration with our industrial partner, Sanofi, and the national sleeping sickness programme of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Until recently, the only treatment available was so toxic it killed one in twenty patients. Today, a cure exists in the form of a safe and simple course of pills that can accelerate momentum toward elimination targets.

As we look to the future, we must be prepared for ever-increasing needs – including those resulting from climate-sensitive diseases. **Sustained investment in R&D for new tools against NTDs will determine our ability to reach the goals of the WHO NTD Roadmap 2030 and meet neglected patients' needs.**



AT DNDi, WE COMMIT TO DO OUR PART TO END THE NEGLECT AND ACHIEVE WHO NTD ROADMAP 2030 TARGETS BY:

- 1. Delivering at least 13 life-saving new treatments** – including at least 7 new chemical entities – for people affected by sleeping sickness, leishmaniasis, Chagas disease, river blindness, mycetoma, and dengue fever, including advancing a proactive agenda for climate-sensitive NTDs, maternal and child health, and gender-responsive R&D. We will continuously assess new opportunities to address patients' unmet needs, with specific focus on pandemic-prone and climate-sensitive diseases and treatment gaps for other NTDs, such as schistosomiasis and snakebite.
- 2. Joining public, private, and not-for-profit partners from around the world** – particularly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America – to collaborate as equal partners in defining R&D

priorities, strengthening South-South and cross-regional research alliances, and developing robust strategies to ensure sustainable access to new health tools.

- 3. Advocating for change and influencing public policies** to enable a more effective and equitable global biomedical R&D system that ensures all people benefit from medical innovation and have access to the fruits of scientific progress.

Working with partners to advance our collaborative model of patient-centred R&D, DNDi aims to secure close to USD 500 million between 2022 and 2028 to achieve our goals and contribute to driving science forward and ensuring equitable and affordable access to safe and effective therapeutic innovations.