IMPROVING ACCESS TO TREATMENT OF THE NTDs – CHALLENGES AND MEASURES

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Background

- 17 Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)
  - 5 Preventive Chemotherapy (PCT) NTDs
  - 12 Intensified Disease Management (IDM) NTDs
- 12 priority NTDs in Kenya (4 PCT and 8 IDM)
- 2 main intervention strategies
  - Mass drug administration (MDA)
  - Morbidity management & disability prevention (MMDP)
- Role of the NTD programme
Challenges

- Poor access to treatment
- Management of (drug) donations
- Scarcity of resources
  - For utilization of (drug) donations
  - For direct procurement
  - For coordination of treatment interventions
- Lack of adequate training among health workers
- Weak Quality Assurance and Control systems
- Stakeholders slow to embrace integration
Measures to mitigate challenges

- Review of the National Strategic Plan for NTDs
- Development of policies and guidelines
- Establishment of a coordination mechanism
  - Inter-agency coordinating committee (ICC)
  - 5 Technical working groups (TWGs) of the ICC
- Massive ACSM activities planned
- Assumption of full control of (drug) donations
- Improvement of programme staffing status
Next steps

- Role of operational research
- Capacity building and technical support
- High level government ownership
  - Direct participation
  - Baseline funding of programme activities
- More resources towards programme support
- Regular NTD fora (forums)
- Cooperation among stakeholders