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 CRFilMT**
  - 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