



# REPORT OF A JOINT MISSION

Mozambique, 10–17 December 2019

TO REVIEW  
THE NEGLECTED TROPICAL  
DISEASE PROGRAMME  
AND SUPPLY CHAIN  
MANAGEMENT FOR  
DONATED PREVENTIVE  
CHEMOTHERAPY MEDICINES



EXPANDED SPECIAL PROJECT  
FOR ELIMINATION OF  
NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES



World Health  
Organization



**Report of a joint mission to review the  
neglected tropical disease programme and  
supply chain management for donated  
preventive chemotherapy medicines**

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## **Abbreviations and acronyms**

CMAM	Central de Medicamentos e Artigos Médicos/central medical store
JAP	joint application package
JRF	joint reporting form
JRSM	joint request for selected PC medicines
LF	lymphatic filariasis
NPO	national professional officer
PC	preventive chemotherapy
SCH	schistosomiasis
STH	soil-transmitted helminthiases
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

## 1. Background

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends preventive chemotherapy (PC) as part of strategies to control and eliminate lymphatic filariasis (LF), onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis (SCH), soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH) and trachoma. A major challenge observed in the past few years concerns the accuracy of information on medicines donated to countries in which these neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are endemic and the discrepancies between the quantities of PC medicines supplied and the data reported on treatment. As a result, significant quantities of medicines remain unaccounted for globally. To better understand and address this issue in Mozambique, the Ministry of Health officially requested WHO to provide technical assistance. The Expanded Special Project for Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (ESPEN) of the WHO Regional Office for Africa facilitated a joint mission by the WHO Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases at headquarters, the WHO Country Office in Mozambique and the NTD team at the Ministry of Health of Mozambique on 10–17 December 2019 to reconcile reported data and actual stocks of medicines available in the country, confirm any expiry of medicines used for treatment of NTDs amenable to PC, explore the reasons for any expiry and implement corrective measures to minimize expiry of medicines in future. The members of the mission team and the persons met are listed in the annex to this report.

The objectives of the mission were:

- to conduct a rapid review of the supply chain management system for PC-NTD medicines, assess the status of the inventory of PC medicines and provide technical support to address challenges affecting the supply chain management system;
- to assist the Ministry of Health of Mozambique in completing the joint application package (JAP) for PC medicines; and
- to conduct a rapid analysis of PC programme implementation and provide technical support to address any identified challenges.

The mission involved meetings with colleagues from the WHO Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases at headquarters, the WHO Country Office in Mozambique and the Ministry of Health of Mozambique. The team visited the national NTD programme and the regional warehouse in Maputo. (There are five other warehouses located throughout the country: three in Maputo and two in the central and northern regions.) At each level, meetings were held with technical and/or administrative staff and with health personnel involved in the national NTD programme and in supplying and/or distributing medicines through mass treatment.

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