

For the first time, Nepal to host Global Conference on Neglected Tropical Diseases from Sep 13-15

Organised by the Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) NGO Network, this conference in Kathmandu will see NTD practitioners, government leaders, public health physicians, researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders from over 50 countries deliberating on challenges and solutions for NTD elimination.

Following two years of virtual-only conferences, the NTD NGO Network (NNN) is delighted to host its thirteenth annual conference in-person in Kathmandu, Nepal, and online. The three-day programme, taking place from 13th to 15th September, will bring together NTD practitioners, government officials, researchers, global health experts, and global policy agencies to identify common challenges in NTD elimination and propose solutions.

Nepalese government officials and leaders from South Asia and West Africa are set to attend a high-level panel discussion on integrating NTDs into general health services. Packed with 16 exciting workshops and rapid-fire sessions, the conference promises to be an enriching experience. The event represents a diversity of experiences with panelists including the *Director General of the Ministry of Health in Nepal*, Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh, and leaders like Mr. Amar Bahadur Timalcina from organisations of people living with disabilities.

The conference theme, ‘NTDs in health systems - innovate, integrate, and empower’, aligns with Pillar two of the 2021-30 World Health Organization (WHO) road map for NTDs, and will encourage participants to explore new opportunities, partnerships, and approaches to boost efforts towards a world free from NTDs.

Participants can look forward to the announcement of the winners of the 4th annual NTD Innovation Prize and the now annual NNN Special Session, which will showcase what NNN members are doing to address the gaps in the implementation of the road map.

Arielle Dolegui, Chair of the NNN, said: “The Annual NNN Conference is the leading global event bringing together communities collectively dedicated to research, implementation, policy, and advocacy towards a common vision for a world free of NTDs. This edition will feature an

impressive representation of government leaders, global partners, and implementing organizations to galvanize momentum and renew commitment towards the delivery of the WHO 2030 NTD road map. We welcome you to join us in-person or online as we come together to share experiences and exchange knowledge for innovative NTD solutions and empowered health systems.”

Shovakhar Kandel, *Country Director of the Leprosy Mission Nepal*, the local host, said: “Hosting the NNN 2022 Conference is a significant moment for Nepal. It represents our leadership, having been the first country in Southeast Asia to have eliminated trachoma as a public health problem, and our collective progress towards ending other NTDs. As a local host, this is also a noteworthy moment for The Leprosy Mission Nepal. We look forward to welcoming colleagues from across the globe to exchange knowledge and offer solutions for reaching the 2021-30 NTD goals, together.”

Interested parties can still register online [here](#).

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About NNN:

The Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) NGO Network is a global forum for NGOs to contribute to the global control, elimination, and management of the consequences of NTDs outlined within the internationally agreed 2021-30 WHO NTD road map. The NNN 2021 virtual conference welcomed 1,000 delegates from 83 countries, representing more than 320 civil society organisations, as well as governments, donors and the private sector.

WHO NTD road map 2021-2030:

The road map is a document that guides global action on NTDs over the next decade. It sets targets and milestones to prevent and treat 20 diseases and includes critical gaps and the actions required to reach the targets under three pillars: 1) Accelerate programme actions 2) Intensify cross-cutting approaches 3) Change operating models and culture to facilitate country ownership.

To register as a press attendee, please email subhojit.goswami@leprosymission.in (mobile: +91 9967723213).