

Neglected Tropical Diseases

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are affecting more than one billion people from 149 countries, including Nepal. More than 27 million population of Nepal are at high risks of at least one NTD (Envision Nepal). Early Case Detection and validation, complete treatment and disability prevention are four major challenges to eliminate NTDs in Nepal. Limited programs to eliminate NTDs, POID clinics, health education, and social/self-stigma amongst further add burden. FAIRMED believes that effective control against NTDs can be achieved through combination of several public approaches; intensified disease management, early detection, preventive measures and appropriate treatment.

FAIRMED is a signatory to the London Declaration on NTDs – the largest coordinated effort on health issues thus far – aiming to eliminate or control 10 neglected tropical diseases by 2020. FAIRMED's works contribute towards achieving the objectives set by WHO Global Disability Action Plan (2014-2021) and FAIRMED Disability Inclusive Development (DID) Strategy Paper.

FAIRMED Nepal is planning to implement a multi-year project in few districts of Nepal to support the Government of Nepal (GoN) to eliminate priority NTDs identified by the Nepal Health Sector Strategy (NHSS, 2015 – 2020): Leprosy, Kala-azar, Trachoma and Lymphatic Filariasis.

A situation analysis assessment on NTDs conducted by FAIRMED in nine districts of Nepal – Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara, Rupandehi, Kapilbastu, Banke and Bardiya – identified the following challenges to eliminate NTDs:

Challenges:

Limited program support (including, in areas of health education and awareness raising targeted for disadvantaged communities)

Limited number of POID clinics

Social stigma and stigma among health workers (despite knowledge about transmission of NTDs, especially leprosy)

People with NTDs tend to refrain from self-help groups

Our planned interventions:

Provide support to the Ministry of Health in the control, prevention and elimination of NTDs, as per the need

Help improve NTD-affected people's access to basic health care services

Extend support in reducing stigma and discrimination attached with NTDs

Improve early detection, and referral for prevention of disabilities through partnering with like-minded organizations