

## Sightsavers Deworming Wishlist 4

### April 2020 to March 2023

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#### Summary cover note

Wishlist 4 shows the current funding opportunities available to Sightsavers for deworming MDA. As requested, we have aimed to provide the 'full picture' within which we have then highlighted our organizational priorities.

The list below outlines current funding opportunities in order of priority for Sightsavers:

#### Priority 1:

- Extension of support in existing project areas in Yobe State, Nigeria, until March 2023.
- Geographic expansion of support into two new regions, Littoral and South Region, in Cameroon, until March 2023. This is a new operational area for Sightsavers deworming treatments.
- Geographic expansion of support into one new region, Ituri Sud, in DRC, until March 2023. This is a new operational area for Sightsavers deworming treatments.
- Geographic expansion of support into Senegal, until March 2023. A new country for a Sightsavers GiveWell funded deworming program.

#### Priority 2:

- Support for STH in regions where Ascend<sup>1</sup> is funding other NTDs; Lagos State, Nigeria

We have considered the following criteria when prioritizing work, the:

- i. delivery of programs which continue to build on efforts to reduce transmission and accelerate the control of SCH/STH as a public health problem;
- ii. delivery of programs which continue to build on efforts to deliver SCH/STH MDA where no other funding is available;
- iii. new geographic areas in need of partner support which are a logical extension of our current deworming programs in country: and build on existing in-country partnerships and support structures, and achieve economies of scale;
- iv. any further expansion to new geographic areas needs to be feasible in scale, building on existing partnerships and support structures;
- v. expansion to new geographic areas is only feasible if a cumulative approach is taken regarding priorities.

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<sup>1</sup> UK Department for International Development, 'Accelerating sustainable control and elimination of NTDS'

**Table 1: Summary of Wishlist 4**

Description	Countries / Project Area	Details
<b>Priority 1:</b> Extension of support in existing project areas	Yobe State, Nigeria	From April 2020 until March 2023
<b>Priority 1:</b> Geographic expansion of support into a new region	Ituri Sud, DRC	From April 2020 until March 2023
	Cameroon, Littoral and South Regions	From April 2020 until March 2023
<b>Priority 1:</b> A new country for a GiveWell funded program	Senegal	From April 2020 until March 2023
<b>Priority 2:</b> Support for STH in regions where Ascend is funding other NTDs	Lagos State, Nigeria	From April 2020 until March 2022

### Priorities

GiveWell funded programs in Year 2 treated over 4.5 million school aged children (SAC) for SCH/STH. Without this funding from GiveWell, our programs could not have reached this many children and contributed to global efforts to control SCH and STH at this scale.

We are pleased that the increased use of TCSs to monitor our work demonstrate our program's effectiveness and good coverage rates through MDA. In addition, GiveWell's recommendation to carry out TCSs following each MDA have further helped to improve Sightsavers organizational monitoring processes for SCH and STH.

Wishlist 4 funding will allow us to continue to build on the achievements already made in the delivery of Wishlist 1 and 2, and provide us with the opportunity to reach more children currently not receiving regular deworming treatments.

Funding up to 2023 will enable us to plan our programs so as to ensure maximum efficiencies and deliver MDA to the SCH endemic regions on a three-year treatment cycle. It will ensure Yobe State, along with other current GiveWell funded programs, will have delivered at least five consecutive rounds of SCH/STH MDA and will be due an impact assessment. These assessments are planned for 2023 for most programs. Once complete, we will use these findings to further refine our treatments strategies and plan MDA accordingly, so as to continue to target disease hotspots that have high prevalence rates.

We anticipate there will be a continued need for SCH/STH MDA in many program regions, following March 2023.

### Under Priority 1:

- Continuation of funding from April 2020 in Yobe State;

For Yobe State, our funding request is for three years, this will allow us to maintain the momentum gained over the last two years in Yobe State. This approach will enable Yobe State

to have received five consecutive rounds of MDA and be ready for an impact assessment in 2023, as mentioned above. This will enable more accurate cost comparisons.

- Geographic expansion of support into new regions in Cameroon and DRC.

Increasing our geographical reach in Cameroon and DRC will enable the programs to reach more children, whilst benefiting from the economies of scale resulting from extending these current programs. Both expansions build on existing in-country partnerships and support structures.

- Geographic expansion into Senegal, a new country for Sightsavers to deliver a SCH/STH MDA program.

Geographic expansion into Senegal is a priority because despite the need, there are no other funders for SCH / STH in these areas of Senegal. In addition, having worked in Senegal since 2001, we have an established country office and existing infrastructure, enabling us to support the delivery of cost effective treatments.

### **Under Priority 2:**

- Support for STH in regions where Ascend funding other NTDs; Lagos State, Nigeria.

This funding opportunity has arisen because other PC-NTDs are prioritized over STH by DFID through the Ascend NTD program. This contract only allows for STH treatments to be delivered where SCH is co-endemic.

The confirmed treatment gap, at the time of writing, is in Lagos State, Nigeria, where there is a need for 750,000 STH treatments to SAC.

### **Potential future Sightsavers priorities**

The Ascend inception period has just finished and we expect to find some treatment gaps for STH MDA in regions new to Sightsavers in DRC from 2020 to 2022. We anticipate the number of treatments and the budget in DRC being relatively small.

In addition, we've identified a possible future funding opportunity in Chad, currently receiving funding under the World Bank PARSET program. From April 2021 Ascend funding will support SCH and STH in Chad where STH is co-endemic with SCH. This leaves other areas non-endemic for SCH potentially unfunded and in need of 3 STH million treatments annually.

Sightsavers is also currently exploring the need for SCH MDA in Burkina Faso, which is facing a shortage of resources to cover NTD activities. This is likely to be exacerbated in 2020 with the planned completion of the World Bank's MTN control project. The WHO-led SCH strategy review workshop, held in May 2019, identified a need for mapping and prevalence assessments for both SCH and STH in 15 districts, and for SCH MDA in the South West region. Our team in West Africa will work with the Ministry of Health and local partners to examine the local need in greater detail and confirm if there is a need for future support from Sightsavers.

As an organization, we will continue to look for other potential funders to help fund the need in these countries.

**Table 2: A summary of the Wishlist 4 treatment targets.**

Wishlist 4 aims to treat approx. 3.7 million SAC for SCH/STH. Priority 1 targets 2.9 million SAC for treatment.

Description	Countries / Project Area	No. of SAC treatments		No of SAC treated*
		SCH	STH	
<b>Priority 1:</b> Extension of support in existing project areas.	Yobe State, Nigeria	1,812,274	n/a	723,747
<b>Priority 1:</b> Geographic expansion of support.	Ituri Sud, DRC	953,171	463,833	869,737
	Littoral and South Regions, Cameroon	672,620	2,016,261	728,680
<b>Priority 1:</b> A new country for a GiveWell funded program	Senegal	593,436	1,378,603	659,474
<b>Priority 2:</b> Support for STH in regions where Ascend is funding other NTDs	Lagos State, Nigeria	n/a	1,484,275	751,300
<b>Total no of SAC treated</b>				<b>3,732,938</b>

\*These targets take the number of ALB only treatments, plus the number of PZQ only treatments, plus the number of PZQ and ALB combined treatments to calculate the total number of SAC treated per district.

**Table 3: A summary of the Wishlist 4 budget.**

	Apr' 2020 – Mar 2023	Apr' 2020 – Mar 2023	Apr' 2020 – Mar 2023	Total over 3 years
<b>Priority 1</b>	\$1,512,688	\$1,336,506	\$1,500,871	\$4,350,065
<b>Priority 2</b>	\$249,882	\$256,192	\$0	\$506,074
<b>All Priorities</b>	\$1,762,570	\$1,592,699	\$1,500,871	\$4,856,139

NB. above budget includes ICR, see tab 1 on Wishlist 4 budget spreadsheet

### Fungibility / other funders

Earlier in the year, the Sightsavers-led consortium was awarded the Department for International Development's 'Accelerating Sustainable Control and Elimination of NTDs' (Ascend) contract, worth approximately £91.6m, from 2019 - 2022. The contract will cover a range of countries in West and Central Africa including DRC, Nigeria, Guinea and Guinea Bissau. Cameroon was not included in Ascend's list of priority countries.

The Ascend contract is supporting the Sightsavers-led collation to deliver NTD treatments across West and central Africa. The program will deliver SCH/STH treatments in Benin, DRC, CAR, Chad, Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, Niger and Nigeria. In total, it will deliver approx. 65,000 SCH treatments and almost 20,000 STH treatments.

Under Ascend five NTDs are being tackled, with LF being the lead priority (47% of all planned MDA treatments). Additional to MDA, Ascend funds patient care activities for trachoma and LF and system health strengthening.

Whilst Ascend provides a significant boost to tackling NTDs in the region, STH is not a priority NTD within Ascend's criteria. This means the contract only allows for STH treatments to be delivered where SCH is co-endemic. The consortium will follow DFID's criteria, prioritizing LF and oncho treatments. As a result, DFID priorities and Ascend budget limitations mean there are still funding gaps for SCH and STH following the allocation of Ascend funds.

Stand-alone SCH and STH programs continue to be less well funded than the other NTDs that are treatable with the drugs provided free by pharmaceutical companies via PCT<sup>2</sup>.

Sightsavers continues to look at ways of incorporating our deworming work into other health programs. The School Health Integrated Programming (SHIP) pilot, funded by the World Bank, used two simple health interventions - de-worming and vision screening within schools - as entry points for a comprehensive school health and nutrition program. These pilots were designed to serve as a demonstration approach so interventions could be replicated and integrated within state education.

We are using the learning from these pilots to implement a new SHIP program in Liberia. Launched in November 2018, with a \$2m funding commitment from Dubai Cares, this three-year program aims to train 2,400 teachers to screen their students for visual impairments and provide deworming treatments through an integrated approach, covering over 70,000 children. This is a methodology that Sightsavers is interested in employing in other locations where possible, and has the added strategic benefit of contributing to our strategic aims to reach more people with refractive error services at scale.

Being one of GiveWell's Top Charities has directly helped to attract smaller donors, as well as one new major donor in 2019, to our deworming work. We are pleased to see over the last year this work is attracting a higher profile in the media and with potential donors. Sightsavers will continue to promote our deworming work in an effort to attract new donors.

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<sup>2</sup> 'preventive chemotherapy and transmission control