The countdown to 2020: measuring progress in neglected tropical diseases


This version is available from Sussex Research Online: http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/id/eprint/67038/

This document is made available in accordance with publisher policies and may differ from the published version or from the version of record. If you wish to cite this item you are advised to consult the publisher’s version. Please see the URL above for details on accessing the published version.

Copyright and reuse:
Sussex Research Online is a digital repository of the research output of the University.

Copyright and all moral rights to the version of the paper presented here belong to the individual author(s) and/or other copyright owners. To the extent reasonable and practicable, the material made available in SRO has been checked for eligibility before being made available.

Copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational, or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided that the authors, title and full bibliographic details are credited, a hyperlink and/or URL is given for the original metadata page and the content is not changed in any way.
The Countdown to 2020: measuring progress in neglected tropical diseases

The London Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases’ marked its fourth year on Jan 30, 2016. The declaration represents a coordinate effort to control or eliminate ten of the neglected diseases by 2020, and has already led to important coordination and partnership, and mobilised considerable resources. Although the progress made so far is to be celebrated, now is the time to count down to 2020 and start monitoring the progress and trends towards achieving the control and elimination targets.

First, progress towards the 2020 targets should be measured through collation, presentation, and analysis of standardised core metrics that track country progress. Elimination and control targets in the WHO Roadmap could serve as initial standardised metrics. Efforts are being made to measure the progress and forecast future trends, but most efforts are disease-specific and occur at a global scale. Therefore, comprehensive measurements to track the goal of the declaration are needed. Country-specific case studies, considering different aspects of policy, programming, and intervention would provide the whole picture of the analysis needed for the countdown to 2020. Focus on assessment from a multidimensional aspect and pinpointing of bottlenecks will help to identify the gaps in implementation and point out areas that need improvement.

Second, development of standardised methods to measure the progress towards reaching the targets is crucial. Modelling methods, which use the available data to forecast future trends will be important for understanding how countries are progressing towards achieving the goals of the London declaration. These methods will enable comparison of the outputs of such an analysis, and several sources of data would be needed to provide continuous high-quality data for analysis. Collaboration with national surveys, such as the demographic and health surveys and several indicators surveys, would be crucial for achieving this goal.

Third, establishment of a global independent monitoring group would be essential to assess country-specific reports and set up an accountability framework. The group would have an important role in the definition of the core methods to monitor progress and develop a framework for country assessment mechanisms. This approach will help to further improve the quality of country-level reports.

As we go further down the road, understanding if we are on track to achieve the targets is necessary. Standardised metrics, continued monitoring, and comprehensive country-specific case studies will be crucial to advance the goal of the declaration.

I am supported by a Wellcome Trust fellowship in public health and tropical medicine (grant number 099876).

Copyright © Deribe. Open Access article distributed under the terms of CC BY.

Kebede Deribe
kebededeka@yahoo.com
Brighton and Sussex Medical School, Brighton BN2 1RX, UK; and School of Public Health, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia