



Tanzania media tour outputs to date [02/12/25]:

In August, Uniting, in partnership with Sightsavers and the Tanzanian government, invited seven high-calibre African journalists to witness progress made in controlling and eliminating NTDs in Tanzania. The goal was to equip them with stories to help protect existing achievements and lay the groundwork for further investment. Journalists saw programmatic activities, met beneficiaries, government officials, and programme and health staff.

To date, 18 articles have been published, syndicated or quoted with a combined potential reach of more than 40 million views, and a realistically adjusted reach of one million+ views. In addition, a documentary was broadcast on YouTube and a story with the Tanzania Broadcast Corporation (which I do not have stats for).

The tour delivered key benefits for all stakeholders. It strengthened Uniting's case for domestic financing, reinforced Sightsavers' brand as a leader in eye care and inclusion and provided a platform for the Tanzania Ministry of Health to celebrate its national progress.

Melody Chironda – All Africa:

- 18/08/2025: ['I Fought for My Sight, Now I Fight for Others' - Fatuma Saidi Majogo](#)
 - 19/08/2025: Syndicated: [Fatouma Majogo: quand un combat personnel contre le trachome inspire toute l'Afrique](#) (When a personal fight against trachoma inspires all of Africa)
- 20/08/2025: [Neglected Tropical Diseases Affect Millions - How Tanzania is Boldly Fighting Back](#) – RLMF mention
- 26/08/2025: [Woman's Win Over Trachoma Sparks Campaign to Get Grandson's Scrotum Surgery](#)
- 01/09/2025: [Tanzania: A Meal, Then a Pill - How Tanzania's Campaign is Transforming Child Health](#) – Albendazole & Praziquantel mention
 - 01/09/2025: Picked up by HCN: [Tanzania: A Meal, Then a Pill - How Tanzania's Campaign is Transforming Child Health](#)
- 03/09/2025: [Tanzanian Surgeon at Forefront of Combating Trachoma and Preventing Blindness](#)
- 01/10/2025: [Africa: Despite Progress, Funding Cuts Threaten to Reverse Africa's Fight Against Neglected Tropical Diseases](#)



Herieth Makwetta

The Citizen:

- 22/08/2025: [Misconceptions delay hydrocele treatment along Tanzania's coast](#)

MWANANCHI:

- 22/08/2025: [Faida za kutibu mapema busha, ngiri](#) (Google translate: 'Benefits of early treatment of herpes, herpes zoster' – assuming it means hydrocele, not herpes)

Julius Maricha - The Citizen

- 22/10/2025: An additional article went live, written by Julius Maricha, who was not on the trip: [Heroes of sight: How Tanzanian health workers are fighting trachoma](#)

Francis Kokutse

Business AM:

- 27/08/2025: [Tanzania leading in Africa's fight against neglected tropical diseases – RLMF mention & highlights ROI on NTD programmes](#)

Business & Financial Times:

- 26/08/2025: [Tanzania using mass drug administration to fight neglected tropical diseases – RLMF mention & highlights ROI on NTD programmes](#)
 - 26/08/2025: Picked up by News Ghana: [Tanzania's School-Based Drug Program Targets Neglected Tropical Diseases](#)
 - 26/08/2025: Picked up by Ghana Webbers: [Tanzania using mass drug administration to fight neglected tropical diseases](#)

Agnes Mbapu - Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation

- 22/08/2025: Swahili video on YouTube:
https://youtu.be/h5_01Qqbs_M?si=tk19x8OQvJkvHwY9

Pauline Kairu – The East African:

- 20/09/2025: [Neglected diseases: Tanzania's fight against a silent threat – RLMF and ROI mention](#)

Gilbert Nakweya – Nature Africa

- 21/11/25: [Tanzania records gains in NTD prevention](#)
- 21/11/25: [La Tanzanie enregistre des progrès dans la prévention des MTN](#)



Ismaily Kawambwa - Daily News Digital:

- 26/08/2025: Swahili video on YouTube: [Vita ya Utatu: Ushindi Dhidi Kichocho, Minyoo | Manufaa Sekta ya Elimu](#) - English transcription in note form: [THE TRIPLE BATTLE VICTORY AGAINST SCHISTOSOMIASIS AND INTESTINAL WORMS BENEFITS FOR THE EDUCATION SECTOR.docx](#) – Highlights ROI on NTD programmes and the importance of drug donation programmes
- **YouTube video description, via Google:** ‘A moving and inspiring story of the journey of hope, failure, rise and triumph of parents, teachers, government and students of Vikuruti Primary School in Kibaha Town Council, Coast Region.

The National Programme for the Control of Non-Trivial Diseases (NTDs) has made a significant contribution to improving the health and education of children in Kibaha District, Coast Region. Since its inception in 2009, implemented by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with other stakeholders such as the Ministry under the President’s Office for Regional Administration and Local Government (RALG), Sightsavers and Uniting To Combat NTDs, the programme has successfully reduced the absenteeism rate from 10 percent to 2 percent.

The reduction in absenteeism has directly contributed to increasing the achievement of children, as good health enables them to fully participate in school studies and activities. Vikuruti Primary School and other schools in Kibaha District have seen an increase in the achievement rate among students, which proves that good health is the foundation of good education.’

English transcription in note form, from journalist:

DOCUMENTARY: THE TRIPLE BATTLE: VICTORY AGAINST SCHISTOSOMIASIS AND INTESTINAL WORMS | BENEFITS FOR THE EDUCATION SECTOR

OPENING SCENE

[Opening Shot]

- Close-up: hands on the steering wheel, cars passing by on a dusty road.
- Wide shot: a vehicle moving through a rural landscape.
- Cutaway: signboard of "Vikuruti Primary School".
- Medium shot: students lined up, welcoming their teacher with respect.

SCENE 2 – SCHOOL

Insert Interview: Vikuruti Teacher

- Teacher explains how the school collaborates with the government on the mass drug administration program.



Narrator (VO):

Africa has a very young population. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), around 60% of people on the continent are under 25, making Africa the youngest continent in the world. The average age in Africa is just 19 years, lower than any other continent, according to the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Global context

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) 2020 report, more than 1.7 billion people worldwide needed treatment or preventive measures against at least one neglected tropical disease (NTD).

By 2022, WHO 2024 data shows this number dropped to 1.62 billion, a 26% decrease since 2010. Still, over a quarter of the world population remains at high risk of NTDs.

TZ Tanzania

Tanzania is among the African countries making great progress in combating NTDs:

- **Lymphatic Filariasis (Matende & Mabusha):** affected districts reduced from 119 in 2000 to just 5 in 2023.
- **Schistosomiasis (Kichocho) and intestinal worms:** school-based preventive programs now reach millions of children every year, reducing school absenteeism and stomach diseases.
- **Trachoma:** once widespread, through surgery campaigns, hygiene improvements, and preventive treatment, deaths and blindness have significantly decreased.

Narrator (VO):

In other words, while the world struggles with 1.62 billion people at risk, Tanzania stands as a model of hope in Africa — proving that with government, community, and health partners' cooperation, a generation free from NTDs is achievable.

Research shows that **\$1 invested in NTD control produces \$24 in economic benefits**, roughly TZS 62,400. Treating NTDs boosts individual and national productivity. These findings come from Tanzania's NTD Control Program, launched in 2009 under the Ministry of Health.

WHAT ARE NTDs?

You might wonder, what are NTDs, and what happens if we don't address them?

- WHO defines NTDs as a group of 21 diseases, 15 of which are present in Tanzania.
- If untreated, these diseases can cause severe health, educational, social, and economic problems: permanent disability, chronic pain, reduced immunity, school absenteeism, poor academic performance, stigma, inability to support a family, loss of workforce, high medical costs, and slowed community and national development, sometimes leading to death.

Interview: Clarer Mwansasu, NTD Program Manager

- "Tanzania currently targets five major NTDs through preventive treatments: intestinal worms, schistosomiasis (kichocho), trachoma, lymphatic filariasis (matende & mabusha)."



- Tanzania ranks 8th globally and 4th in Africa in NTD burden. In 2023 alone, over 36 million people needed treatment or preventive measures — more than half the country’s population.

Government Commitment

The Tanzanian government considers NTDs a major barrier to development, perpetuating poverty and intergenerational dependency. In 2022, President Samia Suluhu Hassan signed the **Kigali Declaration**, aiming to increase funding and achieve self-reliance in NTD elimination by 2026 (full control by 2028).

Program Achievements:

- By 2015, only 5 districts remained affected by lymphatic filariasis, down from 114 in 2009.
- Approximately 12,660 patients had surgeries for hydrocele correction from 2009–2024.
- Trachoma prevalence dropped in 62 out of 69 previously affected districts, with over 41,000 patients receiving surgery to prevent permanent blindness.

Vox-pop (Students):

- Albano Edward Said: “These medicines protect us from schistosomiasis and worms.”
- Minaeli Julius Eliamlise: “I want to study without getting sick.”
- Chengele Beno: Vikuruti Primary School Head Master

Community Health Worker Focus:

- Pembe Kizigo, CHW in Vikuruti, collaborates daily with health staff and village leaders to provide education and services, facing challenges like occasional drug shortages and vaccine hesitancy.

School Health Coordinator:

- Matrida Kahindi coordinates with schools and local health offices to ensure preventive programs reach children, resulting in school attendance improvement and absenteeism reduction from 10% to 2%.

Program Manager Insights:

- By 2024, over 19,774 patients received treatment, and 12,660 surgeries were performed from 2009–2024.
- Success comes from a collaborative approach: mass drug administration, community engagement, improved health service access, monitoring, and research.
- Key partners include Sightsavers, The END Fund, and funding innovations through Uniting to Combat NTDs.

MR. PETER KIVUMBI: Sightsavers Manager speaking on how Sightsavers projects leads fighting against NTDs in Lindi and Pwani Regions.

James Ochweri, Communications Manager, Uniting to Combat NTDs

Program Manager Insights: Dr. Clerer makes clarification