Neglected Tropical Diseases - Public Health Approach

Introduction
More than 1 billion people – a sixth of the world’s population – suffer from one or more neglected tropical diseases. These diseases represent about 17% of the global burden of parasitic and infectious diseases.

Most neglected tropical diseases are endemic in rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa and in poor urban settings of low-income countries in Asia and Latin America. They lead to long-term disability, disfigurement, impaired childhood growth, adverse pregnancy outcomes and reduced economic productivity.

Neglected tropical diseases kill an estimated 534,000 people worldwide every year. Their impact on worker productivity adds up to billions of dollars lost annually and maintains low-income countries in poverty.

Addressing neglected tropical diseases from a public health perspective often involve negotiations not only on what we want (our interests), but also on core beliefs about public health needs and priorities, and the way government and society should be working to respond to those needs and priorities (our values). Negotiations involving value conflicts are often more challenging to resolve than negotiations based primarily on interests, because negotiators may be reluctant to trade off their principles for the sake of their interests.

This elective provides the opportunity to learn the current global situation of neglected tropical diseases, how large-scale interventions for control are organized and main challenges for implementation and sustainability of control.

Learning Objectives
In this module the students are expected to:

1. Define what “neglected tropical diseases” are and their types, epidemiological situation and transmission

2. Understand differences between control, elimination, eradication of a disease and related with neglected tropical diseases

3. Describe the difference between the “mass drug administration” and the “case-based” approaches
4. Describe epidemiological indicators needed to monitor and evaluate interventions to control neglected tropical diseases

5. Describe main global challenges for neglected tropical diseases control in different areas (prevention, diagnostics, treatments, implementation and research)

ECTS Credits
5

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