GIVING THE GREEN LIGHT TO THE ELIMINATION OF RIVER BLINDNESS.

River blindness is a parasitic disease that, left untreated, causes intolerable itching and the eventual loss of sight.

The good news? A medication called ivermectin can prevent this suffering and stop the transmission of river blindness, and is donated worldwide with the goal of eliminating the disease.

The bad news? In 10 Central African countries, treatment is on hold due to a co-infection, *Loa loa*, that can lead to severe adverse events, including coma and death, after ivermectin treatment.

The LoaScope is a mobile, point-of-care diagnostic that can both detect and quantify *Loa loa* in the blood.

Using the LoaScope, our evidence-based strategy overcomes the *Loa loa* roadblock, making ivermectin available to millions of people at risk of river blindness.

Our Solution:

**MAP**: Determine where *Loa loa* is prevalent (and where it isn’t) to inform treatment strategies.

**TEST**: In *Loa loa* areas, leverage the LoaScope to determine whom to treat.

**TREAT**: Provide long-awaited ivermectin treatment to those with low or no *Loa loa* in their blood, giving others an alternative form of treatment.

BOLD PARTNERSHIP, BOLD SOLUTION

**THE END FUND**
Expert in program design and management, supporting the delivery of 230 million treatments (more than 58 million for onchocerciasis elimination) in 2019 alone.

**WHO ESPEN**
The World Health Organization Expanded Project for Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases, catalyzing disease elimination in Africa

**THE TASK FORCE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH**
Champion for research and coalition-building with globally endorsed results

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY**
Leader in technological innovation, including the mobile, point-of-care LoaScope used in this project

100 MILLION
PEOPLE IN CENTRAL AFRICA HAVE GONE WITHOUT RIVER BLINDNESS TREATMENT DUE TO THE RISK OF SEVERE ADVERSE EVENTS FROM LOA LOA INFECTION.
WE CAN MAKE RIVER BLINDNESS HISTORY.

Two hundred million people in 10 Central African countries are at risk of river blindness, caused by the parasitic worm *Onchocerca volvulus*. The disease can be prevented with the anti-parasitic drug ivermectin, the development of which was recognized with the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. The Mectizan® Donation Program provides ivermectin free of charge to ministries of health.

However, half of the individuals at risk of river blindness in Central Africa have gone without ivermectin treatment. The reason for this neglect is another parasitic worm, *Loa loa*, which at high infection levels can lead to serious adverse events — including coma and death — following treatment with ivermectin. At present, river blindness elimination efforts are at a standstill in areas with suspected overlap of river blindness and *Loa loa*.

Now, there is a solution: testing patients for *Loa loa* and refraining from providing ivermectin to the few individuals with high infection levels. Proven safe and effective through pilots in Cameroon, this “test-and-not-treat” strategy leverages a novel mobile diagnostic called the LoaScope to assess individuals’ level of *Loa loa* infection at the point of care.

YOU CAN HELP.

• WITH $1 MILLION. . .
  You will facilitate the purchase of LoaScopes to conduct expanded mapping activities to determine where ivermectin treatment can be conducted safely, and where the test-and-not-treat strategy is necessary.

• WITH $5 MILLION. . .
  You will help to launch the test-and-not-treat strategy in a country.

• WITH $10 MILLION. . .
  You will support the launch of test-and-not-treat activities in multiple countries.

Targeted countries include: Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Nigeria, and South Sudan

LEARN MORE:

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