

OCP APOC Historical Timeline

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1968

Tunis meeting recommends program for onchocerciasis control in West Africa

1969

Several African governments request assistance to launch control program

1973

PAG report recommends a 20-year aerial larviciding program to minimize economic and social harms of savannah onchocerciasis

7 countries at the Ghana meeting agree with WHO (executing agency) and World Bank, FAO, and UNDP (cosponsoring agencies) to initiate river blindness control in the Volta River Basin

1980

Resistance of blackflies to temephos identified

1987

Ivermectin introduced for control of ocular morbidity

1984

OCP expands to include southern areas in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo

1995
Africa Programme for Onchocerciasis Control (APOC) launched with 19 countries outside the purview of OCP in partnership with the WHO (executing agency), World Bank (fiscal agent), other development donors, and NGOs

1994

Mid-Term Review endorses OCP control approach and emphasizes community-based distribution of ivermectin with some rotational use of larviciding

2013
WHO Regional Strategic Plan for NTDs in the Africa Region adopted by all 47 Health Ministers of sub-Saharan Africa
APOC and its partners treat 100 million people in 31 countries in Africa

2009

Proof of principle of onchocerciasis elimination with ivermectin treatment in hyperendemic foci of Mali and Senegal

2006

APOC extended through 2015 and enlarged to include ex-OCP countries

2002

OCP completes its operations

Beyond 2015

Planning to transition to the Programme for the Elimination of Neglected Diseases in Africa (PENDA) with elimination as the priority goal and use of community treatment to reach all preventable NTDs



1970

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Preparatory Assistance to Governments (PAG) mission established to collect evidence for a multinational control program

1975

1974

Onchocerciasis Control Programme (OCP) begins larviciding with temephos in seven countries

1972

Robert McNamara, President of the World Bank, launches a campaign to control river blindness

1980

1983

Trials with ivermectin begin

1985

1988

Commitment by Merck to donate as much ivermectin (Mectizan) as necessary for as long as necessary

1990

1992

NGDO Coordination Group for Ivermectin Distribution and Onchocerciasis Control established with 7 member organizations

1995

1997

OCP and APOC adopt the Community Directed Treatment with ivermectin (CDTi) strategy

2000

2000

APOC and partners treat over 20 million people in 14 countries

2007

APOC and its partners reach more than 50 million people in 31 countries

2005

2011

17th Joint Action Forum gives priority to onchocerciasis elimination and recommends 1) treatment of all preventable neglected tropical diseases (NTDs); and 2) program extension to 2025

2010

2012

London Declaration makes donated drugs available for NTDs that can be prevented by mass drug administration; WHO launches NTD Elimination Roadmap

2015

