



**COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 13TH MEETING OF NIGERIA ONCHOCERCIASIS
ELIMINATION COMMITTEE (NOEC), HELD ON THE
8TH AND 9TH OF DECEMBER 2021**

Preamble

The 13th meeting of the Nigeria Onchocerciasis Elimination Committee (NOEC) organized by Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) held on the 8th and 9th of December, 2021, with support from The Carter Center (TCC), through Act to End NTDs | East. The meeting was virtual to accommodate international stakeholder and members of the committee who could not participate physically due to extant COVID-19 prevention guidelines. In attendance were members of the NOEC and representatives of TCC, Christoffel Blinden Mission (CBM), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health and Development Support Programme (HANDS), Helen Keller International (HKI), Mectizan Donation Program (MDP), Mission To Save the Helpless (MITOSATH), Act to End NTDs | East Program staff from Research Triangle Institute (RTI) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Sightsavers, Sir Emeka Ofor Foundation (SEOF), The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and Liverpool John Moores University. A total of 45 and 44 people attended the first and second day respectively.

The meeting was thereafter, declared open by the Chairman, Prof. B.E.B. Nwoke.

The FMOH and partners made the following updates on programme implementations:

A. Update on the Nigerian Onchocerciasis Elimination Map

- i. There was a successful epidemiological evaluation in Jigawa state. On that, NOEC approved the change for Jigawa State status from '**Blue**' (no data) to '**Tan**' (suspected to have interrupted transmission) on the elimination map.

In view of the above, the committee recommends a repeat of epidemiological evaluations in Jigawa as the results that qualified it for this change were from assessments conducted 3 years ago. The NOEC strongly encouraged partners to seek funding to complete assessments in the remaining eight blue states (Borno, Gombe, Sokoto, Katsina, Lagos, Bayelsa, Rivers and Akwa Ibom) as soon as possible.

- ii. The results of epidemiological evaluation conducted in the FCT qualified it for a status change from 'Blue' to 'Tan'.

support to break transmission. High level awareness and sensitization is also needed in these areas.

blackfly habitat models. The NOEC noted that TCC and Prof. M. Adeleke are working with the foundation on this project.

- F.** Towards achieving this objective, the NOEC nominated a small subcommittee to work closely with the BMGF scientists. These includes:
- a). Prof. B. E. B. Nwoke-Chairman
 - b). Prof. H. B. Mafuyai-Member
 - c). Prof. Ken Opara-Member
 - d).