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This is a multi-approach program using targeted annual or semi-annual treatment with ivermectin (Mectizan®) and vector control/vector as appropriate dedicated to eliminating onchocerciasis in all the foci in the country. The

Government of Ethiopia has taken the decision to change the onchocerciasis (River Blindness) control policy to phased countrywide onchocerciasis elimination in 2021 with the highest political and financial support in the country.

EPEO is a program of the Ministry of Health (MOH), affected districts and communities of Ethiopia. The current key implementing partners supporting this program are WHO/APOC, The Carter Center, Lions Club, Light for the World, and RTI Envision/USAID.

Elimination of onchocerciasis in Ethiopia will entail:

- f Interruption of transmission by 2020, and eventually WHO verification of elimination of onchocerciasis
- f Rigorous satisfaction of elimination certification criteria (indicators for elimination) which will be established and periodically reviewed in detail, focus by both the Ethiopian Onchocerciasis Elimination Expert Advisory Committee (EOEEAC), a group of national and international experts convened under the auspices of the EPEO of Ministry of Health, Ethiopia. The criteria used will be developed by the EOEEAC drawing on the existing criteria and protocols developed by WHO, APOC, OEPA, and Uganda

II. Ethiopia Onchocerciasis Elimination Expert Advisory Committee (EOEEAC)

Ethiopia Onchocerciasis Elimination Expert Advisory Committee (EOEEAC) is an EPEO technical advisory committee composed of national and international experts that conducts annual review of activities, and recommends to the EPEO effective approaches and methods for hastening onchocerciasis elimination.

The secretariat for the

IV. Annual EOOEAC Meetings

The EOOEAC will meet for at least three days once a year. However, an extraordinary meeting can be called to attend to urgent matters of concern.

The site of all meetings will be in Ethiopia and the place will be decided by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chairperson.

V. EOOEAC Resolutions

the partner organization as mentioned above under Article II.

1. The co-secretaries will be non-voting members of the EEEAC.
2. They will work with the Chairperson of the EEEAC to develop agenda and organize all aspects of the meetings and provide minutes
3. The Secretaries shall participate fully in all EEEAC meetings
4. Only the Secretary from FMOH has the right to cast votes in case of a deadlock.

VIII. EOOEAC Composition

1. The EOOEAC shall consist of eighteen voting members and two non-voting co-secretaries. The official members include three from Federal Ministry of Health (including one from EPHI), one from the Ethiopian Mapping Agency, one representative from each affected region, one from each onchocerciasis implementing partner, four at-large independent members who will be selected for their professional expertise in tropical diseases onchocerciasis finance and/or administration, and will include national and international experts.
2. WHO, African Program for Onchocerciasis Control (APOC), Mectizan Donation Program (MDP), and Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF/Lions Clubs of Ethiopia) shall have an observer status.
3. The World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Ethiopia will be representing the v

