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Supplementary appendix

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APPENDIX

Evaluating the potential indirect impact of COVID-19: a modelling study of programme interruptions for seven neglected tropical diseases.

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A1. PRIME-NTD table

Table A1.1. PRIME-NTD (Policy-Relevant Items for Reporting Models in Epidemiology of Neglected Tropical Diseases) Summary Table

A2. Bounce-back rates for each disease: Additional results

To enable broad comparison of the resurgence dynamics, a single year of interventions (MDA and/or active case detection and vector control) was simulated and the "bounce back" (compared to baseline) over a 10-year period was plotted for each disease (Figure A2.1). This is shown as the mean prevalence/incidence as a fraction of baseline prevalence/incidence.

Prevalence for five out of the nine (if the soil-transmitted helminths are considered separately) diseases returns to baseline levels within 2 years of a single intervention (ascaris, hookworm, trichuris, schistosomiasis and onchocerciasis). In comparison, LF and gHAT have both not returned to their baseline endemicity levels within 5 years. These slower bounce-back rates are reflected by these diseases having the lowest predicted delay to reaching control targets following the COVID-19 interruption.

Figure A2.1. Bounce-back trajectories (starting at year 0) following one year of intervention at baseline. Disease outcomes are: mf prevalence (LF and oncho); prevalence in SAC (STH and *S. mansoni*); infection prevalence in children aged 1-9 (trachoma); population-scaled annual incidence (gHAT and VL).

A3. Soil-transmitted helminths: Additional model details and supplementary results

Table A3.1. Timeline (years) to 2030 target for hookworm and Ascaris for no interruption; a 6-month, 12 month and 18-month interruption.

A3.1 Models

The two STH transmission models used for this work were developed independently by research groups at Imperial College London (ICL) and Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam (Erasmus MC). Both models are stochastic individual-based models (IBMs) and are based on similar biological and demographic assumptions.1,2 Model output at a given time can therefore be at individual level (worm burden, egg output) or at population level or for individuals of a particular age (mean worm burden, prevalence of infection). Model output can be expressed as probability distributions and can be directly compared to observed epidemiological data, for the purposes of parameter estimation and model validation, as well as for model comparisons.

A3.1.1 Erasmus MC model

The Erasmus MC model (WORMSIM) is stochastic and individual-based, in terms of both hosts and intestinal parasite numbers per host. WORMSIM simulates the life histories of a discrete number of individual humans and individual worms within those humans, which are born and die in a stochastic fashion. Simulated humans are exposed and contribute to a central reservoir of infection in the external environment, in which infective material (e.g. worm larvae or eggs) survive in an exponential fashion (at each time step in the simulation, a fixed proportion of the reservoir decays). Infective material is produced by female worms after a period of pre-patency (maturation in the human host), and only when at least one male worm is present in the same host. The degree of parasite aggregation within the human population is governed by the level of inter-individual variation in exposure to the central reservoir of infection (by age, sex, and random individual factors). Similarly, the model allows for heterogeneity in participation in PC, as well as systematic non-compliance to PC. The model further accounts for different sources of variation, such as measurement error in parasitological test outcomes (any arbitrary parasitological test based on egg counts can be simulated, e.g. Kato-Katz faecal smear. Model code and installation and user instructions have been published elsewhere.³

A3.1.2 Imperial College London model

The model simulates the number of worms present in each individual person in a village over time. Individuals contribute to and can acquire infections from the environmental reservoir of infective stages (eggs or larvae). The transmission parameters are age- and species-dependent. The number of worms in an individual follows a negative binomial distribution, i.e. a large proportion of the population have a few worms and a small proportion of the population have many worms. Further details of the model can be found in.4

A3.2 Model assumptions and parametrization

A3.2.1 Density dependent fecundity

At high host worm burdens, egg production per worm is restricted by overcrowding effects (density dependent fecundity), as recorded in field epidemiological studies involving worm expulsion and faecal egg sampling. In the EMC description, egg production gradually levels off to a maximum level with increasing worm burden. In the ICL description, overcrowding effects lead to the maximum egg production rate being achieved earlier and a subsequent small drop in production for higher worm burdens.

A3.2.2 Exposure and Contribution

Different assumptions about the relative contribution of different age groups to transmission (i.e. the relative frequency of practicing open defaecation; the models employ very similar assumptions about exposure to the environmental reservoir, leading to nearly identical predictions for age profiles in infection level). Based on the age pattern in hookworm infection levels, the EMC model assumes that the practice of defaecation increases with age up to age ten, and this pattern in open defaecation is then also applied to *Trichuris* and *Ascaris*. In contrast, the ICL model assumes that age-dependent contribution is proportional to age-dependent exposure (i.e. and therefore differs between the three worm species). As such, given identical infection levels in by age, in the EMC model adults contribute relatively more to transmission than in the ICL model, reducing the effectiveness of SACtargeted MDA, but making community-wide treatment more beneficial.⁵

A3.2.2 Model Parameters

Table A3.2. Model parameters used to simulate transmission of Ascaris lumbricoides, Trichuris trichiura and hookworm infections.

A4. Schistosomiasis (*Schistosoma mansoni***): Additional model details and supplementary results**

A4.1 Goal

The 2030 goal for schistosomiasis is elimination as a public health problem (EPHP), achieved when the prevalence of heavy-intensity (eggs per gram, epg ≥ 400 for *Schistosoma mansoni*) infections in school-age children (SAC; 5-14 year olds) is reduced to less than 1%. 25

A4.2 Method

We used an age-structured deterministic model developed by Imperial College London.²⁶ The model incorporates treatment by mass drug administration (MDA) with praziquantel and is parameterised for *S. mansoni* using previously published parameter values (Table A4.1). 27

We considered a moderate (30% baseline prevalence among SAC) and a high (70% baseline prevalence among SAC) prevalence setting for *S. mansoni*. We used two different age intensity profiles with low and high adult burdens of infection relative to SAC (Figure A4.1). In the model, we implemented annual MDA to 75% SAC only. We assumed no nonadherence and no non-access to treatment, i.e. MDA was delivered at random at each round of treatment. We also assumed no migration, i.e. single community with a population size of 1000. Simulations were carried out for missing the second round of MDA (compared to not missing MDA) and used to determine the time taken to achieve EPHP.

For each transmission setting and age profile, the simulations were run for 15 years. For each point in time, we determined the prevalence of heavy-intensity infections in SAC to investigate whether EPHP had been achieved.

Note that although *S. haematobium* was not modelled in this investigation, as this species typically has a low adult burden of infection (Figure A4.1), the results are likely to be similar to *S. mansoni* with a low adult burden of infection.

SCHISTOX, an individual-based stochastic model for the study of schistosome transmission dynamics and the impact of control by mass drug administration has been developed by the University of Oxford and is publicly available for use [\(https://github.com/mattg3004/Schistoxpkg.jl,](https://github.com/mattg3004/Schistoxpkg.jl) [https://github.com/mattg3004/SchistoIndividual\)](https://github.com/mattg3004/SchistoIndividual).28 This was used to produce the bounce-back Figure A2.1.

Figure A4.1. Age-intensity profiles of infection for *Schistosoma mansoni* **using model-simulated low and high adult burdens of infection (relative to school-aged children [SAC; 5–14 years old]) and** *S. haematobium* **using previous fit to data.**²⁹ Figure adapted from 30; [http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/.](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

Table A4.1. Parameter values used for *Schistosoma mansoni***.**

A5. Lymphatic filariasis: Additional model details and supplementary results

A5.1. Lymphatic filariasis model details and parameters

Full model descriptions for all three models, including parameters, are given in the supplementary information of Prada *et al.* (2019).38

A5.1.1 TRANSFIL model description and methods

The mathematical model of lymphatic filariasis (LF) transmission TRANSFIL is a stochastic individual-based model of LF infection in human populations, simulating worm burden, microfilaraemia and other demographic parameters relating to age and risk of exposure. Humans are modelled individually, with their own male and female worm burden. The concentration of mf in the peripheral blood is modelled for each individual and increases according to the number of fertile female worms as well as decreasing at a constant rate. The total mf density in the population contributes towards the current density of L3 larvae in the human-biting mosquito population, where the distribution of L3 amongst the human-biting mosquito population is completely homogeneous.

An empirically derived relationship is used for the uptake of mf by a mosquito, where both *Culex* and *Anopheles* uptake curves are implemented depending on setting (see Irvine *et al.*).³⁹ The model dynamics are therefore divided into the individual human dynamics, including age and turnover; worm dynamics inside the host; microfilariae dynamics inside the host and larvae dynamics inside the mosquito.

A5.1.2 LYMFASIM mode description and methods

LYMFASIM^{40,41} is a stochastic individual-based model for lymphatic filariasis (LF). It is a specific model variant within WORMSIM, a generalized framework for modelling transmission and control of helminth infections in humans.^{3,42} LYMFASIM simulates the life histories of individual people and individual worms in a community, and the effects of interventions (e.g. mass drug administration, integrated vector management, bednet use) on transmission and morbidity, while taking into account the human demography and the complexities of helminth transmission. The model has been described elsewhere and has been applied to support decision making on control and elimination of lymphatic filariasis in different settings.^{19,20,23-31}

Mass drug administration (MDA) is simulated by specifying the exact timing of the treatment rounds (year, month), the efficacy of the applied treatment regimen, the achieved coverage level, and compliance patterns. LYMFASIM assumes that a fraction of people never participates in MDA (e.g. systematic refusal, related to chronic illness). In addition, LYMFASIM allows the relative compliance to vary between age and sex groups; this mechanism captures transient contraindications for MDA (e.g. exclusion of young children and pregnant women) and other age- and sex-related behavioral factors driving participation in MDA. Lastly, each individual has a personal inclination to participate in MDA, which is considered as a lifelong property. A stochastic process eventually defines for each individual whether they are treated in a given round, depending on the calculated probability.

A5.1.3 EPIFIL model description and methods

EPIFIL is a hybrid coupled partial differential and differential equation model that tracks changes in the pre-patent and adult worm burdens and microfilariae levels in the human host, as well as the average number of infective L3 larval stages per mosquito. The model also includes a measure of immunity developed by human hosts against L3 larvae. The model has been previous well described and parameterised. $52-58$

Intervention by mass drug administration was modeled based on the assumptions that anti-filarial treatment with a combination drug regimen acts by killing certain fractions of the populations of adult worms and microfilariae instantly after the drug administration.

A5.2 Alternative scenarios

Endemicity setting % mf baseline prevalence LYMFASIM, Erasmus MC - W. bancrofti, IA settings (Anopheles)		Muugauon strategy is one additional round of MDA after restarting the programme. Years to target: No interruption		Years to target: 12-month interruption, no mitigation	Years to target: 12-month interruption, with mitigation	
High: 15-20% (95% CIs)		$13.0(7-26)$			$13.7(0-37)$	$13.2(0-37)$
Med: 5-10% (95% CIs)		$8.4(2-25)$			$9.2(0-40)$	$8.3(0-40)$
LYMFASIM, Erasmus MC - W. bancrofti, DA settings (Culex)						
High: 15-20% (95% CIs) Med: 5-10% (95% CIs)		$9.1(5-25)$ $5.3(2-23)$			$9.7(0-37)$ $6.2(0-35)$	$9.2(0-39)$ $5.3(0-35)$
EPIFIL, Notre Dame - W. bancrofti, IA settings (Anopheles)						
High: 15-20%		$7.7(7-9)$			$8.7(8-10)$	$7.8(7-9)$
Med: 5-10%		$5.4(4-6)$			$6.4(5-7)$	$5.0(4-7)$
EPIFIL, Notre Dame - W. bancrofti, DA settings (Culex)						
High: 15-20%		$6.7(6-7)$			$7.7(7-9)$	$6.7(6-8)$
Medium: 5-10%		$4.9(4-6)$			$5.9(5-7)$	$4.3(4-6)$
TRANSFIL, Oxford/Surrey/Warwick - W. bancrofti, IA settings (Anopheles)						
High (15-20%)		$11.4(7-23)$			$12.0(8-23)$	$11.5(7-24)$
Medium (5-10%)		$7.7(5-13)$			$8.4(6-14)$	$7.6(4-13)$
TRANSFIL, Oxford/Surrey/Warwick - W. bancrofti, DA settings (Culex)						
High: 15-20% (95% CIs)		$10.9(6-23)$			$11.8(7-23)$	$11 \cdot 0$ (6-22)
Med: 5-10% (95% CIs)		$7.2(4-18)$			$8.0(5-19)$	$7.2(4-18)$
	.	2020	2021	2022	2023	
No interruption						
No mitigation		${\mathcal{O}}$				
One extra round		Ø	\bigoplus			Single round, 65% coverage
						Missed round $\bm{\mathcal{C}}$
High coverage round		Ø				$^{(+)}$ Single extra round, 65% coverage
IDA (where appropriate)			IDA			Single round, 80% coverage
						Ins. Cingle round IDA CEV coverage

Table A5.1. Timeline (years) to 2030 target across all three models (LYMFASIM, EPIFIL and TRANSFIL). $\overline{\text{und}}$ of MDA after

 Figure A5.1. Mitigation methods after missing one year of MDA. Dark grey: resume at 65% coverage. Red: one year of bMDA after the program restarts. Orange: three years increased coverage (80%) then resume 65%. Yellow: resume the program with one round IDA, then return to the previous regime (in areas using DA only).

Figure A5.3. Example timelines for 15% mf prevalence (2018) with DA. Assuming one round of missed MDA in 2020 and using mitigation methods from Figure A5.1 (continue at 65%, dark grey; 3 rounds 80%, orange; 1 round biannual MDA in year 5, red; 1 round of IDA, yellow); The dashed line shows 1% mf prevalence.

A6. Onchocerciasis: Additional model details and supplementary results

Two available onchocerciasis transmission models – ONCHOSIM and EPIONCHO-IBM - are used to simulate the effect of a 6-, 12- and 18-months interruption in annual mass drug administration (MDA) with ivermectin on the infection microfilarial (mf) prevalence trends. The models have been used before to inform the World Health Organization 2030 targets for eliminating onchocerciasis (NTD Modelling Consortium Onchocerciasis Group 2019) and to explore the impact of various strategies.59

A6.1 ONCHOSIM model description and parameters

ONCHOSIM is a stochastic individual-based model that simulates the transmission of onchocerciasis in a closed dynamic population of approximately 440 individuals (rural village).^{60,61} The model simulates life histories of human individuals and *Onchocerca volvulus* worms and mf within individual human hosts. Transmission of infection occurs through bites of blackflies whose intensity is represented by the annual biting rate. The probability that an individual is bitten by a blackfly is assumed to depend on age (exposure to blackfly increases linearly between the ages of zero and 20), sex (males have a higher exposure), personal factors such as attractiveness to blackflies, and seasonal biting variation of blackflies. At each bite, blackflies can transmit or pick up the infection. Only a small proportion of transmitted larvae will successfully develop into adult worms. Following insemination of females by male worms, new microfilariae (mf) are produced, which can be picked up by the blackfly. These mf develop in the blackfly into the infective stage (L3), which is modelled deterministically in the vector. The model accounts for infection acquired from other villages. This is captured by the parameter called external force of infection. A more detailed description of the model can be found elsewhere.⁶¹ Information about the quantification of biological, transmission, parasitic and treatment parameters can be found in Table A6.1.

Table A6.1. ONCHOSIM parameter quantification.

A6.2 EPIONCHO-IBM model description and parameters

EPIONCHO-IBM is a stochastic individual-based model, which simulates humans in a closed population, keeping track of the number of infecting adult *O. volvulus* and mf in a human. The model accounts for age- and sex-dependent exposure of humans to blackfly bites, and the individual-level variation in exposure. The production of mf requires the presence of both male and female worms, assuming a completely polygamous mating system. Mortality rates of adult worms and mf are assumed to increase with age and parasite fecundity decreases with age. Density-dependent processes are assumed to act on three stages of the *O*. *volvulus* lifecycle: 1) establishment of larvae within the vector; 2) parasite-induced mortality of the vector, and 3) establishment of adult worms within the human. The dynamics of the parasite within the vector are modelled deterministically at a fly population level. The model accounts for a latent period in the development of the parasite in the vector by including L1, L2 and L3 stages. A more detailed description of the model can be found elsewhere.⁸¹ Information about the quantification of biological, transmission, parasitic and treatment parameters can be found in Table A6.2.

A6.3 Modelling approach, scenarios and mitigation strategy

A6.3.1 Pre-control mf prevalence setting

We simulated pre-control *O. volvulus* mf prevalence levels ranging from 40%-80% (i.e. from meso- to hyperendemicity) with each model. The following key transmission parameters were varied between simulations to match pre-control mf prevalence levels: 1) annual biting rate (both models), 2) variation in exposure to vector bites between individuals in the population (both models), and 3) the level of external force of infection (only ONCHOSIM). We ran the models with different parameter values and accepted combinations when the pre-control mf prevalence in the endemic equilibrium would fall into this range. Both models were run until we had 100 simulations (i.e. parameter combinations) for each 1% prevalence bin.

A6.3.2 Scenarios

Scenarios are modelled for African settings with annual MDA since 2014 (short history of control), across the whole range of pre-control mf prevalence values. The annual MDA coverage was always assumed to be 65% of the total population, with on average 5% of the population never participating in treatment (systematic non-adherence 5%). We simulated the following scenarios:

- 1. No interruption of annual MDA
- 2. 6, 12, and 18 months interruption of MDA treatment due to COVID19

Biannual treatment in the year following the 6-, 12- or 18-month interruption was simulated as a mitigation strategy. The coverage of the mitigation strategy was 65% with 5% systematic non-adherence.

All scenarios and mitigation strategies were simulated until 2030. For the interruption scenarios and mitigation strategy, we extended the simulated period to 2033, in order to assess the delays of reaching the mf prevalence level of 2030 without interruption. Delays were calculated by assessing the year when the interruption (and mitigation) scenario fell below the mf prevalence level in 2030 without interruption. The prevalence levels in the medium and high endemic setting were based on the average of all repeats (i.e. 2000 repeats) within 40-60% and 60-80% bins, respectively. Table A6.3 shows the corresponding mean delays to reach the mf prevalence in 2030 without interruption using ONCHOSIM and EPIONCHO-IBM. Figure A6.1 shows the underlying predicted mean mf prevalence dynamics during MDA.

	Additional vears required to reach the mf prevalence in 2030 without interruption					
	6-month interruption		12-month interruption		18-month interruption	
Pre-control mf prevalence $(\%)$	ONCHOSIM	EPIONCHO- IBM	ONCHOSIM	EPIONCHO- IBM	ONCHOSIM	EPIONCHO- IBM
$40 - 60$ (mesoendemic)						
$60 - 80$ (hyperendemic)						

Table A6.3. Predicted mean delays to reach the mf prevalence in 2030 without interruption.

Figure A6.1. Mean microfilarial (mf) prevalence dynamics during ivermectin MDA predicted by ONCHOSIM. The colors represent the different scenarios, i.e. no interruption, interruption, and mitigation (biannual treatment). The dotted line represents the mf prevalence level in 2030 without interruption.

A7. Trachoma: Additional model details and supplementary results

A7.1 Trachoma model details and parameters

The model utilised here is an individual-based stochastic model of ocular *C. trachomatis* transmission which accounts for active trachoma (trachomatous inflammation—follicular, TF) persisting after clearance of *C. trachomatis* infection (Borlase et al., under review). This model is based on a previously described framework ⁹³ which was validated as the most parsimonious and best fit to cross-sectional infection (PCR) and TF data in a study which compared several possible frameworks for ocular *C. trachomatis* transmission.⁹⁴

In this framework individuals transition through four sequential states: Susceptible (S), infected but not yet diseased (I), infected and diseased (ID) and diseased but no longer infected (D), illustrated schematically in Figure A7.1. Here disease refers specifically to TF. Within this framework, people who have cleared infection but remain diseased (D) are susceptible to infection but with force of infection (λ) reduced by a factor (Γ) .

Model parameters, definitions, values and sources are given in Table A7.1

Figure A7.1 Schematic of trachoma model structure. Individuals can be susceptible to infection (S), infected but not yet diseased (I), infected and diseased (ID) or diseased but having cleared infection (D). Disease refers to trachomatous inflammation—follicular (TF). Individuals for whom infection has been cleared but disease persists (D) can be re-infected with force of infection (λ) reduced by Γ .

Following the original model and evidence from empirical studies, 93,99,100 duration of *ID* and *D* disease for each individual are assumed to decrease with each subsequent infection. For each individual *i*, the duration of first ID and D periods (*ID_{i,1}*; $D_{i,l}$) are randomly assigned from Poisson distributions, with distribution means given as the baseline (longest) duration used by Pinsent and colleagues (see Table A7.1).⁹³ The duration of these periods for subsequent infections are then assumed to decrease following a negative exponential to a minimum value, with decay rates and minimum durations also as given by Pinsent and colleagues.93 Similarly, it is assumed that an individual's infectivity is proportional to their bacterial load, and that this also declines from the first infection following a negative exponential with each subsequent infection. For each individual's (*i*) infection number (*j*), the calculated durations of $ID_{i,j}$ and $D_{i,j}$ are used as fixed transition periods, in contrast to exponential transitions utilised in the previous models.

Community-wide MDA is assumed to be delivered to all ages with an 80% coverage level, in line with WHO minimum target coverage,⁹⁷ and an efficacy (the probability that an individual who receives MDA clears infection) of 85% is assumed.98 To simulate the potentially lower efficacy of topical tetracycline eye ointment (which is routinely given to children aged less than 6 months), treatment is assumed to be 50% less effective in this age group. Treatment is assumed to be distributed randomly. Additional reductions in transmission due to other interventions (i.e. facial cleanliness and environmental improvements, which are also part of the WHO strategy for trachoma control) are not currently explicitly included in the model due to uncertainty regarding their relative impact.

A7.2. Modelling approach, scenarios and mitigation strategies.

We simulated interruption and mitigation strategies in two settings with differing baseline levels of endemicity/transmission. These were high endemicity, defined as mean baseline (before MDA) TF in children aged 1-9 years (TF₁₋₉) of 40% (range 37 \cdot 5-42 \cdot 5), and medium endemicity, corresponding to a mean baseline TF₁₋₉ of 20% (range 17·5-22·5). We simulated the interruption to MDA to be mid-way through a planned programme, assuming a 5-year MDA programme for the high endemic setting (interruption in year 3) and a 3-year MDA programme for the medium endemic setting (interruption in year 2).

In order to ensure that the age-distribution of historical infections (and therefore infectivity, duration of infection and disease) are representative for a given level of baseline endemicity, a 40-year burn-in period was implemented for all simulations (burn-in period removed from analyses). This was followed by 16 simulated years for analysis.

To represent the different levels of baseline endemicity, we varied the transmission parameter β ; this can be considered a proxy for a range of hard-to-quantify factors which facilitate transmission of ocular *C. trachomatis*, including overcrowding and lack of sanitation. We then filtered the initial sets of stochastic simulations based on the specified baseline prevalence range. To ensure simulations were representative of settings that would have been expected to reach elimination as a public health problem (EPHP) threshold of TF₁₋₉ <5% threshold before 2030 with a strategy of annual district-level MDA targeting the whole community, we also filtered out simulations which did not reach TF₁₋₉ <5% under the no interruption scenario.

In addition to the mitigation strategy considered in the main text (an additional round of community-wide MDA delivered 6 months after the programme restarts) we also simulated an alternative mitigation strategy in which the additional round of MDA targets only children aged 6 months to 9 years.

A7.3 Additional results

The average time to reach the EPHP threshold of $TF_{1-9} < 5\%$ (calculated as the mean/median of stochastic simulations) and 95% confidence intervals (given as 95th centiles) for the range of scenarios described in the main text are given in table A7.1, in addition to the alternative mitigation strategy of an extra MDA round targeting children only.

The impact in terms of average time to reaching the EPHP threshold is very similar for both mitigation strategies. This is representative of the fact that children are effectively a core group within the model, due to the assumptions of higher bacterial loads and longer durations of infection; assumptions which reflect empirical evidence.

Table A7.2. Additional results, trachoma. Average (mean and median) years to EPHP target of TF <5% in children aged 1-9 years in high and medium endemic settings under scenarios of: No MDA interruption, MDA interruption (6 months, 12 months or 18 months) and two mitigation strategies (extra community-wide MDA, ie. All age group in the year following a 12-month interruption; extra MDA targeting only children aged 6 months to 9 years of age). 95% Confidence intervals are given as 95th centiles.

High Endemicity (Baseline 40% TF ₁₋₉)						
Scenario:	No. interruption	6-month interruption; No mitigation	12-month interruption; No mitigation	18-month interruption; No mitigation	12-month interruption; Mitigation= Extra community- wide MDA round	12-month interruption; Mitigation= Extra MDA round. children aged 6 months to 9 years
Mean years to achieve EPHP (Median; 95% CI) Medium Endemicity (Baseline 20% TF _{1.9})	4.4 $(4.2; 2.4-$ $11-5$	4.65 $(4.6; 2.4-11.4)$	7.1 $(6.3; 2.4 \rightarrow 16^{\circ})$	6.5 $(6.1; 2.4 \rightarrow 16^{\circ})$	5.3 $(5.2; 2.4 \rightarrow 16^{\circ})$	5.4 $(5.3; 2.4 \rightarrow 16^a)$
Scenario:	N ₀ interruption	6-month interruption; No mitigation	12-month interruption; No mitigation	18-month interruption; No mitigation	12-month interruption; Mitigation= Extra community- wide MDA round	12-month interruption; Mitigation= Extra MDA round, children aged 6 months to 9 years only
Mean years to achieve EPHP (Median; 95% CI	2.7 $(2.6; 1.8-4.6)$	3.2 $(3.1; 1.8-4.3)$	4.0 $(3.9; 1.8-5.7)$	4.4 $(4.3; 1.8-5.7)$	3.8 $(3.8; 1.8-4.6)$	3.9 $(3.8; 1.8-4.9)$

A8. Visceral Leishmaniasis: Additional model details and supplementary results

A8.1 Model structure

Figure A8.1. Schematic presentation of the structure of model E1 and the related model E0. For model E1, asymptomatic individuals (yellow compartments) are the main contributors to transmission. Model E0 has the same structure as model E1, but asymptomatic individuals do not contribute to transmission. Both models have different durations of infection stages from fitting to data, which are listed elsewhere.¹⁰¹⁻¹⁰⁴

A8.2 Model description

The Erasmus MC models consist of a set of deterministic age-structured model variants based on different assumptions about where the main reservoir of infection lies; namely, solely in symptomatic individuals (VL and PKDL; Model E0), or mainly in asymptomatic individuals (Model E1). Other variants, with the main reservoir of infection in previously immune individuals in whom infection reactivates or PKDL cases, have also been explored.¹⁰¹

The models include population growth of both humans and sand flies (the populations are assumed to grow at the same rate in the absence of seasonality and vector control) and age-structure in human mortality and exposure to sand flies. Models E0 and E1 have a yearly seasonal pattern in sandfly density based on seasonal patterns observed in sandfly distribution studies in Bihar. 105–108 Seasonality is implemented via a stepwise function in the sand-fly birth rate, which is assumed to peak during 3 months of the year (July-September). Indoor residual spraying reduces the populations of the sandfly compartments, and active case detection leads to a shorter duration of the symptomatic untreated state (dark red) in all models. Additional details of the model, all parameter values, and calculations of equilibria of the system of ordinary differential equations along with data are provided in previous papers.¹⁰¹⁻¹⁰⁴

A8.3 Model fitting

The model is calibrated based on age-structured data from approximately 21,000 individuals included in the KalaNet bednet trial in India and Nepal.108 In the model there are compartments for early and late asymptomatic infection, and early and late recovered stage, to allow the fitting of these models to prevalence of positivity on the direct agglutination test (DAT) and/or PCR from the KalaNet study.108

The impact of indoor residual spraying of insecticide (IRS) was estimated using a geographical cross-validation on >5,000 VL cases from 8 endemic districts in Bihar collected by CARE India109 for which the full model descriptions and sensitivity analyses are presented in Le Rutte, Chapman *et al*., 2017.102

A8.4 Bounce-back

We simulated a highly endemic setting with a pre-control equilibrium of 10 VL cases per 10,000 population per year.

During year 0 we implemented 1 year of attack phase interventions:

- o vector control, IRS effect = 0.67
o active case detection (ACD), ons
- active case detection (ACD), onset of symptoms to diagnosis $= 45$ days

From the start of year 1 onwards we simulated a situation comparable to the pre-control situation

- \circ IRS effect = 0
- onset of symptoms to diagnosis $= 60$ days

The outcomes of both Model E0 and model E1 are presented in Figure A8.2, whereas Figure A2.1 includes the predictions from Model E1 only.

Figure A8.2. Bounce-back trajectories of VL incidence following one year of intervention at baseline for models E0 and E1.

A8.5 Delays to the target

We also simulated VL programme interruptions of 6, 12, and 18-months (besides the 12 months that are presented in the main text) for both a highly- and moderately-endemic setting using transmission Models E0 and E1. The number of years to get to the target incidence of <1/10,000/year are presented in Table A8.1, as well as the delay in years when compared to the scenario without an interruption due to Covid-19. For these scenarios we also simulated the potential impact on reducing the number of years to reach the target after implementing mitigation strategies (Table A8.2). We simulated a duration of the mitigation strategy (extended attack phase) to be equal to the duration of the interruption (6, 12 or 18 months).

- VL	Years to target (delays in years)				
	Highly endemic setting		Moderately endemic setting		
Interruptions:	Model E0	Model E1	Model E0	Model E1	
None	14.8(0)	9.5(0)	2.5(0)	2.3(0)	
6 months*	15.4(0.6)	10.2(0.7)	4.1(1.5)	3.3(1.0)	
12 months $***^{\$}$	16.2(1.4)	10.9(1.4)	$4.8^{#} (2.3)$	4.1(1.8)	
18 months***	17.0(2.2)	11.8(2.3)	7.0(4.5)	4.8(2.5)	

Table A8.1. Years to target (delays in years) without mitigation strategy.

* 6 months = no IRS and ACD between 1 April 2020 and 30 September 2020

** 12 months = no IRS and ACD between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021

*** 18 months = no IRS and ACD between 1 April 2020 and 30 September 2021

^{\$}The 12 months interruption scenario is presented in Table 3 of the main text.

* 6 months = no IRS and ACD between 1 April 2020 and 30 September 2020

** 12 months = no IRS and ACD between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021

*** 18 months = no IRS and ACD between 1 April 2020 and 30 September 2021

\$ The 12 months interruption scenario is presented in Table 3 of the main text.

A8.6 Timelines of delay to the elimination target

Table A8.3. Overview of simulated scenarios. All interruption scenarios include simulations both with and without mitigation strategy, where the mitigation strategy has the same duration as the interruption.

*The 12-month interruption of Model E1 for the highly endemic setting is the scenario that is presented in Figure 2 of the main text.

Interruption $- 0 - 0.5 - 1 - 1.5$

Figure A8.3. Predicted visceral leishmaniasis incidence over time. The solid lines present the impact of the interruption (in years) of VL control measures due to Covid-19 during the attack phase. The dotted lines present the predicted incidence when implementing a mitigation strategy. The grey lines represent the default scenario without an interruption of the programme. Interruptions to the programme are simulated to last from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

For interruptions at different stages of the control programme (both during the attack as well as the consolidation phase) we would like to refer to the following paper titled "**The simulated impact of COVID-19 related programme interruptions on visceral leishmaniasis in India**", by Epke Le Rutte, Luc Coffeng, Johanna Muñoz and Sake de Vlas (*soon to be linked to MedRXiv/journal*). In this paper we also present the impact on cumulative VL incidence that is caused by the interruption of the programmes besides the delay to the target.

A9. gHAT: Additional model details and supplementary results

A9.1 Modelling approach, settings and interruption scenarios simulated

Main strategies against gHAT in the DRC consist of case detection via active screening (AS) and passive surveillance (PS), with vector control (VC) implemented in the last years in a reduced number of settings. In the present study, we focused on three potential interruption scenarios of gHAT activities in DRC settings due to COVID-19. We chose regions where VC has not yet been implemented and explored the impact of altered control interventions for 6, 12, and 18 months starting on 1st April 2020. We focus here on "medium-risk" and "high-risk" settings with average levels of AS before and after the interruption.In all cases, interruption periods were simulated considering full interruption of screening activities in addition to a reduced passive surveillance (consisting of passive detection set back to pre-2000 level). Mitigation scenarios were simulated such that after interruption, active screening was resumed at maximum historical level, and passive detection set back to values before interruption.

Two previously published deterministic models (Model S and Model W) were used to perform this analysis. Both were originally calibrated to different human case data in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) ^{110,111}, which has around 70% of the case burden in 2019. ¹¹² Both models explicitly include tsetse and have a high/low-risk structure for human

exposure to tsetse and participation in AS. Neither model includes animal reservoirs or importation. Model S simulated 10% annual AS, and Model W simulated 17% AS. PS rates for non-interruption years were inferred through the fitting. AS was assumed to take place at the beginning of each non-interruption year, whereas PS occurs throughout the year. The different levelofreportedcasesfrombothdatasetsusedbyeachmodel, and inferred transmission levels, were used to define medium-risk (Model W) and high-risk (Model S) settings. Additional information is found in model description sections [3 a](#page-27-1)nd [4.](#page-30-2)

A9.2 Additional results

This section includes complementary results to those presented in the main text.

A9.2.1. Years to elimination of transmission

Table A9.1 presents expected timeline (years) to elimination of transmission for medium and high-risk settingsunder different interruption,andinterruptionplusmitigationscenarios. Yearsarecounted since 2018. Median and 95% CI are indicated.

Table A9.1. Years to elimination of transmission of gHAT.

A9.2.2. New infections under different scenarios

Timelines comparing the impact on new infections of different scenarios (interruption and interruption plus mitigation strategy) analysed to a scenario with no interruption.

FigureA9.1. Median annual incidence. Comparing interruption andmitigation strategiesto a scenariowith no interruption, for medium and high-risk settings. Dashed line indicates threshold for elimination of transmission.

A9.3 Model S

A9.3.1 Description of transmission model and control interventions

The deterministic Model S used here was presented and described in (1) and is a variant of the gHAT transmission model originally published in.¹¹³ The model consists of a system of coupled ordinary differential equations (ODEs), with compartments for tsetse, animal and human populations. These three different host types are modelled for two different settings corresponding to a low transmission area (e.g. the village, L) and a high transmission area (such as river banks or plantations, H) that enable accounting for heterogeneity in exposure to tsetse bites. The population size for tsetse, animal or humans in each setting i $(i = \{L, H\})$ is assumed to be stable by allowing the associated birth terms to compensate deaths in all the compartments. Tsetse and animal populations always stay within their setting (for example, tsetse in low transmission settings always remain in the low transmission setting and animals in high transmission settings always remain in the high transmission setting). Similarly, humans in low transmission settings always remain in low transmission setting. However, humans in the high transmission setting move back and forth between the high and low transmission settings spending a fixed amount of time in each one (to model, for example, the movement of high-risk individuals betweenvillages and plantations)—asshown in Figure [A9.2.](#page-28-1)

Five compartments describe humans in any of the two settings: susceptible (S_{hi}); exposed or incu- bating (E_{hi}); infected with the first stage of the disease (I_{h1i}) ; infected with the second stage of the disease, where trypanosomes have reached the cerebrospinal fluid (I_{h2i}) ; and treated (T_{hi}) . The total human population in setting *i* is $N_{hi} = S_{hi} + E_{hi} + I_{h1i} + I_{h2i} + T_{hi}$. Tsetse populations are divided into susceptible (S_{vi}) ; teneral (U_{vi}) ; exposed (E_{vi}) ; and infected (I_{vi}) , so that the vector population is $N_{vi} = S_{vi}$ + $U_{vi} + E_{vi} + I_{vi}$.

In this model implementation: *i)* animals do not contribute to transmission, thus animal populations are modelled as constant parameters,*Nai*,andonlyformasinkfortsetsebite;*ii)*bothstages(rather than only stage 1) ofthe disease are exposed to tsetse fly bites; *iii)* an additional compartment in the vector dynamics, *Ui*, accounts for the teneral effect — a reduction of infectivity with time — such that on average tsetse are only infectious for the first five days after emergence. A schematic of the model is shown in Figure [A9.2.](#page-28-1)

Test and treat interventions encompass both active screening and passive surveillance. Passive detection is represented by a continuous stage-specific detection rate and removes infected people from both low- and high-risk settings whilst active screening only recruits people in the low risk setting. With the available staged data suggesting an enhanced passive surveillance system, an improvement with time was included in the detection rate of stage 2, r2 by multiplying the fitted constant of proportionality, c2, by the proportion of people screened through passive surveillance as informed by data which showed an increasing trend.

We followed ¹¹⁴ to relate a proportion, d, of humans effectively screened in a given a year and the daily removal rate $r_{as}^{continuou}$ as $d = 1 - \exp(-365r^{\text{continuous}})$.

Thus, for the pulsed active screening, we get: $r_{as}^{pulsed} = r_{as}^{continuous} = -\left(\frac{12}{365}\right) \ln(1-d)$.

Screening levels were informed from data; estimates for the population of Bandundu were taken from ¹¹⁵ for the period corresponding to calibration, and a 3% annual growth was assumed for projections.

The unknown proportion of the population at risk of infection in Bandundu province is included via ϵ , such that

 $d(t0 = \frac{x_{s}(t)}{\epsilon N_B(t)}$, where $X_s(t)$ indicates number of people screened in year *t*, and $N_B(t)$ indicates Bandunduprovince population $\lim_{\epsilon \to 0}$ in year *t*. With no additional data enabling estimating ϵ , this parameter was set as a constant value.

A9.3.2 Parameter values

Except ϵ and α which are parameters new to the model and that were assumed fixed since their incorporation in (1), model parameters assigned fixed were taken from Model S posteriors (median) in 116, and are described in Table A9.2.

113.

TableA9.2.Modelparameterisation(fixedparameters).Notation,abriefdescription,andtheused values of fixed parameters in Model S.

A9.3.2 Summary of previous fitting

The deterministic ODE version of Model S was calibrated to province level data for Bandundu (Democratic Republic of Congo) using an Aproximate Bayesian Computation (ABC) algorithm in a previous work 110 fitting six parameters. The data consisted of annual, staged reported cases for 2000-2012 from active screening and passive detection (indicated as fit to "staged data' in 110). A summary of the fitted parameter posteriors is given in Table [A9.3.](#page-29-1)

Table A9.3. Model parameterisation (posterior parameters). Notation, a brief description, the median values, and the 95% certainty intervals of fitting parameters in Model S.

A9.4 Model W

A9.4.1 Description

The original model ¹¹¹ describes dynamics of gHAT transmission explicitly considering compartments of humans and tsetse. Figure A[9.3 s](#page-30-3)hows a schematic description of gHAT dynamics in this model. Humans can be exposed and subsequently infectious by a bite of an infectious tsetse. They progress through different stages of the infection (stage 1 and stage 2) with different rates (σ_H and ϕ_H respectively). On the other side, tsetse vectors can become exposed and subsequently infectious if they bite an infectious human. Infected people may be detected by passive and active screening, followed by hospitalisation and recovery. Here, we consider a version of the model where humans are partitioned into two compartments of (i) low-risk and participating in the active screening, and (ii) high-risk and non-participating in active screening. We assume there are no animal reservoirs although animals receive some proportion of tsetse bites. For simplicity, we assume the total population of humans to be constant, however, we take into account growth of population (3%) for comparison to the observed data. Thismodel accountsforthe possibility of detecting ofinfected humansthrough passive and active screening. Passive screening describes potential visits of people to fixed medical centers for testing. Before 1998 (pre-active screening) it was assumed that passive detection was less effective than after activities began, and only so identified stage 2 individuals at a rate γ_H^{pre} which is smaller than the stage 2 passive detection rate from 1998 onwards, γ_H^{post} .

Figure A9.3. Schematic of Model W to describe gHAT infection dynamics. This multi-host model of gHAT takes into account high- and low-risk groups of humans and their interactions with tsetse vectors. Each group consists of different compartments: Susceptible humans S_{Hi} can become exposed on a bite of an infectious tsetse. Exposed people E_{Hi} progress to become the stage 1 infected people and eventually stage 2 (if not detected in active screening), and once treated they recover by hospitalization RHi. Active screening can accelerate treatment rate of infected people. Here we assume high-risk group does not participate in active screening. By biting an infectious person, tsetse can become exposed and subsequently infectious, Ev and Iv. Gy represents the tsetse population not exposed to *Trypanosoma brucei gambiense* in the first bloodmeal and are therefore less susceptible in the following meals. Rates are shown by Greek letters associated with arrows. Animal reservoir is not considered. This figure is taken from ¹¹¹ and adapted from the original model schematic ¹¹⁷.

Following previous modelling work using gHAT data from former Bandundu province¹¹⁰, there is a strong signal from epidemiological staging data that passive screening has improved during the time period from 2000–2016. To capture the steadily increasing trend in the proportion of stage 1 to stage 2 passive detections, the model utilises the following formulae:

$$
\eta_H(Y) = \eta_H^{post} \left[1 + \frac{\eta_{Hamp}}{1 + \exp(-d_{steep}(Y - d_{change}))} \right]
$$

$$
\gamma_H(Y) = \gamma_H^{post} \left[1 + \frac{\gamma_{Hamp}}{1 + \exp(-d_{steep}(Y - d_{change}))} \right]
$$

where *Y* is the year and η_H is the stage 1 passive detection rate and γ_H is the stage 2 passive detection rate. Parameters dictating the amplitude, steepness and switching year can be found in Tables A9.4 and A9.5. Four parameters, d_{change} , $η_{\text{Hamp}}$,

γHamp , and*d*steep,describingthechangeofpassive detectionovertimehavebeenestimatedthroughfittingtothehealth-zone-level dataforMosango.

Similar to the previous models, we allow for the imperfect nature of the tests by considering sensitivity of tests to detect true cases and specificity to observe false positive cases. Specificity is set to one after 2015 due to improvement in confirmatory quality control.¹¹¹

Using a similar approach to the previous ODE models, we consider the same level of screening as reported between 2000– 2016. It is assumed, as in much of the previous published studies using this model, that active screening began in 1998 and achieved the same number of people screened as in 2000 (the first year of data). After 2016 and before the COVID interruption, we use the average number of screened people between 2012–2016 in all scenarios.

A9.4.2 Parameter values

As in previous versions of Model W ^{110,116-119}, some parameters with estimates available in the literature were assigned fixed values. Fixed values are given inTabl[eA9.4.](#page-33-0) The other parameter valueswere taken fromposterior distributions by fitting the model to data (see [4.3](#page-33-0) for an outline of methods and summary of statistics of parameters).

TableA9.4.Model parameterisation (fixed parameters). Notation, a brief description, and the used values of fixed parameters in Model W.

A9.4.3 Summary of previous fitting

Model W was fitted to health-zone-level data for Mosango using an adaptive Metropolis-Hastings MCMC algorithm ¹¹¹. A summary of the fitted parameter posteriors is givenbelow.

Table A9.5. Model parameterisation (posterior parameters). Notation, a brief description, the median values, and the 95% credible intervals of fitted parameters in Model W.

Notation	Description	Value Median 95% CI		Unit
R_0	Basic reproduction number (NGM approach)	1.012	[1.007, 1.026]	$\overline{}$
r	Relative bites taken on high-risk humans	3.241	[1.683, 6.530]	\overline{a}
k _I	Proportion of low-risk people	0.9267	[0.7985, 0.9787]	$\overline{}$
k_4	Proportion of high-risk people	$k_4 = 1 - k_1$		\overline{a}
η_H^{post}	Treatment rate from stage 1, 1998 onwards	1.064×10^{-4}	$[0.361, 2.517] \times 10^{-4}$	days^{-1}
γ_H^{post}	Treatment rate from stage 2 (1998 onwards)	2.542×10^{-3}	$[1.152,6.173]\times 10^{-3}$	$days^{-1}$
$b_{\gamma_H^{pre}}$	Relative treatment rate from stage 2 factor, pre- 1998	0.7908	[0.6487, 0.9819]	÷
γ_H^{pre}	Treatment rate from stage 2, pre-1998		$\gamma_H^{pre} = b_{\gamma_H^{pre}} \gamma_H^{post}$	days^{-1}
Spec	Active screening diagnostic specificity	0.9992	[0.9987, 0.9997]	÷,
\boldsymbol{u}	Proportion of passive cases reported	0.3289	[0.2376, 0.4328]	$\overline{}$
d_{change}	Midpoint year for passive improvement	2004.9	[2002.7, 2010.0]	Year
η_{Hamp}	Relative improvement in passive stage 1 detection rate	1.035	[0.179, 3.579]	÷
$\gamma_{H\!amp}$	Relative improvement in passive stage 2 detection rate	0.3250	[0.0370, 0.9194]	$\overline{}$
d steep	Speed of improvement in passive detection rate	1.037	[0.737, 1.387]	$years-1$

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