



THE CARTER CENTER
INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE
FOR DISEASE ERADICATION

Criteria used by ITFDE (I) to assess eradicability of diseases:

Scientific Feasibility

- Epidemiologic vulnerability (e.g., existence of nonhuman reservoir; ease of spread; natural cyclical decline in prevalence; naturally induced immunity; ease of diagnosis; and duration of any relapse potential).
- Effective, practical intervention available (e.g., vaccine or other primary preventive, curative treatment, and means of eliminating vector). Ideally, intervention should be effective, safe, inexpensive, long-lasting, and easily deployed.
- Demonstrated feasibility of elimination (e.g., documented elimination from island or other geographic unit).

Political Will/Popular Support

- Perceived burden of the disease (e.g., extent, deaths, other effects; true burden may not be perceived; the reverse of benefits expected to accrue from eradication; relevance to rich and poor countries).
- Expected cost of eradication (especially in relation to perceived burden from the disease).
- Synergy of eradication efforts with other interventions (e.g., potential for added benefits or savings or spin-effects).
- Necessity for eradication rather than control.