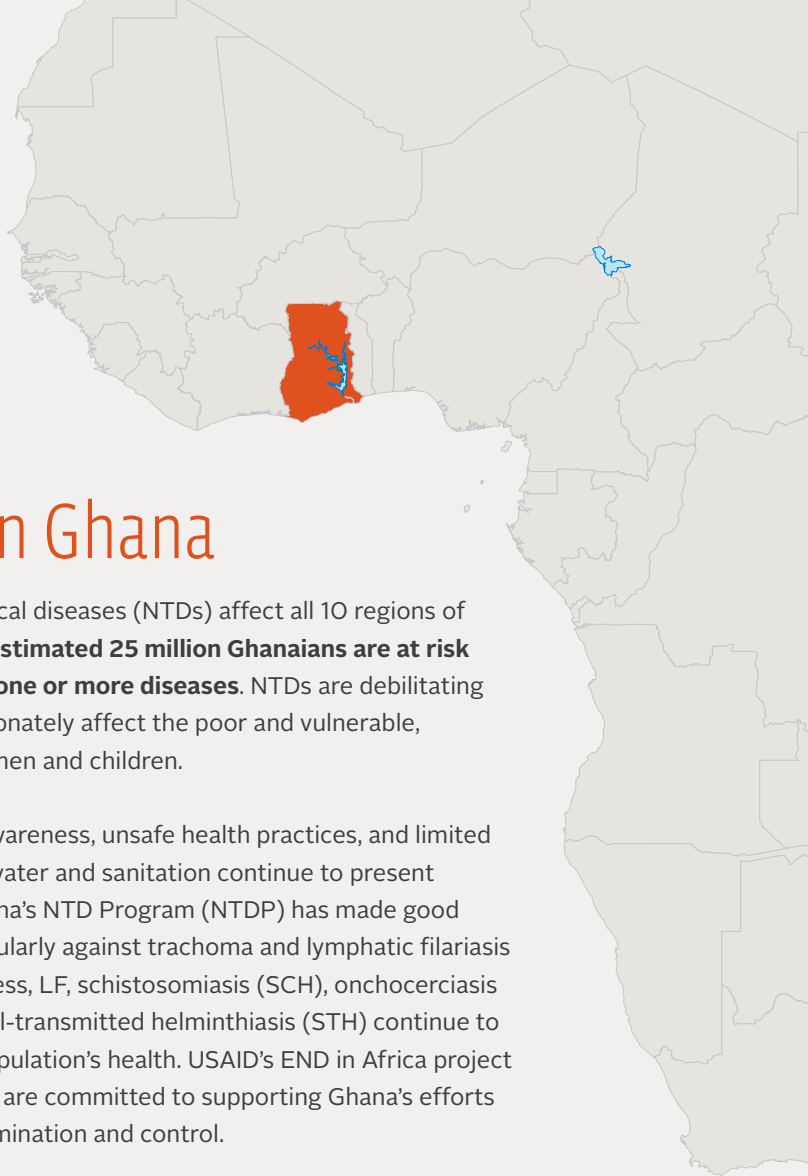


END IN AFRICA

# Ghana





# NTDs in Ghana

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) affect all 10 regions of Ghana, and **an estimated 25 million Ghanaians are at risk of contracting one or more diseases**. NTDs are debilitating and disproportionately affect the poor and vulnerable, particularly women and children.

While lack of awareness, unsafe health practices, and limited access to safe water and sanitation continue to present challenges, Ghana's NTD Program (NTDP) has made good progress, particularly against trachoma and lymphatic filariasis (LF). Nevertheless, LF, schistosomiasis (SCH), onchocerciasis (Oncho) and soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH) continue to threaten the population's health. USAID's END in Africa project and its partners are committed to supporting Ghana's efforts toward NTD elimination and control.

# Achievements



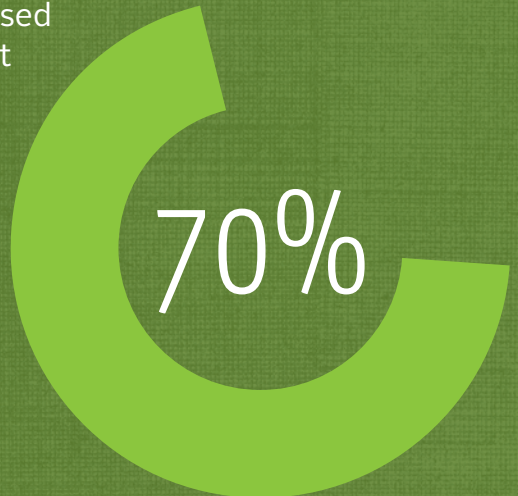
Ghana has mapped all five NTDs and has nationwide mass drug administration (MDA).



All 37 health districts endemic for trachoma have stopped treatments and completed 5 years of post-treatment surveillance; they will conduct a pre-validation survey for trachoma in 2015.



70% of health districts endemic for lymphatic filariasis (69 of 98 HDs) have passed transmission assessment surveys for stopping MDA and no longer need MDA for lymphatic filariasis.



# Current activities in Ghana

## **Mass Drug Administration**

- ▶ Conduct integrated community-based MDA for LF, Oncho and STH in 111 districts, targeting over 1.9 million people for LF, over 6.3 million for Oncho and over 8.2 million for STH.
- ▶ Conduct school- and community-based MDA for SCH in 47 districts that need annual treatment, targeting over 4 million people.
- ▶ Treat 216 districts for STH through Ghana's first integrated community-based MDA.

## **Disease Assessments and Monitoring**

- ▶ Carry out night blood surveys, or pre-transmission assessments (pre-TAS), for LF in 14 districts.
- ▶ Conduct LF transmission assessment surveys (TAS) for stopping MDA in 7 districts, and conduct post-MDA TAS in 5 districts.
- ▶ Conduct a trachoma survey in 37 districts to obtain data on the SAFE strategy—Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial cleanliness and Environmental improvements—for the purpose of verifying the elimination of trachoma.
- ▶ Conduct an integrated impact assessment survey in 30 zones, covering all 216 districts, for SCH and STH.
- ▶ Carry out epidemiological evaluations for Oncho in 58 districts.

## **Training and Capacity Building**

- ▶ Conduct cascade training prior to each MDA campaign for all levels of implementation.
- ▶ Conduct refresher training prior to undertaking disease assessment surveys.



- ▶ Conduct training on the national NTD database.
- ▶ Conduct training on the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for drug management, per the updated supply chain management (SCM) training manual.

### **NTD Program Support**

- ▶ Support and participate in the NTDP's quarterly intra-country coordinating committee (ICCC) meetings and in technical, advocacy and fundraising subcommittee meetings.
- ▶ Help the NTDP make projections and apply for NTD drugs.
- ▶ Provide technical assistance to update the Tool for Integrated Planning and Costing (TIPAC).
- ▶ Develop publications on country program best practices, success stories, lessons learned and impact surveys.
- ▶ Hold media campaigns to showcase achievements and challenges of the program.
- ▶ Help implement the NTDP's communication plan, and thus enhance NTDP visibility and improve knowledge and awareness of the 5 NTDs and their control/elimination strategies in at-risk communities.
- ▶ Hold a review meeting to revise the treatment regimen for SCH/STH control.
- ▶ Support and participate in annual work planning and review meetings.



# END in Africa

Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and managed by FHI360, the END in Africa project aims to reduce the prevalence of five neglected tropical diseases, including trachoma, onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminthiasis, in Ghana and four other West African countries (Burkina Faso, Niger, Sierra Leone and Togo).

In addition to FHI360's overall program administration and direct implementation support to Ghana's NTDP, END in Africa receives support from Helen Keller International in Burkina Faso, Niger and Sierra Leone; and from Health and Development International in Togo. Other END in Africa partners include John Snow Inc., Deloitte Consulting LLP and Liverpool Associates in Tropical Health, which provide respective support in supply chain management, financial performance, and monitoring and evaluation activities.

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## **Other NTD Partners in Ghana**

Ghana's NTDP also receives support from several other external and national partners, including the Liverpool Centre for Neglected Tropical Diseases, the Partnership for Child Development, the African Program for Onchocerciasis Control, the Volta River Authority, the Ghana Education Service's School Health Education Program and Sightsavers.