

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 helminthes (STH) continue to threaten health and wellbeing in Ghana and require continued attention and support from USAID's END in Africa project and other partners.

END in Africa

Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and managed by FHI 360, the END in Africa project aims to reduce the prevalence of 7 neglected tropical diseases, including trachoma, onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis and 3 soil-transmitted helminths (hookworm, roundworm, and whipworm), in Ghana and 5 other West African countries (Burkina Faso, Niger, Sierra Leone, Togo, and Côte d'Ivoire).

In addition to FHI 360's overall program administration and direct implementation support to the NTDPs in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, END in Africa receives support from Helen Keller International in Burkina Faso, Niger, and Sierra Leone; and from Health and Development International in Togo. END in Africa partner Deloitte Consulting LLP provides capacity-building expertise to the NTDPs, particularly in financial management and oversight.

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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 (through December 2015) Control, the Volta River Authority, the Ghana Education Service's School Health Education Program, Sightsavers and the WHO Country Office in Ghana.

END IN AFRICA

Ghana




Achievements

- ★ Ghana has mapped all 7 NTDs and has nationwide mass drug administration (MDA).
- ★ All 37 health districts endemic for trachoma have stopped treatments, completed 5 years of post-treatment surveillance, and completed a pre-validation survey for trachoma.
- ★ Over three-quarters (75.6%) of health districts (HDs) endemic for lymphatic filariasis (76 of 98 HDs) have passed transmission assessment surveys (TAS) for stopping MDA and no longer need MDA for LF.

ALL
10
*Regions affected
by NTDs*



25
million
At risk for NTDs



Current Activities in Ghana

Mass Drug Administration

- ▶ Conduct integrated community-based MDA for LF, Oncho and STH in 105 districts, targeting over 5.8 million people.
- ▶ Conduct school-based MDA in 216 HDs and community-based MDA for SCH in 47 HDs.
- ▶ Treat 216 districts for STH through MDAs for SCH and LF.

Disease Assessments and Monitoring

- ▶ Carry out night blood surveys, or pre-transmission assessments (pre-TAS), for LF in 7 districts.
- ▶ Conduct LF transmission assessment surveys (TAS) for stopping MDA in 5 districts, and conduct post-MDA TAS in 64 districts.
- ▶ Conduct a trachoma pre-validation 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.
- ▶ Carry out epidemiological evaluation for Oncho in 36 districts.

Training and Capacity Building

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



NTD Program Support

- ▶ Support and participate in the Ghana NTD Program's (NTDP) quarterly intra-country coordinating committee (ICCC) meetings to coordinate work among NTD stakeholders and partners, 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 NTDP communication, enhance NTDP visibility, and improve knowledge and awareness of NTDs and NTD 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.