

END IN AFRICA

Niger



A map of the African continent with the country of Niger highlighted in a solid orange color. Other countries are shown in a light gray color. The map is positioned in the upper right portion of the page.

NTDs in Niger

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) affect all 42 health districts (HDs) in Niger, putting **some 17 million people 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, Niger's NTD program (NTDP) has made good progress, particularly against trachoma. Nevertheless, LF, schistosomiasis (SCH), soil transmitted helminthiasis (STH) and trachoma continue to threaten the population's health. USAID's END in Africa project and its partners are committed to supporting Niger's efforts toward NTD elimination and control.

Achievements

- ★ Niger has mapped all 5 NTDs and has nationwide mass drug administration (MDA).
- ★ 13 health districts (HDs) have reached the threshold to stop MDA for trachoma at the district level.
- ★ 3 HDs have reached the threshold to stop MDA for lymphatic filariasis (LF).



Current activities in Niger

Mass Drug Administration

- ▶ Conduct annual community- and school-based MDA for LF in 27 HDs.¹
- ▶ Carry out MDA for SCH in schools and door-to-door in communities in 41 HDs, of which 11 are treated annually and 30 are treated once every two years.
- ▶ Conduct annual community- and school-based MDA for STH in all 42 HDs in Niger.²
- ▶ Provide MDA for trachoma in 20 HDs, of which 13 will receive treatment in FY2015.¹

Disease Assessments and Monitoring

- ▶ Perform nighttime pre-transmission assessment surveys (pre-TAS) for LF in 7 HDs.
- ▶ Carry out transmission assessment surveys (TAS) for LF to determine whether to stop MDA in 4 HDs.
- ▶ Conduct district-level trachoma impact assessment surveys in 5 HDs and 1 sub-district level assessment survey in 1 HD.

Training and Capacity Building

- ▶ Organize and provide cascade and refresher training sessions for the MDAs at all implementation levels using a new training module that emphasizes the Information and Logistics Management System (ILMS) and includes training on how to handle severe adverse effects; also, train independent monitors prior to MDAs.
- ▶ Train biomedical and laboratory technicians prior to conducting assessments for LF, SCH, and STH.

1. Two districts with highly mobile populations will receive a second round of MDA for LF in FY2015: Bouza and Keita

2. Only 4 HDs will receive MDA for STH alone; the remaining 38 HDs will be treated for STH via MDA for LF or SCH.

- ▶ Train survey teams prior to conducting trachoma impact assessment surveys.
- ▶ Provide training on the use of the tool for integrated planning and costing (TIPAC).



NTD Program Support

- ▶ Support the NTDP in making projections and applying for NTD drugs, including assistance in building and managing a national NTD database.
- ▶ Assist the NTDP in planning and implementing MDA supervision, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and reporting activities, including independent monitoring and data quality assessment.
- ▶ Support the development of the national NTDP FY2015 Annual Action Plan and related activities.
- ▶ Support the national post-MDA review meeting as well as regional micro-planning workshops for developing base budgets for MDA-related activities.
- ▶ Provide support in finalizing and validating the national monitoring and evaluation plan for the NTDP's current national NTD master plan.
- ▶ Support the country's SCH expert program review meeting to re-assess the national strategy and ensure adherence to WHO guidelines.
- ▶ Help organize a cross-border meeting with Burkina Faso to enable better coordination on MDAs and surveillance.
- ▶ Implement advocacy activities, information, education, and communication (IEC) strategies, community meetings and media campaigns to inform communities about NTDs and improve participation in MDA activities.
- ▶ Help develop post-endemic surveillance protocols for trachoma and LF according to WHO guidelines.

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—trachoma, onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminthes—in Niger and four other West African countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Togo).

As END in Africa project lead, FHI360 provides overall program administration support to Ghana's NTDP, while subgrantees Helen Keller International (HKI) and Health and Development International (HDI) support project operations in Burkina Faso (HKI), Niger (HKI), Sierra Leone (HKI) and Togo (HDI). 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 Niger

Funding is provided mainly by the USAID through FHI 360 and HKI. The national NTD program also receives some support from national organizations, the Carter Center (TCC) and the International Network for Planning and Control of SCH (RISEAL).