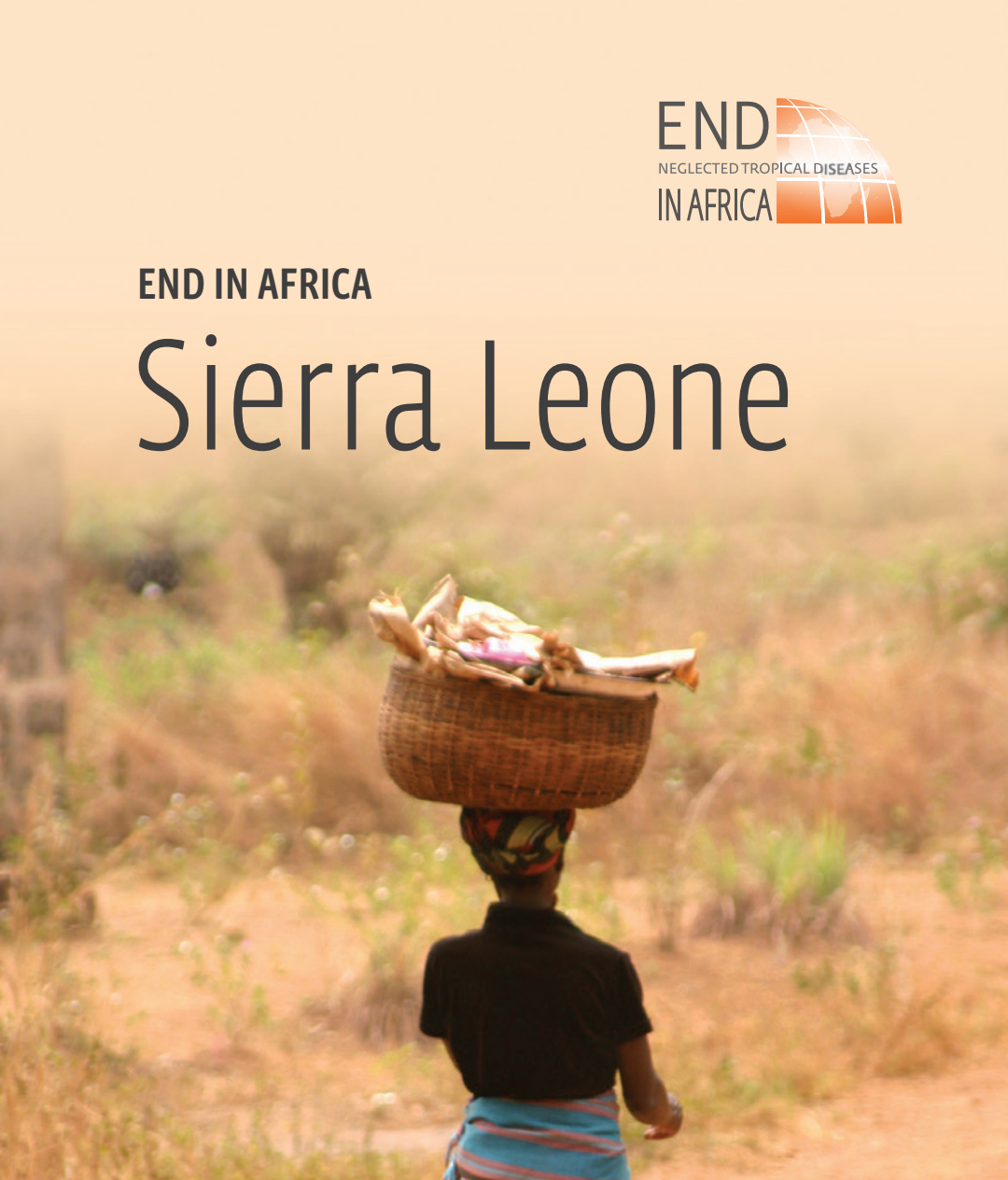


END IN AFRICA

Sierra Leone





NTDs in Sierra Leone

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) affect all 14 health districts (HDs) in Sierra Leone, putting **an estimated 5.7 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 the recent situation with Ebola, combined with limited awareness of NTDs, unsafe health practices and limited access to safe water and sanitation present challenges, Sierra Leone's NTD Program (NTDP) has continued its efforts toward disease control and elimination. Nevertheless, lymphatic filariasis (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 Sierra Leone's efforts toward NTD elimination and control.

Achievements

★ Completed mapping for all five NTDs targeted by the END in Africa project (2008) and scaled up mass drug administration (MDA) for all 4 endemic diseases to the national level (2010).¹

★ Eight (8) health districts passed pre-transmission assessment surveys (pre-TAS) for lymphatic filariasis (LF) in 2013 and are scheduled to undergo TAS for LF in 2015.

★ Six (6) health districts are scheduled to undergo pre-TAS for LF in 2015.



8

*health districts passed
pre-transmission
assessment surveys for LF*

Current activities in Sierra Leone

Mass Drug Administration

- ▶ Conduct integrated, community-based MDA for LF, STH and Oncho in 14 HDs (12 for Oncho), targeting 5.7 million people for LF and STH and over 2.7 million for Oncho.
- ▶ Provide school- and community-based MDA for SCH in 7 HDs, targeting over a half million school-age children and over 1.1 million at-risk adults.

Disease Assessments and Monitoring

- ▶ Carry out transmission assessment surveys (TAS) for LF in 8 HDs.
- ▶ Conduct pre-TAS in 3 evaluation units, representing 6 HDs.
- ▶ Conduct an integrated impact assessment for SCH and STH in 12 HDs.

Training and Capacity Building

- ▶ Train new and returning personnel on MDA-related activities and standard operating procedures for supply chain management, including NTD focal persons, district supervisors, peripheral health unit staff, community health workers, community drug distributors and independent monitors.
- ▶ Provide short-term technical assistance on developing the TAS protocol for LF and train district laboratory technicians on the protocol and on diagnosing LF.
- ▶ Train NTDP staff and partners on the tool for integrated planning and costing (TIPAC) and monitoring and evaluation tools such as the WHO joint reporting and joint drug request forms, data quality assurance (DQA) and the national NTD database.

PHOTO CREDIT
Top and bottom: Helen Keller
International Sierra Leone

NTD Program Support

- ▶ Support the NTDP in making projections and applying for NTD drugs.
- ▶ Develop information, education and communication (IEC) materials and conduct IEC, social mobilization and advocacy campaigns and events.
- ▶ Support the NTDP in organizing meetings of the Mano River Union countries (Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire) to coordinate MDAs and discuss cross-border issues relating to NTDs.
- ▶ Support the NTDP on updating the TIPAC with Sierra Leone's NTD data.
- ▶ Support the NTDP in developing the country's 2016-2020 NTD Master Plan.
- ▶ Assist the NTDP during the transition to post-MDA surveillance.
- ▶ Support the NTDP during work planning 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 helminths, in Sierra Leone and four other West African countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger 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 Sierra Leone

The NTDP also receives support from partners such as the Government of Sierra Leone, the Liverpool Centre for Neglected Tropical Diseases (CNTD), the African Program for Onchocerciasis Control (APOC), Sightsavers and TOMS Shoes, among others.