

END IN AFRICA

Togo





NTDs in Togo

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) affect all 40 districts in Togo, putting **more than 6 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, Togo's NTD Program has achieved important progress against NTDs, especially lymphatic filariasis (LF). However, schistosomiasis (SCH), onchocerciasis (Oncho) and soil-transmitted helminthes (STH) continue to be threats and require continued attention and support from USAID's END in Africa project and other partners.

Achievements

- ★ Following an external assessment of its onchocerciasis program in 2013, Togo changed its strategic goal from onchocerciasis control to disease elimination. The Ministry of Health subsequently developed a strategic plan for onchocerciasis elimination.
- ★ Lymphatic filariasis (LF) transmission was effectively interrupted in 2009, with the last MDA for LF occurring in 2009.¹ Togo's goal now is verification of LF elimination by the World Health Organization (WHO), as two (2) post-treatment surveillance surveys in 2012 and 2015 showed absence of LF transmission 3 and 6 years after the last MDA.

*Togo has changed its strategic goal from onchocerciasis control to **disease elimination***

1. Prior to the start of USAID support for Togo's NTD program



Current activities in Togo

Mass Drug Administration

- ▶ Support Togo's NTD Program (NTDP) in implementing nationwide integrated, community-based MDA for SCH, Oncho, and STH. The MDA targets 2.3 million people in 33 districts for SCH; 2.8 million people in 32 districts for Oncho; and 3.3 million people, including 1.9 million school-age children and 1.7 million women of child-bearing age in 35 districts for STH.¹
- ▶ Conduct MDA for STH a second time in 4 districts where at least half of the population is infected.
- ▶ Conduct MDA for Oncho a second time in 11 districts with high infection rates.²

Disease Assessments and Monitoring

- ▶ Conduct a third transmission assessment survey (TAS) for LF as well as post-MDA passive surveillance for LF.
- ▶ Conduct DSAs for SCH and STH at integrated surveillance sites to inform treatment strategies for those diseases.
- ▶ Implement a national epidemiological survey for Oncho to ensure that all pockets of Oncho have been identified and to launch the country's elimination efforts.
- ▶ Conduct routine epidemiological surveillance for Oncho in high-risk areas.
- ▶ Conduct a coverage validation survey in Tandjoaré district to determine MDA coverage, and in two districts where Oncho is still a challenge.

1. Funding for medicine for women of child-bearing age will be provided by UNICEF

2. With funding from Togo's Ministry of Health

PHOTO CREDIT
Rachel Bronzan, HDI

Training and Capacity Building

- ▶ Train more than 10,000 people in drug distribution protocols, community education, supply chain management (SCM), behavior change, serious adverse event reporting and other aspects of MDA.
- ▶ Train field workers for disease-specific assessments and a coverage validation survey.
- ▶ Train central-level Ministry of Health (MOH) personnel on using the Tool for Integrated Planning and Costing (TIPAC) for program planning.
- ▶ Build the SCM capacity of MOH personnel.
- ▶ Strengthen the capacity of MOH personnel to capture, interpret and utilize data to improve program performance.

NTD Program Support

- ▶ Support the NTDP in making projections and applying for NTD drugs.
- ▶ Conduct data quality assessments to inform programmatic decisions.
- ▶ Assist the NTDP with preparatory activities related to drafting its 2016–2020 strategic NTD master plan.
- ▶ Organize and support national work planning, stakeholder and program review meetings.
- ▶ Support the NTDP in developing an advocacy plan and in coordinating social mobilization activities.



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 Togo and four other West African countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger and Sierra Leone).

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 Togo

The program is also supported by several other external and national partners, such as UNICEF, the Hope Educational Foundation, the African Program for Onchocerciasis Control (APOC) and Sightsavers, in part for MDA and survey support and STH mapping.