

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 helminthes (STH) continue to be threats in Sierra Leone 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 Sierra Leone and 5 other West African countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, Togo, and Côte d'Ivoire).

As END in Africa project lead, FHI 360 provides overall program administration support to the NTDPs in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, 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). 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 Sierra Leone

The NTDP also receives support from partners such as the Government of Sierra Leone, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine's Filarial Programmes Support Unit (FPSU; formerly known as the Centre for Neglected Tropical Diseases), the African Program for Onchocerciasis Control (through December 2015), Sightsavers, TOMS Shoes, and the WHO Country Office in Sierra Leone, among others.

END
NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES
IN AFRICA



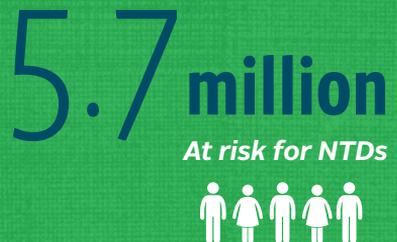
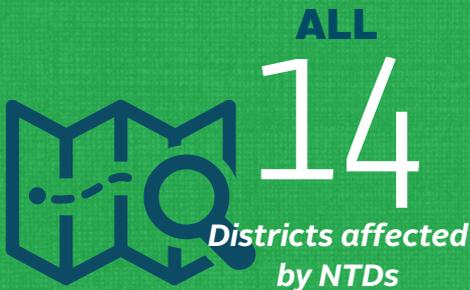
END IN AFRICA

Sierra Leone



Achievements

- ★ Completed mapping for all 7 NTDs targeted by the END in Africa project (2008) and scaled up mass drug administration (MDA) for 6 endemic diseases (the country is not endemic for trachoma) 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 2016.
- ★ Six (6) health districts (HDs) are scheduled to undergo pre-TAS for LF in 2016.



¹ With support from USAID's Neglected Tropical Diseases Control Program

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

- ▶ All planned TAS and Pre-TAS postponed to FY2017 because of recent Ebola outbreak.

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.

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 Côte d'Ivoire) to coordinate MDAs and discuss cross border issues relating to NTDs.

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- ▶ Support the NTDP on updating the Tool for Integrated Planning and Costing (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.

