

ACT TO END NTDS | EAST

Investigating and responding to LF survey failure



Why is investigating survey failure important?

- **Survey failure can delay progress toward elimination**
- **But...some survey failures are to be expected**
- **Investigate to understand what the most likely cause(s) of failure are**
- **Respond by adapting and improving the repeat MDA to incorporate lessons learned in the investigation**

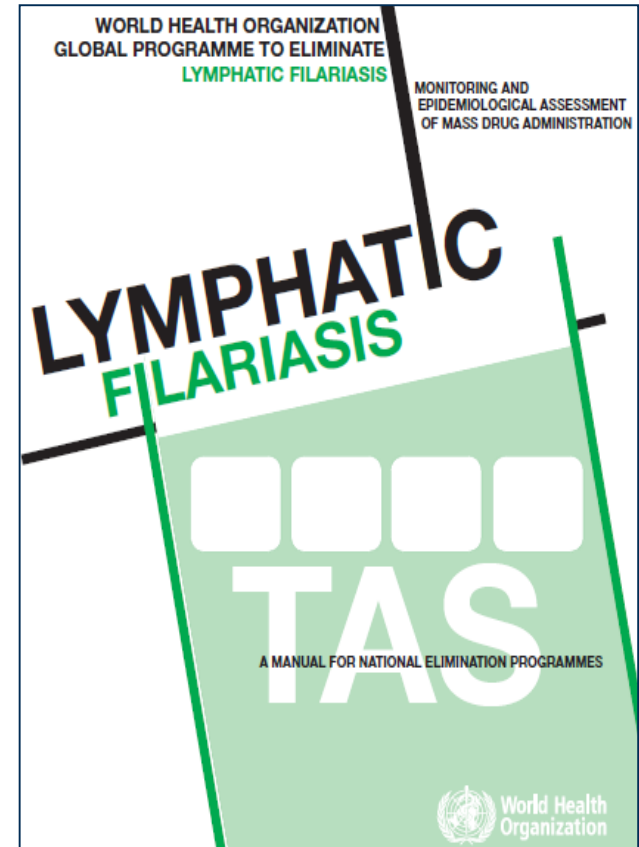
TAS – Implementation as of 2019

41 countries

524 surveys

91.6% 'pass' (number of positive children less than critical cut-off value)

14 countries observed at least 1 'fail'



Slide 3

BM14

Need to get WHO updated data

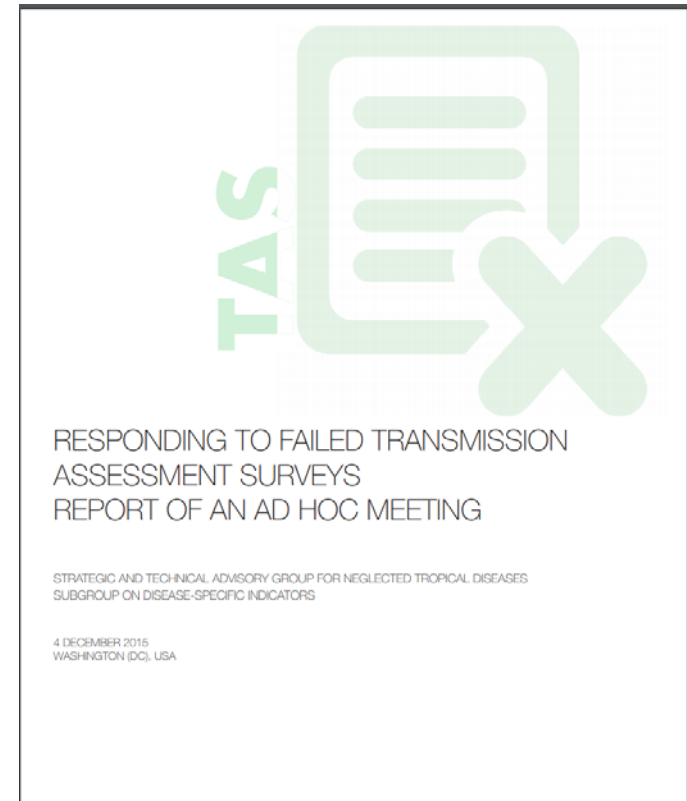
Brady, Molly, 12/19/2019

Why do surveys fail?

- **Quality of survey implementation**
- **Epidemiology**
 - High baseline prevalence
 - Vector characteristics
 - Elevation
- **Quality of MDA implementation**
 - Insufficient MDA coverage at subdistrict level
 - Untreated populations
 - Low compliance
 - Inaccurate reported treatment data

WHO guidance

- WHO NTD STAG subgroup meeting: *Responding to 'failed' TAS, 4 Dec 2015*
- **Purpose:**
 - Identify corrective actions to take to both prevent and respond to failed TAS
 - Agree on a framework of *action steps* for programmes to follow



New terminology

- **reMDA:** repeated rounds of MDA after failed TAS
- **Pre-reTAS:** After TAS failure, repeated assessments of **spot-check** sites after the second additional round of MDA to confirm eligibility for repeated TAS1
- **Re-preTAS:** After pre-TAS failure, repeated assessments of pre-TAS after the second additional round of MDA to confirm eligibility for TAS1
- **reTAS1:** Repeated TAS1 after failed TAS

TAS checklists

- **Identify operational reasons for failure**
 - population selected, distribution of results (by team and location), diagnostic test quality and use, team training
- **Identify epidemiological reasons for failure**
 - baseline endemicity, species, geography, coverage
- **Analyze past MDA coverage using available data**
 - Coverage by sub-district, coverage by age/gender/ethnic groups, dosage and quality of drugs, timing of MDA
 - KAP questions from previous coverage surveys
- **Analyze past MDA coverage using newly collected data**
 - Systematic non-compliance or exclusion, DOT, motivation and training of CDDs, supervision

Qualitative data

Questions about past MDA and improving MDA in TAS checklist often need qualitative data collection

- Key informant interviews (KIIs)
- Focus group discussions (FGDs)

Lists of potential questions for KIIs or FGDs are available

- WHO Towards Universal Coverage for PC for NTDs: Guidance for Assessing Who is Being Left Behind and Why (Module 3)
- COR-NTD Operational Research

Panel discussion:

- 1. Which tools did you use to investigate a failed survey?**
- 2. How much time did it take you to use the tool?**
- 3. What were the challenges with using the tool?**
- 4. What did you learn from using the tool?**
- 5. What is one thing you would do differently next time? Or what advice would you give to a national program that hasn't used these tools before?**