DYNAMIC AND ADAPTIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: Moving beyond supporting national health systems to strengthen national health systems to ensure the sustainability of NTD control and elimination.

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INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND
NTDs disproportionately affect people living in poverty and impose a devastating human, social and economic burden on more than 1 billion people worldwide.

At least 1.74 billion people require interventions against NTDs globally.

NTDs can cause significant mortality and morbidity - approximately 200,000 deaths and 19 million disability adjusted life years (DALYs) lost annually.

NTDs cost communities the equivalent of billions of United States dollars each year in direct health costs, loss of productivity and reduced socioeconomic and educational attainment.

< 0.6% of global health financing is directed towards NTD interventions.

### Disease Epidemiology

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- NTDs cost communities the equivalent of billions of United States dollars each year in direct health costs, loss of productivity and reduced socioeconomic and educational attainment.
- < 0.6% of global health financing is directed towards NTD interventions.

### Preventative Chemotherapy NTDs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lymphatic Filariasis</th>
<th>Onchocerciasis</th>
<th>Schistosomiasis</th>
<th>Soil-transmitted helminthiasis</th>
<th>Trachoma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mosquitoes</td>
<td>black flies</td>
<td>Snails</td>
<td>Soil-transmitted helminths</td>
<td>Hands Hygiene Flies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 million people infected</td>
<td>20.9 million people infected</td>
<td>241 million people require treatment</td>
<td>1.5 billion people infected</td>
<td>84 million people infected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>859 million people require treatment</td>
<td>218 million people require treatment</td>
<td>779 million people at risk</td>
<td>1.2 billion people at risk*</td>
<td>136 million people at risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albendazole, Ivermectin, Diethylcarbamazine Citrate</td>
<td>Ivermectin</td>
<td>Praziquantel</td>
<td>Albendazole Mebendazole</td>
<td>Azithromycin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Introduction: Neglected Tropical Diseases
USAID’s **Act to End NTDs | West Program** focuses on the elimination and control of five NTDs in West Africa. It also seeks to improve national NTD program capacity to sustain long-term NTD programs and to mainstream NTD programs into national health systems.

**Country Successes:**

USAID-supported West African countries that have eliminated at least one disease, per the WHO:

- Lymphatic Filariasis: Togo (2017)
- Trachoma: Ghana (2018), Togo (2022)
USAID NTD Sustainability Framework

Contextual Inputs: political will, NTD epidemiology, community demand, gender and social dynamics

Level
National
Regional & Departmental
District
Community

Functional Areas
Financing
Service Delivery
Information Systems
Operations & Health Workforce
Policy & Planning
Coordination

Sustainability Outcomes
Government mobilized sufficient domestic funding to support NTD programming
NTDs services provided through existing and emerging platforms
NTD data and indicators included in information systems
NTD resources related to health and other sectors optimized
NTD core functions integrated and institutionalized in National health and other sector policies
Multisector coordination of NTD Programs institutionalized

Actors
Health Sector Actors
Cross-sector Actors
Community Actors

Impact
Sustained NTDs elimination and control goals
METHODS
Supporting Sustainability: Evolution of Support

From…

Supporting the health system through activities that improve the system’s functionality primarily by increasing inputs and are typically short term, narrowly focused, contribute to competitions between health programs and missed integration opportunities.

To…

Strengthening the health system by accomplishing comprehensive changes to policies and regulations, organizational structures, and relationships across the health system that motivate changes in behavior and/or allow for more effective use of resources to improve multiple health services.

From technical assistance that is…

• Vertically oriented and service delivery-focused
• Short-term and focused on strengthening the capacities of NTDPs to access drug donation programs and support service delivery
• Concerned with impact rather than sustainability

To technical assistance that…

• Facilitate national ownership, enabling efforts to systematically integrate NTDs into national governance, policy, planning, financing, and delivery systems
• Focuses on mainstreaming NTD programs into other sectors and platforms to ensure the availability of commodities and to sustain NTD services
• Supports increased domestic funding for NTDs
# Act to End NTDs | West’s Technical Assistance Approach

![Diagram](image.png)

## Completed Phases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Key Activities &amp; Outputs</th>
<th>On-going Financing &amp; Cross-Sector Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase 1</td>
<td>Sensitize Counterparts &amp; Secure Buy-in</td>
<td>• Sensitization workshops</td>
<td>• TIPAC data entry &amp; funding gap analyses workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 2</td>
<td>Conduct Landscape and Sustainability Analysis</td>
<td>• HSS Analyses • Cross-sector Barrier Analyses • Joint Landscape Analyses</td>
<td>• Revamping/establishing cross sector coordination mechanism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 3</td>
<td>Develop Sustainability Plan</td>
<td>• Sustainability Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 4</td>
<td>Implement Sustainability Plan</td>
<td>• Technical Assistance: financing, supply chain, data security, HMIS, advocacy/ DRM, cross-sector platforms, service delivery, surveillance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 5</td>
<td>Evaluate Progress</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Current Phases

- Sensitize Counterparts & Secure Buy-in
- Conduct Landscape and Sustainability Analysis
- Develop Sustainability Plan
- Implement Sustainability Plan
- Evaluate Progress

## Sustainability Outcomes

- Sufficient domestic funding to support NTD programming
- Deworming and morbidity management services provided
- Indicators included in information systems
- Health and education resources optimized
- Health and education policies integrated and institutionalized
- Multi-sector coordination institutionalized

## Country Status

| Country Status | Burkina Faso | Benin • Côte d’Ivoire • Senegal • Sierra Leone | Togo • Ghana • Mali • Niger |
RESULTS & OUTCOMES
Technical Assistance to Foster Country Ownership: Examples

This approach supports NTDPs to develop a deeper understanding of the NTD landscape and challenges, analyze their financial needs to improve planning and assess their current and desired states for sustainability while engaging cross-sector stakeholders.

**Togo**

- **NTDP** prioritized regular review of financial data and strengthening of financial management capacity per **Sustainability and NTD Master Plans**.
- **Act | West** adapted its support to train NTDP staff to use the TIPAC to cost programmatic activities, identify financial gaps, and support mapping of the national budget process to develop effective budget advocacy strategies.
- **Now**, the NTDP uses financial data to identify key entry points and opportunities for dialogue, including framing the value of funding NTD control activities in relation to the Government’s broader agenda.

**Sierra Leone**

- Act | West aided Sierra Leone’s NTDP in mapping out the national budget preparation process, annual timeline, steps, and key stakeholders, to identify entry points and opportunities for dialogues on financing for NTDs.
- This exercise was accompanied by a funding gap analysis to provide current-state evidence of the financial needs of NTD interventions. The evidence was used to support dialogues with key stakeholders involved in the national budget process to identify where NTD financing, human resources, and services can be optimized in existing systems.
- These activities influenced the NTDP’s messaging to the Ministry of Health of Sierra Leone, resulting in a commitment to an increased budget allocation for the NTDP.

**Côte d’Ivoire**

- The NTDP had its **Sustainability Plan** politically validated in 2020, reiterating that securing commitments and financial contributions from the health- and non-health sector is primary objectives.
- To prepare for a domestic resource mobilization roundtable, Act | West supported the NTDP to conduct financial and budget analysis to inform strong, tailored cases for identified stakeholders to contribute to NTD interventions.
- The NTDP led a successful roundtable that gathered representatives from the Ministry of Finance, private companies, civil organizations, and foundations. **Garnered financial commitments** from a national musician and the National Council for Nutrition, Food, and Early Childhood Development.
CONCLUSIONS & DISCUSSION
## Challenges & Considerations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Considerations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NTDPs continue to operate in an environment of competing priorities and limited resources</td>
<td>Provide technical assistance for resource mobilization and improve efficiency through support for NTD mainstreaming, multisectoral coordination including outside of the health sector, and nuanced stakeholder engagement for integration of services and inclusion in health planning and budgeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Link NTDs with UHC, SDGs, and other national and global initiatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex landscape of national policy, planning and budgeting processes to facilitate sustainable NTD programming</td>
<td>Adapt technical assistance to balance desire and accountability for results with analysis, engagement, and understanding of country processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability and quality of NTD data to measure sustainability progress and inform sustainability programming</td>
<td>Continue to emphasize national and country ownership, engage NTD programs to develop indicators and milestones for sustainability, document and scale up lessons learned, and celebrate success</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Build on WHO 2023 Roadmap and Framework for Action guidance and engage countries in discussion on realistic priorities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Looking Ahead: Engaging National Partners and Evaluating Progress

Technical assistance partners must work with NTDPs to strategically plan, increase multi-sectoral coordination, enhance data collection, and develop and adapt tools and frameworks tailored to country specific needs as they take full ownership of NTD sustainability. Such efforts may include:

- **Identifying entry points** to incorporate NTD medicines, diagnostics, and commodities into existing national supply chains to ensure cost-savings;

- **Enhance the capacity** of NTDPs to collect, organize, and present data to make a compelling case for mobilizing all possible funding avenues or including NTDs in benefits packages and universal health coverage policies;

- **Facilitating intra- and cross-sectoral policy dialogues** to mainstream NTDs into health programming at all levels and strengthen coordination and collaboration among stakeholders to increase efficiency and sustained NTD service delivery;

- **Building NTDP capacity** to manage, integrate, use, and protect data to track progress against milestones and indicators and draw insights on the sustainability approach;

- **Strengthening information sharing** capacity of NTD multisector coordination members to increase the visibility of NTDs and influence policies across sectors for NTD sustainability.
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