Compliance with COVID-19 preventive and barrier measures during recent MDA and DSA in six Act | West countries

Benoit Dembele1, Angel Weng2, Brian Fuller2, Elisabeth Chop2, Diederonne Nare3, Lucien Mano3, Patrick Mbia4, Carine Fokam Tagnel1, Lamine Lamah6, Abdoul Karim Camara6, Modibo Keita6, Boubacar Guindo6, Sita Hamadou7, Mounkaila Issoufou7, Mustapha Sonnie4, Habib Kamara4, Patricia Houck2, Cleo Stern2, Achille Kaboré8, Katherine A Sanchez9, Fatou Gueye2, Steven D. Reid2, Yaobi Zhang6, Angela Weaver6


BACKGROUND

• March 2020 – WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic, prompting governments to implement measures, such as closing borders, mandating masks and limiting public gatherings.
• July 2020 – WHO recommended countries conduct a risk assessment and develop a risk mitigation plan prior to resuming NTD activities.
• Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinea, Mali, Niger and Sierra Leone restarted NTD activities with support from USAID’s Act to End NTDs | West Program, following risk mitigation steps and donor approval.
• To monitor compliance with COVID-19 risk mitigation plans in the field, Act | West developed the COVID-19 Supervisors Checklists for mass drug administration (MDA) and disease-specific assessments (DSA).

METHODS

• Survey questions were coded into Open Data Kit and submitted through the Ona Platform.
• Participating supervisors completed one MDA checklist per community drug distributor (CDD) team, observing their performance during a single interaction with MDA participants.
• For DSAs, supervisors completed one checklist per site.

RESULTS

A total of 329 MDA checklists were completed across six countries. MDA strategies included door-to-door (282), fixed point (27) or school-based (18) distribution.

Compliance with COVID-19 preventive and barrier measures during MDA and DSA was high, except mask-wearing among participants.

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