

Supporting the Sustainable Financing of Neglected Tropical Disease Programs in West Africa

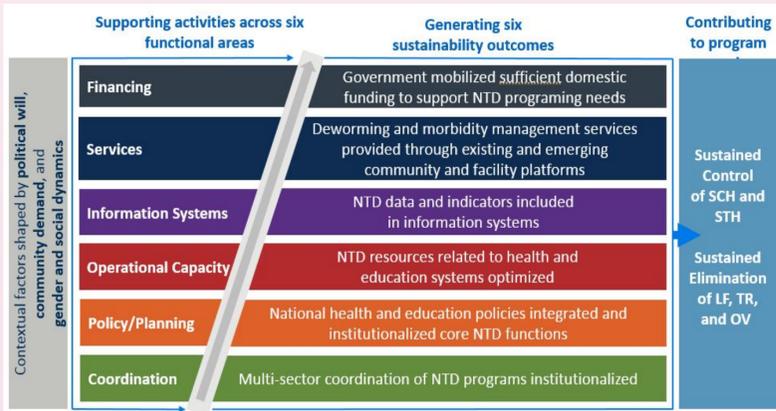
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USAID's Act to End Neglected Tropical Disease (NTDs) | West (Act | West) Consortium,
National NTD Programs across West Africa

PROGRAM CHALLENGE

NTDs are a diverse set of 20 diseases and disease groups with a singular commonality: their devastating and disproportionate impact on impoverished communities. Untreated, NTDs can lead to life-altering disabilities that prevent patients from working, attending school, and gaining socioeconomic mobility. As NTDs often cause co-morbidities and are not fatal, a protracted challenge is directing sustained government funding for their treatment.

Over the past few decades, country NTD Programs (NTDPs) have made impressive strides towards NTD elimination, including preventive chemotherapy and case management NTDs, with support with support from donors, pharmaceutical companies and substantial contributions from health and community workers. As additional NTDs near elimination, sustaining such gains may be challenging as Ministries of Health prioritize resources towards high-prevalence diseases with higher visibility and mortality. If NTDPs cannot secure sufficient domestic resources, NTD hard-won successes may be erased.



USAID and its implementing partners developed the above framework to support prioritization of activities in six functional areas that will contribute to attaining programs' elimination and control targets. Financing is one of the crucial pillars, with a particular focus on mobilizing sufficient domestic resources for robust NTDP support.

APPROACH

Deloitte Consulting LLP is a member of the Act | West consortium, which supports the global effort to eliminate NTDs in 11 West African countries. One of Act | West's primary goals is to support NTDPs to strengthen country environment for management of NTDs. A primary way NTDPs can realize this goal is through sustainable resourcing and financing of NTD interventions and activities, such that they can operate independent of long-term donor support.

Aligned with the third pillar of program ownership of the World Health Organization's (WHO) NTD Roadmap 2021-2030, Deloitte works with NTDPs to conduct financial management and analysis by leveraging the Tool for Integrated Costing and Planning (TIPAC). Deloitte has conducted TIPAC data entry and analysis workshops with NTDPs to develop a comprehensive understanding of NTDP current and projected state of funding amounts, sources, and gaps to bolster advocacy efforts for expanded government budget allocations.

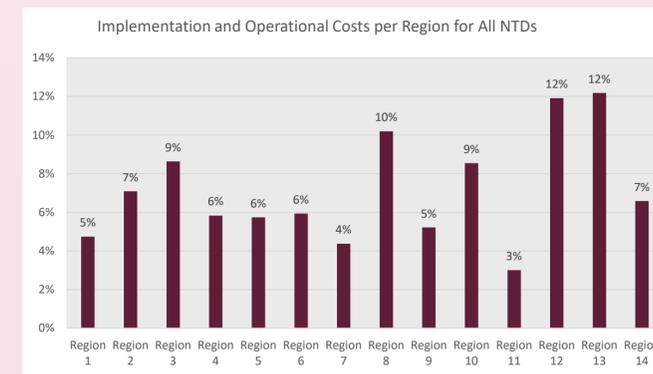
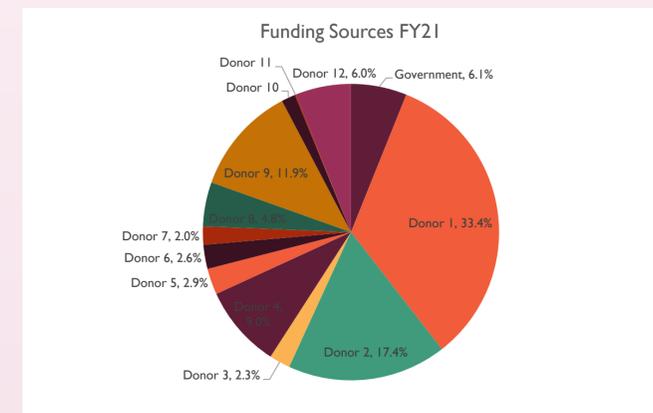
The TIPAC can be used in conjunction with existing strategic plans and budgets to effectively plan and coordinate future program resources. The process is designed to accurately cost program efforts, and inform stakeholders and decision makers, including Directorates of Finance, on financing needs, as indicated below.

Data Collection	Data Entry	Data Analysis	Approval
Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base Data Activity Costs Funders PC Drug Acquisition Validate data 	Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidate data Update data entry 	Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze the cost structure and past trends Analyze sources and levels of funding Evaluate risks and gaps and determine mitigation strategies 	Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present TIPAC data to targeted stakeholders
Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An accurate estimation of program implementation costs Identification of opportunities for integration in the first planning phase 	Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated and accurate TIPAC for the program's fiscal year 	Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of total costs for the year Understanding of funding levels and donors Identification of funding gaps 	Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSAS acceptance and understanding of the PNLMTN's financial status and PNLMTN plan for the following fiscal year

OUTCOMES

TIPAC workshops have guided NTDPs in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo to acquire and enter programmatic, financial, and drug acquisition-related data into the tool. Outputs include comprehensive analyses and related visualizations that describe NTDPs' programmatic cost and financial resource needs. Such an understanding is a foundational element of budget advocacy and resource mobilization activities.

NTDPs have leveraged TIPAC outputs to inform program decision making and budget advocacy strategies. For example, recently in Senegal, the NTDP used TIPAC data to strengthen a funding request to the Ministry of Health by empirically showcasing the program's funding needs. TIPAC has also helped NTDPs prioritize the funding gaps on which to focus with their advocacy efforts.



TIPAC results from one Act | West country NTDP

With the insights provided by TIPAC outputs, Act | West and NTDPs have identified policy areas where resource mobilization and integrated services can be most effective within the short- and medium-term, including:

- Incorporating NTD treatment into national health insurance plans and/or Universal Health Coverage policies and packages;
- Integrating NTD awareness into primary/secondary school and health professional training curricula; and
- Creating public-private cross-sectoral stakeholder groups such that supporting NTD interventions are considered beneficial to those outside the health system.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Act | West's experience with NTDPs and TIPAC play a foundational role in supporting sustainability and increasing country ownership in the financing and implementation of NTDP interventions.

Building upon this foundation requires sustained capacity building for public financial management, budget analyses, and effective budget advocacy through active engagement in national budget processes using data-driven decision making.

In line with the third pillar of the WHO Roadmap, **changing operating models and culture to facilitate country ownership and financing**, further integrating TIPAC or other comprehensive financial analysis tools into NTDP decision making, budgeting and planning will be instrumental to contribute to achieving NTD elimination and control goals, independent of donor support.

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