



Act to End Neglected Tropical Diseases | West

FY 2023 Work plan-Togo
October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023

Table of Contents

ACRONYM LIST	3
NARRATIVE.....	5
NATIONAL NTD PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND SUPPORT	5
IR1 PLANNED ACTIVITIES: LF, TRA, OV	6
Lymphatic filariasis (LF)	6
Trachoma	6
Onchocerciasis (OV)	7
IR2 SUSTAINABILITY AND HSS STRATEGY ACTIVITIES	9
IR3 ACTIVITIES SCH, STH.....	14

ACRONYM LIST

ALB	Albendazole
BMGF	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S.)
CDD	Community drug distributor
CHW	Community health worker
COGES	Health Center Management Committee (<i>Comité des Gestion</i>)
CNO	National Organizing Committee (<i>Comité National d'Organisation</i>)
CY	Calendar year
DBS	Dried blood spots
DGAS	Directeur General de Administrative de la Sante
DHIS2	District Health Information System 2
DSA	Disease specific assessment
DSME	Direction de la Santé de la Mère et de l'Enfant
ESPEN	Expanded Special Project for Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases
FEFO	First expired first out
FHI 360	Family Health International 360
FY	Fiscal year
GSK	GlaxoSmithKline
HAT	Human African trypanosomiasis
HDI	HDI Inc. (Health & Development International)
HMIS	Health management information systems
IEC	Information, education, and communication
INH	Institut National d'Hygiène (National Institute of Health)
IR	Intermediate Result of the Act West Results Framework
IU	Implementation unit
IVM	Ivermectin
LF	Lymphatic filariasis
LSTMH	Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MDA	Mass drug administration
MDP	Mectizan donation program
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOH	Ministry of Health and Social Protection
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NOEP	National Onchocerciasis Elimination Program
NTD	Neglected tropical diseases
NTDP	Neglected Tropical Disease Program
OCP	Onchocerciasis Control Program
OEC	Onchocerciasis Elimination Committee
OV	Onchocerciasis
Ov16 RDT	Ov16 rapid diagnostic test for onchocerciasis
PZQ	Praziquantel
PC	Preventive chemotherapy

PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
PHU	Peripheral Health Unit
PINTD	Program for the Integrated Control of NTDs
PPE	Personal protective equipment
PTS	Post-treatment surveillance
PVS	Post-validation surveillance
SAC	School-age children
SAE	Severe adverse events
SCH	Schistosomiasis
SCM	Supply chain management
SCT	Supervisor's Coverage Tool
SMM	Sustainability maturity model
SOP	Standard operating procedure
SOS	Schistosomiasis oversampling survey
STH	Soil-transmitted helminths
STTA	Short-term technical assistance
TA	Technical assistance
TAS	Transmission assessment survey
TFGH	Task Force for Global Health
TIPAC	Tool for Integrated Planning and Costing
TOR	Terms of reference
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USF	University of South Florida
WHO	World Health Organization

NARRATIVE

NATIONAL NTD PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND SUPPORT

Togo's National Health Structure and NTD Program

Togo is located between Benin (to the East), Ghana (to the west), Burkina Faso (to the north), and the Atlantic Ocean (to the south). Its population was 6,191,155 in 2010, according to the last national census, with an estimated growth rate of 2.84% per year.¹ The population is projected to be 8,454,751 in 2023, with 51.8% women and 48.2% men. Togo has two main climatic zones: an equatorial climate in the southern half of the country (with two dry seasons and two rainy seasons), and a humid tropical climate in the north (characterized by a single rainy season and a single dry season).

The country is currently divided into six regions comprised of 39 districts. The number of districts has changed from 40 in 2012 (through 2017), increasing to 44 (through June 2020) and more recently changed to 39 districts of which 37 are outside of the capital. Togo has a decentralized health system with 712 public PHU (or sub-district), located outside of the capital, involved in mass drug administration (MDA). Each PHU typically serves between one and ten villages. The implementation unit (IU) for MDA distribution varies according to the target disease - implementation occurs at district level for soil-transmitted helminths (STH), at PHU level for schistosomiasis (SCH), and village level for onchocerciasis (OV).

Togo had a five-year strategic plan for neglected tropical disease (NTD) control and elimination from 2016-2020. A new strategic plan (2022-2026) was finalized in FY22, having been delayed due to COVID-19. The plan contains new programmatic goals, MDA targets, training approaches, MDA distribution strategies, and sustainability activities in accordance with Togo's sustainability plan that will guide the NTD program (NTDP) in the coming years. The plan, validated at the beginning of FY22, will help the program transition from a vertical, externally funded approach to a locally funded, multi-sector strategy to ensure NTD success is sustained even after United States Agency for International Development (USAID) support ends.

Over the past decade, Togo has been bringing its NTD work under one umbrella within the Ministry of Health (MOH). In 1997, when HDI began collaborating with Togo on dracunculiasis and lymphatic filariasis (LF), each NTD was addressed by a separate team. After USAID began supporting the program in 2009, a national expert committee was established to advise NTD program in the implementation of NTD activities supported by USAID. At the beginning of FY19 a national NTD budget line was created, and the Ministry hired an NTD program manager with responsibility for ten NTDs that Togo has targeted (LF, trachoma, OV, SCH, STH, Guinea worm, Buruli ulcer, human African trypanosomiasis, Noma, and snakebite envenomation). The government's contribution for calendar year 2022 was 30,000,000 CFA (approximately \$53,690) through payment of salaries, infrastructure, vehicles, etc. These achievements testify to Togo's commitment to sustainable NTD implementation and management.

For FY23, Togo is planning a number of activities that will contribute to achieving the goal of OV and SCH elimination, STH control, and LF post-validation surveillance (for which Togo obtained WHO's validation of elimination in 2017). A celebration of trachoma elimination and LF is also planned since WHO validated the elimination of trachoma in Togo on May 28, 2022. In addition to training, social

¹ Report of the 4th general population census of Togo, 2010.

mobilization, preventive chemotherapy, and surveillance that MDAs entail, other important activities have included strengthening sustainability.

IR1 PLANNED ACTIVITIES: LF, TRA, OV

Lymphatic filariasis (LF)

FY23 Planned Activities

In 2021 HDI developed a proposal and budget for LF post-validation surveillance (LF PVS) in Togo, which was approved for funding by the TFGH at the beginning of FY22. Due to the delay of FY22 MDA scheduled for July 2022, the survey has been postponed to FY23 to respect the recommended 6-month post-MDA (as Togo is still using IVM to treat OV). The survey is planned in three phases. First, 24 villages bordering Burkina Faso will be assessed in FY23 and 7000 young adults living in these villages located in the border area will be tested using filariasis test strip (FTS). Second, epidemiological surveys will be conducted in approximately 10 veterinary sites using FTS, targeting 100 young adults from a nomadic (Fulani) population who regularly travel across Togo in each veterinary site. And third, communities surrounding those people found to be positive at veterinary sites will be tested with FTS. A sample of approximately 3500 young adults will be tested across 12 border villages around each nomadic person found positive. It is estimated that a total of 11,500 FTS tests will be performed for the study, and 11,500 dried blood sample (DBS) collected. Those who test positive by FTS will be tested for microfilaria. Treatment will be provided to those who are microfilaria (mf) positive.

Trachoma

FY23 Planned Activities

Celebrating LF and trachoma elimination

In FY23, Act | West will support a one-day celebration to jointly recognize Togo's achievements in eliminating trachoma, LF, and HAT as public health problems (in August 2020, Togo became the first country in the world to be verified free of HAT). International partners and national actors that collaborated in reaching elimination goals will be acknowledged. At the same time, Togo's progress toward OV elimination will be emphasized. The NTDP will request HAT partners and donors be included and share costs for the LF and trachoma elimination celebration.

To honor those whose lives have been positively changed by the NTD program, Act | West will support local travel costs to bring some village chiefs and CDDs (one village chief and one CDD) to testify about the positive impact of the NTD programs in their community; support a local group of actors to act out a skit about NTDs; and hire reporters in each of four regions to conduct interviews with community members, leaders, and health workers about the impact of trachoma elimination and other NTDs. Transcripts of the interviews will be translated into English and shared with NTD program partners. International partners and local resources will also be recognized for their work leading to elimination of LF, HAT and trachoma infections. Details for the celebration are subject to change due to potential COVID-19 risk reduction measures.

Onchocerciasis (OV)***FY23 Planned Activities******OV/STH/SCH MDA***

Only one round of MDA was carried out in FY22 (June 2022) due to delays caused by COVID-19 and late drug arrivals in FY21. In FY23, Togo will revert to implementing two rounds of integrated MDA for OV/SCH/STH using door-to-door distribution in the community with Act | West funding. The specifics of FY23 MDAs will be modified based on the recommendations of the OEC meeting in June 2022 where it was recommended that MDA can be stopped in six districts of Maritime region (all except Afangadji area).

Calendar Year 2022 (CY 2022) Second Round MDA

A second CY 2022 round of integrated OV/SCH/STH MDA will be conducted in January 2023 targeting the following high prevalence areas.

- OV: ≥ 5 years in 14 districts
- SCH: school-aged children (SAC) and high-risk adults in 22 districts
- STH: SAC in seven districts

Calendar Year 2023 (CY 2023) First Round MDA

The first round of MDA in CY 2023 will be conducted in June 2023 targeting the following:

- OV: ≥ 5 years in 30 districts
- SCH: SAC and high-risk adults in 29 districts
- STH: SAC (and in some districts, high-risk adults) in 39 districts.

Supervision of CY 2022 second round MDA and CY 2023 first round MDA

In FY23, as in past years, primary supervision responsibility lies with the districts. The PHU nurses are responsible for assuring effective rollout of the MDAs in their PHUs. Act | West staff will make spot checks with national-level supervisors to troubleshoot any issues raised during the MDA by nurses, CDDs, and others. Rapid evaluation (akin to the Supervisor's Coverage Tool) by central-level MOH supervisors will also be carried out immediately after the MDA, allowing NTDP to conduct supplementary mop-up MDA where necessary. A rapid evaluation questionnaire was used:

- To assess whether end users have received the drugs door-to-door and whether the distributor was implementing directly observed treatment.
- To identify reasons for not receiving drugs including unreported stock-outs.
- To record any mild adverse effects (AEs)
- To determine where end users heard about the MDA through social mobilization to amend messages or change approaches as needed in the future.

After the MDA, Act | West reviews the MDA data to make sure treatment targets were met during drug distribution and any errors are specifically addressed in subsequent year training. In FY23, Act | West will continue working alongside MOH staff to help ensure adequate MDA process, implementation, outcomes, and follow-up.

Drug delivery from warehouse to regions for CY22 second round MDA and CY23 first round MDA

In FY23, as in previous years, Togo will continue to pack and distribute drugs from the national warehouse to regions, districts, sub-districts, and villages based on 1) the detailed census-data on each

treated community that the program collects every year in conjunction with the preceding year's MDA, and 2) the detailed treatment plans developed during the annual micro-planning session that Togo combines with its Annual NTD Program Review. In this system, Act | West pays for distribution to the regions and MOH manages the supply chain.

Reverse logistics and data collection for CY22 second round MDA and CY23 first round MDA

At each step of the reverse logistics (as during the distribution), drugs are dispatched with an inventory form stating the name of each drug, the quantity being collected from districts, PHUs, or villages, the expiry date and the lot number. The signatures of both the person delivering and the person receiving the order are included at each transfer point. In FY23, Act| West will support the cost of per diems for personnel, drivers, and drug handlers, as well as fuel to enable transport and supervision. Together with the unused tablets, data on treatment given are collected and compared with the number of tablets initially distributed and number of tablets collected during this reverse logistics exercise. As in FY22, Act | West will be supporting reverse logistics from the region in FY23.

Printing for CY22 second round MDA and CY23 first round MDA

In FY23, before the CY22 second round of MDA and CY23 first round of MDA, Act | West will print registers, inventory and report forms that will be used before, during, and after MDA-

Monitoring and Evaluation FY23 Planned Activities

Afangadji area epidemiological surveillance

Upon recommendation of the International OEC in June 2022, MDA will be stopped in Maritime region, except for Afangadji area, where some blackflies were tested positive through PCR. Twelve first- and second-line villages around Afangadji will be included in the epidemiological survey and blood samples will be collected in children 5-9 years old as DBS for Ov16 serological analysis. Entomology surveys will also be conducted there around the main breeding sites of the area through funding from Sight Savers.

OV stop-MDA survey in Plateaux Region

As detailed above, based on recommendations from the OEC meeting in June 2022, Act | West plans to conduct stop-MDA surveys in Plateaux Region, and will divide Plateaux into two transmission zones and conduct a stop-MDA survey in each of them. This is because Plateaux region has a large population. All first- and second-line villages around each identified blackflies breeding site will be sampled. For each breeding site, the first-line villages are the ones closest to a breeding site, whereas second-line villages are those closest to the first line villages. Additional villages will be included to give a representative sample for each region where necessary. The DBS will be analyzed by the INH laboratory in Togo and Act | West will support the costs of the reagents and lab processing LOE. The NTDP is having ongoing discussions with Sightsavers to obtain funding to conduct entomology evaluation in villages where PCR results were positive in recent years in Kara and Centrale regions. If flies are PCR positive now, epidemiological surveys will be conducted in these villages.

IR2 SUSTAINABILITY AND HSS STRATEGY ACTIVITIES

Systems Strengthening

Data security and management

Previous and current FY activities and context

Data security policies technical assistance

With the support of Deloitte and FHI 360, a data security policy assessment was conducted in FY22. Following this assessment, policy guidelines and protocols were developed to support the NTDP in transitioning data storage from individual laptops to a more sustainable, secure, government-owned solution in line with the Togolese government standards. A data security workshop held in February of 2022 validated the NTD data security policy proposed by Act | West and draft guidelines were developed. The document is being finalized in FY22 and a timeline to disseminate the guidelines and implement recommended procedures is being developed.

FY23 Planned Activities

In FY23, Togo plans to disseminate and operationalize the targeted data security standard operating procedures (SOP) developed with technical assistance from Act | West to improve data security management. The NTDP plans to print the SOPs and / or share electronic copies of the SOPs with stakeholders involved on NTDs data management. The implementation of the policies and procedures included in the SOPs will help ensure that all NTD data are entered into DHIS 2, and the primary data sources will be securely stored and managed going forward. The NTDP will share the SOP with other parties either through physical distribution of copies or electronically, depending on the resources available at the time of dissemination. The manual will be disseminated to relevant groups including DISER (Division d'information, de statistique, d'étude et de recherche) within the ministry of health, NTDP staffs, NTDs focal points, and other MOH's partners working with the NTDP.

WHO NTD database training

The Togo NTDP wishes to contribute to the WHO NTD database for current and historical data. The NTD database is part of the tools the NTDP uses to ensure year after year the PC-NTD data are stored and accessible. It contributes to standardizing the formats of the data and to reducing the risk of losing data. In FY23, Togo's NTDP plans to train nine NTD staff on the use the WHO NTD database which will strengthen the NTDP's local capacity and facilitate the use and management of the WHO database at central and regional levels.

Drug Management

Previous and current FY activities and context

Historically, drug delivery has gone very smoothly. The logistics procedure used for distributing MDA drugs from Togo's national level to the villages is the same for both the November-December 2022 MDA and the CY23 First Round MDA, as in previous years.

In FY21, Act | West supported the NTDP in updating forms used for drug management in terms of First Expired First Out (FEFO), which has proven useful in preventing drug wastage. A warehouse assessment scheduled for the end of FY22 will allow Togo to evaluate the conditions in which NTD drugs are stored and determine what improvements are necessary. In FY23, Act | West will support the cost of necessary

packaging and per diems for delivery personnel, drivers, and drug handlers, as well as fuel to enable transportation and supervision. As in FY22, Act | West is just supporting distribution to the regional level for all regions.

FY23 Drug Management Activities

As part of annual re-training prior to the main MDA, in April/May 2023, Act | West will support the MOH in basic drug management, submission of drug order forms, FEFO, how to store the drugs, and how to properly dispose of damaged tablets.

FY23 SAE Activities

The management of severe adverse events (SAE) during MDA is conducted by a team composed of the national pharmacovigilance committee, national NTD coordination members, and Act | West staff. The importance of prompt reporting of SAEs from village and/or local nurse level to MOH is emphasized during pre-MDA training. No SAEs have been reported during the past two fiscal years. There was one case of SAE after 2019 MDA, which Togo's MOH investigated and followed up in accordance with Togo's SOP. Since then, there has not been any reported SAE, Act | West provided verbal and written guidance on handling and reporting adverse events, and the USAID-supported 2015 "*Serious Adverse Events Handbook*." In FY23, timely reporting of any SAE will again be strongly emphasized during annual MDA training at all levels from the regions to CDDs. Depending on the types of SAEs reported (if any), a specialist from the pharmacovigilance sector is assigned to investigate, as necessary. The Togo MOH uses their own form and WHO forms to report SAEs. The NTDP reports any SAE to Act | West to report to FHI 360 and USAID within 24 hours.

Sustainability

Previous and current FY activities and context

Togo is in Phase 4 of the NTD sustainability framework. Completed phases include:

1. **Phase 1:** NTDP held a sensitization meeting with stakeholders in the MOH with cross-sector stakeholders to raise awareness of NTDs, discuss the NTD Sustainability Framework, and promote government buy-in of NTD activities.
2. **Phase 2:** In 2020, a Joint Landscape Analysis was conducted where Deloitte and FHI 360 conducted remote desk reviews and in-person interviews with the NTDP, MOH stakeholders, actors from other sectors, and partners. Also, during this phase, the NTDP was able to successfully complete the self-assessment using the sustainability maturity model (SMM) with Act West 's support to help identify priority interventions that must feed the sustainability plan.
3. **Phase 3:** A Sustainability Planning Workshop took place building on the results of the SMM with support from Act | West. In January 2021, 14 participants from various ministries and directorates (including the Ministry of National Education and Ministry of Economy and Finance) convened to discuss the first draft of the Togo NTD Sustainability Plan. The workshop helped the NTDP focus on identifying sustainability milestones, planning targeted interventions and activities to each of the six domains of the sustainability framework. In FY22, the Sustainability Plan was finalized and presented at the political validation meeting held in November 2021. Participants gathered from different sectors, local authorities, and partners of Togo's MOH. The plan was signed by the minister of health and disseminated among partners.

- Phase 4:** In March 2022, as part of the implementation of the sustainability plan, the PNMTN was able to discuss the establishment of its NTD multisectoral coordination mechanism during a 3-day workshop in Lomé. The workshop allowed the stakeholders to analyze the existing NTDs coordination bodies and identify the most appropriate approach for a National NTDs cross sector mechanism in Togo. This coordination body is structured in three commissions namely (i) Planification, monitoring and evaluation, surveillance, and research commission; (ii) Advocacy and resources mobilization Commission and (iii) Disease elimination, control and eradication commission. The diseases elimination, control and eradication commission is composed of three experts committees (STH/SCH experts committee; OV experts committee and Diseases management committee). The TOR for the Multisectoral Coordination Mechanism is in the MOH pipeline for formalization. Since then, this mechanism becomes the only coordinating body in the fight against NTDs and consequently supplants all the commissions and committees mentioned above. It will coordinate NTD elimination and control activities in Togo and help in the implementation of activities planned in Togo's strategic and sustainability plans. In addition, the program engaged the discussion with Ministry of Education (MOE) regarding the formalization of their collaboration in school-aged children deworming.

Governance

TIPAC data entry workshops

Previous and current FY activities and context

In FY22, MOH conducted the TIPAC data entry workshop, and a similar approach is envisioned for FY23. The workshop focused on how to ensure correct data entry, including unfunded activities and any funding updates. Ahead of the workshop, the NTDP is responsible for filling out the Data Capture Sheet and collecting necessary data. This includes engaging with donors and stakeholders to identify potential funding for the fiscal year. It is led by the NTDP and supported by Deloitte, who remotely review the completed TIPAC data for gaps or inaccuracies. The completed TIPAC tool enables the NTDP to conduct a financial gap analysis and provide an evidence base to advocate to the MOH in their budgeting process. The MOH is progressively including resources in its budget to support NTD interventions. In Q4 of FY22, the NTDP plans to share the results with the MOH to advocate for more public resources to support the program's needs.

FY23 planned activities

TIPAC data entry workshop

For FY23 Togo's NTDP will conduct a funding gap analysis after the TIPAC data entry is complete. While the NTDP is able to complete data entry alone as evidenced by data entry in FY21 and FY22, Deloitte in collaboration with Act | West will provide remote assistance to the NTDP during the planning and technical preparation of the data entry workshop. Given the limited functionality in the current version of the TIPAC Deloitte will provide some technical resources and guidance to the NTDPs to overcome some challenges countries have experiences in previous years with the current version of the TIPAC. The NTDP will use the output to 1) continue advocating for resources within the MOH budget during individual meetings with the MOH leadership and the MOH's directorate of finance and the advocacy will build on the outcomes of MOH meetings planned to occur before the end of FY22; and 2) engage national stakeholders at central level as well as at decentralized level in supporting NTDs based on TIPAC data findings. Many of the interventions outlined in the sustainability plan for FY23 by the NTDP are centered around engagements with stakeholders in the MOH and Direction of Planning. The financial

gap analysis, creation of advocacy messages, and activity cost information from the TIPAC data analysis will be critical to the success of this advocacy, for the sustainability plan, and engagement case development planned for FY23.

TIPAC data analysis workshop

Once the TIPAC data entry is completed, Act | West will provide remote support to the NTDP to hold a 3-day workshop with a selected number of stakeholders whose role is relevant to the budget advocacy to perform a financial gaps analysis, medium term budget forecasts and identify the critical, priority and achievable gaps to include in domestic resources mobilization initiatives. Prior to the workshop, Act | West will work closely with Act | West and the NTDP to identify parameters for a targeted financial analysis and budget forecasts. Furthermore, Act | West will perform in-depth analysis that the NTDP will require and share the results with Act | West and the NTDP to support the data analysis workshop. The NTDP will lead the workshop with other stakeholders. No trip is planned for this activity.

Provide TA to support preparation of an engagement case to increase domestic funding

Previous and current FY activities and context

After completion of the sustainability plan, one of the major outcomes in the Financing domain to put the NTDP on the path to sustainability is to prepare an engagement case to increase domestic funding. The engagement case will be a compilation of financial and epidemiological data that express the need for an underfunded area of NTDP activity. A key source of data will be from the TIPAC Data Analysis Workshop that occurred in January 2022. So far in FY22, Act | West have liaised with the NTDP over several meetings between May and August 2022 to prioritize 4 potential activities that require additional support: morbidity management, training, monitoring and evaluation, and a multi-sector coordination platform for NTD interventions. As a next step, the NTDP is working to determine which 1-2 activities to select for the engagement case. The engagement case will be drafted in collaboration with the NTDP virtually to prepare the draft case, and over a 3-day workshop tentatively planned for September 2022 to finalize inputs with key stakeholders.

FY23 planned activities

In FY23, following up on the development of the engagement case in September 2022, Act | West will work with the NTDP to present the engagement case to the appropriate audience with the goal of obtaining financial commitments. The workshop will take place over 1 day, with preparations occurring virtually.

Annual coordination meetings with the cross-sector committee (CNO)

Previous and current FY activities and context

In parallel to the development of the Sustainability Plan, Act | West supported the NTDP and other national stakeholders to revise the mandate, mission, and membership of the National Organization Committee (CNO) to ensure it aligns with the current context and the relevant actors for an effective cross-sector coordination mechanism. In March 2022, the restructuring and revision of the terms of reference for the CNO took place for cross sector coordination to support the NTDP to reach its elimination and control goals.

With Act | West support, the NTDP helped national stakeholders to assess the existing (multiple) NTD coordination mechanisms, including the CNO, Committee of Experts (Comité des experts), and Steering Committee (Comité de pilotage) to identify a multisectoral coordination mechanism. At the end of the 3-day workshop, participants/national stakeholders designed a single mechanism based on the lessons

learned from existing committees. The proposed coordinated mechanism would entail establishing three commissions under the CNO:

1. A Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, Surveillance, and Research Commission;
2. A disease elimination, control and eradication commission; and
3. An Advocacy and Resources-Mobilization Commission.

The proposed coordination mechanism called the, " Cadre National de Coordination Multisectorielle de la Lutte contre les MTN" has been approved and signed by the Minister of health on August 30, 2022.

FY23 planned activities

In FY23, Togo has planned two coordinating meetings for the (Cadre de Coordination Multisectorielle de lutte contre les MTN) to monitor the implementation of the sustainability plan, strengthen coordination and collaboration on priorities included in the sustainability plan and brainstorm specific issues and topics that require action from different sectors to support NTD elimination progress. As the Cross-sector coordination mechanism will be led by high level ranked official within the MOH, it is expected that the coordination meeting will be an opportunity to further engage MOH leadership and decision makers on the NTDs priorities. The NTDP requests support from Act | West to organize its meetings for the first year and the MOH will take over for the next fiscal years. This will allow the NTDP to include all these aspects in its planning, budgeting and finally its organization.

Prioritized functions

HMIS Integration Documentation: Act | West will support the NTDP to complete three phases of integrating NTD data into the national HMIS.

1. **Phase 1:** Assessment of the HMIS integration process, Act | West will collaborate with and the NTDP to conduct interviews with key stakeholders to understand the HMIS integration process. Using the results of the situational analysis as well as knowledge learned during the Data Security policy activity in FY22, Act | West will produce a report that will document the integration of NTD indicators into the DHIS-2 in Togo. This report will include a summary of the process, an overview of the stakeholders involved, specific steps taken towards the integration of indicators into the DHIS-2, trainings conducted, lessons learned and other success factors that can be shared with other programs.
2. **Phase 2:** Remote meeting to validate the assessment results, Act | West will support the NTDP to hold a meeting with the NTDP and other stakeholders in the process to validate the information in the HMIS country assessment.
3. **Phase 3:** Dissemination of the NTD data integration report into the HMIS, after integrating comments and inputs from the remote validation meeting with stakeholders, Act | West will consolidate the report and share with the final version with NTDP.

Act | West will also compile all information gathered from all countries to share it with all NTDPs through a webinar to allow countries to collaborate. This activity will be beneficial for the NTDPs as well as broader Act | West consortium members and stakeholders to have a broad understanding of the HMIS integration processes in each country and encourage knowledge sharing of lessons learned and opportunities to improve the integration process.

Working sessions with the Ministry of Education to institutionalize deworming using school-based platform

Previous and current FY activities and context

The Ministry of Primary Education collaborates with the NTDP through the CNO for deworming children in schools. Teachers only participate in awareness messages on NTDs during mass campaigns, as the NTDP has traditionally used a door-to-door strategy for all MDA including deworming. In the context of sustainability and considering the ceasing of community-wide MDA against LF and soon OV, it is important for Togo to assess options for alternative deworming platforms. During the cross-sector landscape analysis and implementation of the SMM, national stakeholders discussed the need to assess the feasibility, advantage, and limitations of including deworming into the education system and involve teachers in administering ALB under the supervision of the NTDP.

The first technical consultation with the Ministry of Education to institutionalize school-based deworming took place in March 2022. The education sector, health sector, and technical partners (Sightsavers, DAHW and Act | West) were present. The first meeting discussed obstacles and solutions to collaboration between the health and education sectors, which helped develop a framework for collaboration and a timeline. In addition, the participants developed a roadmap toward the formalization of the collaboration.

FY23 planned activities

In FY23, as part of the roadmap activities, Togo plans to organize working sessions to formalize the framework for using schools and community as platforms for MDA distribution. Two districts (Lacs and Vo) from Maritime region have been identified as settings where the pilot project will be conducted in FY23. Maritime region was selected given the likelihood that IVM treatment will stop in the region, which makes it necessary to identify a new, cost-effective MDA strategy. In total, 16 training sessions will be conducted for 508 school directors and deworming of SAC will be organized in 508 schools (216 schools in Lacs and 292 schools in Vo). Community personnel will be identified and trained for deworming in the community. In addition, coordination meetings between regional and district health inspectors of education and school directors will be organized. The purpose of these coordination meetings is to discuss whether the school-based distribution is going well enough to allow the switch to school-based distribution from Togo's current door-to-door approach. This pilot project, if successful, will make it possible to scale up for school deworming. The aim is to ensure a sustainable treatment for SCH/STH.

IR3 ACTIVITIES SCH, STH**Schistosomiasis*****FY23 Planned Activities******OV/SCH/STH MDA***

In FY 2023, Togo will implement integrated CY23 First Round Treatment MDA and CY22 Second Round Treatment MDA for OV/SCH/STH with Act | West funding. Please see the OV FY 2022 Planned Activities section above for FY 2023 SCH/STH MDA targets. MDA refresher training, social mobilization, drug distribution and supervision are to be carried out as in years before.

SCH data review meeting

Since Togo is now aiming for SCH elimination in as many of its currently endemic sub-districts as possible, it needs to revise its SCH surveillance strategy and consider and discuss any changes to its treatment strategy. A data review workshop is tentatively scheduled to take place after Togo has completed the SOS survey in Q1 of FY23. The SCH/STH committee will play an important role in this.

Given that the SOS was delayed to July 2022, the SCH data review meeting has been re-scheduled for FY23.

SCH/STH Expert Committee

A key activity in FY 2022 was to finalize members of the SCH/STH Expert Committee and draft TOR for the committee. In March 2022, the NTDP convened diseases specific experts, university professors and researchers to set up a specific working group to define a timeline and review the draft TOR for the SCH/STH Expert Committee. These are currently under review by the MOH cabinet, and all are awaiting a ministerial decree. One of the first discussion points for the committee will be to present the results of Togo's FY 2021 SCH/STH impact assessment and SOS to provide guidance on the programmatic next steps in the context of new WHO SCH recommendations. In FY 2023, Togo has planned two SCH/STH committee meetings to review SCH and STH assessment data.

Planned FY 2023 IR 3 Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

SCH/STH Impact Assessments in 13 HDs

Togo has made significant progress in reducing SCH prevalence in many endemic sub-districts from 2009 to 2021. After the FY 2021 impact assessment in 10 health districts and SOS in three health districts, 13 of the 39 health districts of Togo will have updated SCH/STH data. Togo can use this data to refine their treatment strategy to cease MDA in non-endemic sub-districts and identify areas with persistent transmission. For Togo to make optimally relevant programmatic decisions with the aim of elimination in view it needs insight into the current SCH prevalence in all endemic sub-districts. In FY 2023, Togo's plan is to conduct a SCH/STH impact assessment in 13 health districts to re-assess what treatment intensity may be needed and focus efforts in areas of continuing infection. With the support of the SCH/STH committee, the NTDP will be able to make adequate programmatic decisions going forward including the prospect of a sustainable routine SCH-surveillance system funded outside of Act | West (operational research) using Togo's existing DHIS2 routine reporting of hematuria (as a proxy to urogenital schistosomiasis). Hematuria cases reported through DHIS2 are used as an indicator of potential hot spots where further investigation may be needed, and MDA coverage checked. Togo needs to conduct a DSA for SCH in 13 of the 26 health districts that were not covered by the two surveys in FY 2022, if it is to make up-to-date, evidence-based programmatic treatment-decisions. The 13 HDs were chosen based on the risk map shared by FHI360 showing areas of infections in districts not targeted/covered by both FY 2021 SCH/STH impact assessment and oversampling surveys (see Table 2).

SCH/STH Treatment Coverage and KAP Survey in 18 USPs within 6 districts

Togo's NTDP also identified the need to conduct some treatment coverage survey and KAP survey in 18 USPs from six districts (Amou, Tchaoudjo, Wawa, Akébou, Bassar and Agou) where the level of SCH infection seems to have increased or been maintained since the last survey results of 2015, as shown in the FY 2021 impact assessment survey data. The treatment coverage survey combined with a KAP survey in the selected 18 USPs will provide some insight as to what the cause of the SCH infection increase may be in these settings. To achieve this, the 18 USPs have been divided into five geographic survey units (Amou unit for 5 USPs (2 teams), Tchaoudjo unit for 4 USPs (2 teams), Akébou and Wawa unit for 2 USP (1 USP in ea. district) (1 team), Bassar unit for 3 USPs (2 teams), and Agou unit for 4 USPs (2 teams). The survey will be conducted in eight villages per USP, making a total of 144 villages, with survey teams expected to cover on average two villages per team per day.

Table 2: SCH/STH impact assessment surveys

Region	District	Number of USP to survey**	SCH prev %***	STH prev %***	Year MDA started	# MDA rounds to date	Treatment coverage (%) ****			
							FY21	FY20	FY19	FY18
Centrale	Tchaoudjo*	15	3.3	18.7	2010	11	12.0	98.3	10.2	99.7
	Sotouboua	15	20.0	60.0	2010	11	NA	93.4	NA	99.6
	Blitta	16	40.0	60.0	2010	11	55.5	100.0	53.2	99.8
	Tchamba	13	6.67	60.0	2010	11	NA	100.0	NA	99.9
Plateaux	Akebou	6	10.7	6.7	2011	10	12.6	100.0	NA	10.5
	Haho*	4	4.6	25.4	2011	10	65.6	100.0	11.6	59.6
	Wawa*	10	3.8	0	2011	10	27.7	98.4	15.3	25.7
	Amou*	10	16.2	19.4	2011	10	49.8	99.3	1.1	42.4
	Agou*	14	4.0	8.3	2011	10	33.6	99.6	20.8	38.3
	Danyi	8	6.7	40.0	2011	10	NA	98.0	NA	NA
	Kpele	10	20.0	67.0	2011	10	15.9	100.0	12.1	13.5
	Kloto	22	33.3	27.0	2011	10	1.0	94.1	NA	0.9
	Moyen Mono	5	40.0	27.0	2011	10	23.3	100.0	18.5	36.9

* This survey is proposed in a subset of USP that were not surveyed in FY 2021

** Total number of USP across the 13 HDs is 148

*** Most recent prevalence 2015 or 2021

**** MDA is implemented at the sub-district level in Togo so coverage may seem low when presented at the district level if there are sub-districts within the district treating every two years.

LF post-validation surveillance

Despite obtaining WHO verification of LF elimination in 2017, Togo is surrounded by LF endemic countries. It is therefore important to conduct PVS to ensure elimination of LF is maintained and detect any resurgence of infection quickly. Studies in populations identified as potential risks for reintroducing LF into Togo should help inform possible strategies for long-term surveillance. An informal technical group composed of experts from USAID, Act | West, BMGF, TFGH, and Togo researchers was created in FY21 to support Togo in the development of a proposal for LF PVS. Throughout meetings with the technical group, recommendations have been made regarding the targeting of nomadic groups that migrate through Togo who have previously been shown to have high post treatment surveillance (PTS) positivity. Act | West then submitted a proposal of LF PVS in Togo among three populations (nomads at veterinary sites², communities close to nomadic populations, and villages bordering Burkina Faso), which was approved by TFGH at the beginning of FY22.

Togo's government decided to ban nomadic migration this year because of COVID-19, which made it impossible to implement the survey this year. The survey will be implemented in phases, starting with the border population at the end of 2022, followed by the nomads in 2023, and then communities surrounding them.

Trachoma post-validation surveillance

Togo has expressed the need to implement surveillance of trachoma to prevent recrudescence of infection, given that WHO has now validated elimination of trachoma as a public health problem. A surveillance project on trachoma will be explored with TFGH in FY23.

² Veterinary site is place where nomads crossing Togo with animals and seek vaccines for their animals