



Act to End Neglected Tropical Diseases | West

FY 2024 Work Plan – Cote d'Ivoire
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ACRONYMS LIST

AE	Adverse Event
ALB	Albendazole
AIRP	Ivorian Pharmaceutical Regulatory Authority
APOC	African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control
BMGF	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
BSA	Breeding site assessments
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDD	Community Drug Distributor
CDTI	Community-Directed Treatment with Ivermectin
CENI MTN CP	Committee of National and International Experts for PC-NTDs (Equivalent to an OV expert committee)
CSRS	Centre Suisse de Recherche Scientifique
CIND	Country Integrated NTD Database
CNER	National Committee on Ethics and Scientific Research
CSAS	Head of Health Service
CSE	Epidemiological Surveillance Manager
DBS	Dried blood spot
DGS	Office of the Director General of Health
DHIS2	District Health Information System 2
DIIS	Directorate of Computer Science and Health Information
DOLF	Death to Onchocerciasis and Lymphatic Filariasis
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
DR	Regional Directorate
ECD	District Management Team
ERS	Regional Health Team
ESPC	Front-Line Health Facility
ESPEN	Expanded Special Project for Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (WHO)
FAA	Fixed Amount Award
FHI 360	Family Health International 360
FTS	Filariasis Test Strip
GET	Global Elimination of Trachoma
GOCI	Government of Côte d'Ivoire
GTMP	Global Trachoma Mapping Project
HD	Health District
HKI	Helen Keller International
HSS	Health Systems Strengthening
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
ICRCI	International Committee of the Red Cross
IVM	Ivermectin
LF	Lymphatic Filariasis
LNSP	National Public Health Laboratory
LOE	Level of Effort
LSTM	Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDA	Mass Drug Administration
MDP	Mectizan Donation Program
MMDP	Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention

MSHP-CMU	Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene and Universal Health Coverage (Ministère de la Santé, de l'Hygiène publique et de la Couverture Maladie universelle)
NPSP	New Public Health Pharmacy
NTDP	Neglected Tropical Disease Program
OCP	Onchocerciasis Control Programme
OTS	Onchocerciasis Technical Advisory Subgroup
OV	Onchocerciasis
PC	Preventive Chemotherapy
PC-NTDs	Preventive Chemotherapy-Neglected Tropical Diseases
PGP	Pharmacy Preparer-Managers
PNDAP	National Program for Development of Pharmaceutical Activity
PNLMTN-CP	National Program for Control of Preventive Chemotherapy-Neglected Tropical Diseases
PNLSGF	National Program for the Control of Schistosomiasis, Soil-transmitted Helminthiasis and Lymphatic Filariasis
PNSO-LO	National Program for Eye Health and Onchocerciasis Control
PNEL	National Leprosy Elimination Program
PNLUB	National Buruli Ulcer Control Program
PNETHA	National Program for the Elimination of Human African Trypanosomiasis
PNEVG/EA	National Guinea Worm Eradication Program / Water and Sanitation
PZQ	Praziquantel
RDT	Rapid Diagnostic Test
REMO	Rapid Epidemiological Mapping of Onchocerciasis
SAC	School-Age Children
SAE	Serious Adverse Event
SAFE	Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial cleanliness, Environmental improvements
SCI	Schistosomiasis Control Initiative
SCH	Schistosomiasis
SCIF	Schistosomiasis Control Initiative Foundation
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
STH	Soil-Transmitted Helminths
TAS	Transmission Assessment Survey
TEO	Tetracycline Eye Ointment
TF	Trachomatous Inflammation – Follicular
TIPAC	Tool for Integrated Planning and Costing
TIS	Trachoma Impact Survey
TSS	Trachoma Surveillance Survey
TT	Trachomatous Trichiasis
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation, Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

NATIONAL NTD PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND SUPPORT

Côte d'Ivoire has been working towards the control and elimination of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) since 1974. However, after the closure of the African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control (APOC), only minimal progress was made until 2015 due socio-political factors and funding limitations. In 2016, the Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene, and Universal Health Coverage (MSHP-CMU) created the National Program for Control of Preventive Chemotherapy-Neglected Tropical Diseases (PNLMTN-CP), which was a result of reorganization of the National Program for the Control of Schistosomiasis, Soil Transmitted Helminths and Lymphatic Filariasis (PNLSGF) and the National Program for Eye Health and Onchocerciasis Control (PNSO-LO). The PNLMTN-CP is under the supervision of the Director General of Health (DGS) for the coordination of activities. The implementing unit of activities is the health district (HD). Since the last redistricting in August 2019, the country has 113 HDs spread across 33 health regions (HRs).

USAID has been supporting Côte d'Ivoire since 2016 through the END in Africa project (2016–2018), and then through the Act to End NTDs | West program (Act | West) since 2018, with the aim of controlling or eliminating lymphatic filariasis (LF), onchocerciasis (OV), schistosomiasis (SCH), trachoma, and soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH). This support has enabled the PNLMTN-CP to carry out mapping activities, mass drug administration (MDA), impact assessments, and morbidity management. Mapping for LF, OV, SCH, and STH have been completed. Trachoma mapping began in 2015 through the Global Trachoma Mapping Project (GTMP) and has continued with USAID support and with the assistance of Sightsavers. Forty of the 78 HDs mapped are known to be endemic for trachoma. Trachoma MDA started in 2016 in 10 HDs. By 2022, all 40 trachoma-endemic HDs known to warrant MDA had completed their required number of treatment cycles of Zithromax and tetracycline eye ointment 1% (TEO). All 40 HDs have conducted trachoma impact surveys (TIS) to determine whether MDA can be stopped, and all have reached the stop MDA criteria.

OV mapping was carried out by the Onchocerciasis Control Program (OCP) from 1974 to 2002 and by APOC in 2014. In total, 97 HDs are endemic for OV, with 90 HDs that are co-endemic for LF and seven HDs that are endemic for OV only. OV mass MDA started in the country in 1990 with community-directed treatment with Ivermectin (CDTI) in 46 endemic HDs of the southern extension zone and forest zone, according to OCP classification. These CDTI rounds were irregular and interrupted in some HDs due to lack of funding. LF MDA started in 2013 in one district and scaled up progressively since 2016 to cover all LF-endemic HDs. Since 2016, all endemic HDs for both OV and LF are covered under the integrated LF/OV/STH MDA with ivermectin (IVM) coupled with albendazole or IVM only. To date, 98 of 99 LF-endemic HDs have reached the stop MDA status and are under surveillance. OV MDA continues in all 97 endemic HDs.

In 2021, Côte d'Ivoire adopted its Sustainability Strategic Plan for PC-NTD control (2021–2023). This plan serves as a roadmap to integrate NTD control and elimination strategies into national policies, planning and budgeting processes and to strengthen multisectoral collaboration. The sustainability planning process was supported technically and financially by USAID via Act | West. The successful implementation of the sustainability plan will provide an effective and sustainable response to the control and elimination of NTDs where resources are scarce.

The current NTD Master Plan runs from 2021 to 2025 and covers the five PC-NTDs: LF, OV, SCH, STH, and trachoma and the five case-management NTDs (Buruli ulcer, Guinea worm disease, human African trypanosomiasis, leprosy, and yaws). The process of developing this plan began in 2020 under the leadership of the DGS with technical and financial support from WHO, Act | West, and other stakeholders.

IR1 PLANNED ACTIVITIES: LF, TRA, OV

Lymphatic Filariasis

Proposed FY 2024 activities.

Re-pre-TAS in one HD: The only HD that failed the pre-TAS in 2021 received two MDA rounds with IVM / ALB in 2022 and 2023, with both rounds attaining the required MDA coverage. In FY 2024, re-pre-TAS in this HD will be conducted, including training of those involved and the implementation of the assessment.

TAS 1 in one HD (one EU) and TAS 2 in 69 HDs (51 EUs). In FY 2024, Act | West will provide support for:

- TAS 1 in one HD in FY 2024 where re-pre-TAS is planned in FY 2024 (assuming this HD will pass the re-pre-TAS).
- TAS 2 in 69 HDs in FY 2024. This includes 69 HDs (51 EUs) that passed TAS 1 in FY 2021.

Supervision for re-pre-TAS in one HD, TAS 1 in 1 HD and TAS 2 in 69 HDs (51 EUs) The PNLMTN-CP and FHI 360 staff will provide joint supervision of the assessment activities, along with the Regional Health Team (ERS) and District Health Team (ECD) in the health regions and districts conducting these activities. The supervisors will conduct field visits to the survey sites to ensure adherence to the survey protocol and standard operating procedures, assist with problem resolution, and ensure the availability of necessary supplies.

Trachoma

Proposed FY 2024 Activities

Trachoma Desk Review in 35 HDs: The most recent mapping surveys carried out in 2021 and 2022 in 11 and 10 HDs, respectively, revealed that trachoma was not a public health problem (TF<5% and TT<0.2% [except for EU Daloa C where TT was 0.202%]). In view of this low prevalence, the PNLMTN-CP believes that baseline trachoma mapping is likely not warranted in all these 35 HDs. Trachoma desk reviews will be carried out to obtain data to determine whether trachoma might be a public health problem and select any HDs to be mapped, if deemed necessary. The methodology will be developed in 2023 during a workshop with the support of FHI 360's Trachoma Focal Point. The PNLMTN-CP is requesting the provision of a consultant to carry out these two activities.

TAP 2021–2023 evaluation workshop and development of TAP 2024–2026

During FY 2024, the Act | West Program will provide support to organize an evaluation workshop of the TAP 2021–2023 followed by the development of the TAP 2024–2026 with the support of a consultant. This meeting will be held over three days in Yamoussoukro. A three-year trachoma action plan (TAP) was developed in 2020. The PNLMTN-CP is requesting the provision of a consultant to evaluate this TAP and help with the development of a new 2024–2026 plan, after which a TAP validation workshop will be organized. The request for an external consultant is to ensure an impartial evaluation and external view of the program and ensure expertise in all components of the SAFE strategy are reviewed with an eye towards reaching and maintaining elimination.

Organize a workshop to validate the TAP 2024–2026 In FY 2024, the Act | West Program will support the PNLMTN-CP to organize a validation workshop of the TAP 2024–2026 with the support of a consultant. This meeting will be held over two days in Yamoussoukro.

Trachoma baseline mapping in six HDs After the trachoma desk review is complete, the program plans to carry out baseline trachoma mapping, if necessary. Act | West has budgeted for mapping in six HDs for FY 2024, but it will only be carried out if the desk reviews indicate a need. Should additional mapping be needed, it will be planned in subsequent years.

Conduct TSS in 14 HDs (13 EUs) In November 2021 and July 2022, 14 HDs (13 full HDs and 1 EU from a fourteenth HD) completed their required rounds of MDA and conducted the TIS where TF prevalence was below the 5% threshold. Thus, in FY 2024, PNLMTN-CP will conduct TSS in these 14 HDs. This includes 13 full HDs and one EU from a fourteenth HD. TSS implementation will be preceded by a training to those who conduct the TSS.

Supervision of trachoma baseline mapping in six HDs and TSS in 14 HDs. The PNLMTN-CP, FHI 360 staff, and master graders will provide joint supervision of trachoma baseline mapping (if deemed required) and TSS in collaboration with the regional and district health teams. They will conduct field visits to ensure adherence of the survey protocols and standard operating procedures and resolve any problems encountered. Tropical Data will provide technical support for cluster selection, compilation, and analysis of collected data.

MMDP (LF and trachoma)

Proposed FY 2024 activities

Activities supported by other partners

In FY 2024, ALM with funding from other sources, will equip five HDs (Bongouanou, Divo, Lakota, Guitry, and Gueyo) with motorbikes, laptops, and projectors for continuous training and supervision of case identification, management, and reporting. The support from ALM will help integrate case finding and management into the regular package of services offered by the health system at the health district level.

LF and Trachoma Dossier Status

Proposed FY 2024 activities

Follow-up meeting for Trachoma Dossier In FY 2024, the PNLMTN-CP will organize a one-day residential follow-up workshop. This workshop will provide an update on the trachoma dossier and complete the data entry of available information. FHI 360's Trachoma Focal Point will provide technical support.

Follow-up meeting for LF Dossier In FY 2024, PNLMTN-CP will conduct a one-day meeting to follow up LF dossier and enter available data in the data sheet. FHI 360's LF Focal Point will provide technical support.

Onchocerciasis

Proposed FY 2024 Activities

OV-only MDA in 97 HDs Act | West will provide technical and financial support to conduct MDA in 97 OV HDs incorporating Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) sensitization training and morbidity case finding. CDDs will distribute IVM in communities over five days.

Supervision of OV-only MDA in 97 HDs: The supervision during MDA includes supervision for training, distribution of drugs, drug management, and data collection and management. It is carried out in cascade fashion by staff from the central level to the peripheral level (the PNLMTN-CP, HRs, HDs, and front-line

health facilities). Supervisors from the central and regional levels will provide technical assistance during site visits and verify compliance with standard operating procedures during drug distribution.

Annual validation workshop of OV-only post-MDA data at health regional level – 31 regions

In FY 2024, Act | West will provide support to the PNLMTN-CP to conduct a one-day regional MDA data validation meeting two to four weeks after the end of the MDA campaign in collaboration with each of the 31 regions that conducted the MDA. Participants will include the ERS (RD, CSAS, CSE, and pharmacist) and the ECD (DDS, CSAS, CSE, and pharmacist) who conducted the activity. The meeting will be organized in each region under the supervision of the PNLMTN-CP. The purpose of this data validation is to consolidate, verify and analyze MDA data from the 97 HDs to have quality data.

MDA data quality improvement (QA/QI)

Proposed FY 2024 activities

Initiation HDs QA/QI teams and supervision of QA/QI implementation in 30 additional HDs

- *QI team training:* QI team members from 30 HDs will be trained on the QI model to be facilitated by QI coaches. The training will focus on the various tools, analysis to determine the root causes of each challenge, particularly the campaign data quality challenges. In addition, the QI coaches will facilitate the development of action plans with performance indicators.
- *Coaching visits:* QI coaches will visit district QI team members and provide supportive action, mentoring, and coaching to implement the QI platform as planned. Ideally, these visits will be conducted during other NTDs field activities (assessments), as coaches are involved in the day-to-day operations of the PNLMTN-CP.
- *Follow-up meetings in 30 HDs (two meetings per district per year):* these meetings will allow the HDs to review the implementation of QI activities. The HDT will participate in this meeting as well as the PNLMTN-CP coaches and FHI 360 (at no additional cost this activity will be combined with HDT routine meetings).

Health Regional QI review meeting A regional QI review meeting will be held during which each of the districts will present the QI action plans implementation to review improvement in implementation of activities and to share experiences among districts of the same region. Change idea packages that led to improvement will be retained as best practices for scaling up to the new sites.

The expected outcomes of the quality improvement process are to identify key gaps, develop an action plan using the quality improvement framework, implement quality improvement strategies, establish a monitoring system, document lessons learned, and scale up strategies that work. QI action plans will be implemented locally, and any best practices confirmed through the quality improvement process will be used in new HDs during the scale-up phase.

OV DSA planned for FY 2024

Epidemiological surveys for OV pre-Stop treatment in riverside villages in four operational transmission zones: In FY 2024, the PNLMTN-CP will carry out pre-stop epidemiological surveys in 135 villages in four operational transmission zones (Agnéby, Bandama-N'Zi, Comoé-Sud, and Comoé-Nord). These zones were part of the southern extension and forest zone, at the time of OCP's closure in 2002, with prevalence of over 5%. Some villages evaluated between 2009 and 2017 gave the following prevalence via skin snip biopsy: 1) Agnéby 5 to 19.44% (2014-2017); 2) Bandama-N'Zi 11.29% to 0% (2017-2021); 3) Comoé- Sud 28 to 3.4 % (2010-2021); and 4) Comoé-Nord 0.8% (2014).

An external consultant will also lead the protocol's development, prior to review by USAID and the NEC which oversees research practices in Cote d'Ivoire. The PNLMTN-CP will use ESPEN Collect for electronic data collection during the surveys. Also, Act | West will provide financial support to the PNLMTN-CP to purchase lab materials and supplies for dried blood spot (DBS) analysis.

Epidemiological and entomological surveys for OV Stop MDA treatment in two operational transmission zones (Volta-Noire and Bagoué): Act | West will provide support for the implementation of OV pre-Stop MDA surveys in the two transmission zones (Volta-Noire and Bagoué) that will complete the pre-stop surveys. Nine HDs (Boundiali, Kaniasso, Kouto, Madinani, Minignan, Odienné, Bouna, Doropo, Bondoukou) from these two zones will carry out the stop MDA survey in FY 2024. This evaluation will be carried out in two phases: 1) the epidemiological phase: DBS will be collected from 3,000 children in each zone, with OV16 rapid diagnostic test (RDT) analysis in the laboratory; and 2) the entomological phase: mapping of black fly breeding sites; capture of at least 6,000 black flies, dissection, and PCR analysis in the laboratory. A consultant will also lead the protocol's development, prior to review by ESPEN and the NEC which oversees research practices. The PNLMTN-CP will use ESPEN Collect for data collection during the surveys.

Supervision of OV pre-Stop (four transmission zones) and OV Stop MDA (two transmission zones) surveys: The PNLMTN-CP, FHI 360 staff and a consultant will provide joint supervision of the assessment activities as along with the Regional Health Team (RHT) and District Health Team (DHT) in the health regions and districts conducting these activities. They will conduct field visits to the survey sites to ensure adherence to the survey protocol and standard operating procedures, assist with problem resolution, and ensure the availability of necessary supplies

IR2 SUSTAINABILITY AND HSS STRATEGY ACTIVITIES

Health Systems Strengthening

Data management and security

Planned Activities for FY 2024

To date, PNLMTN-CP has completed all stages of the process of LF/OV/STH MDA data integration into DHIS2 and plans to export historical CIND data to DHIS2 (other MDA data and DSA data). To this end, the PNLMTN-CP, in collaboration with DIIS and support from Act | West will conduct the following activities in the first quarter of 2024:

- Organize a five-day workshop with DIIS and PNLMTN-CP to select the indicators and create the data entry forms of the other MDAs and DSAs in the national DHIS 2
- Organize a three-day workshop to test retrospective data entry, analysis, and verification of recovered historical data (from 2015 to 2022) with the 99 CSEs.

Provide technical assistance to the PNLMTN-CP to monitor the quality of reporting of MMDP indicators through the DHIS 2 system at district level: The role of conducting routine supervision of the health sector data collection in Côte d'Ivoire falls under the auspices of the Direction de l'Informatique et de l'Information Sanitaire (DIIS). However, at this stage of the process of integration for LF and trachoma MMDP indicators into the national DHIS system. The PNLMTN-CP, ALM and DIIS are conducting joint monitoring to ascertain that the PNLMTN-CP's goal to collect MMDP data through health facilities is achieved. The DIIS will consequently include the MMDP indicators into data monitoring tools and assume responsibility for monitoring together with existing health sector indicators. ALM technical assistance in

the process has included facilitating selection of indicators, advocacy for inclusion of indicators in DHIS2, reinforce capacity of DIIS to sustain routine data collection.

This activity will be carried out in workshops, field visits and online meetings with technical support from the DIIS as follows:

- Organize a two-day meeting in Yamoussoukro where the PNLMTN-CP will present the activity and develop and validate the data verification procedure. Twenty people will participate from the PNLMTN-CP, the selected region and HDs, DIIS, FHI 360 and ALM.
- A two-day joint monitoring trip (one regional health information officer, two from the PNLMTN-CP, one from the DIIS, one from FHI 360 and two from ALM) in each of the selected HDs will be conducted to monitor and analyze the quality of the data collected in DHIS2 at the district level. This joint monitoring is part of the initial process for the DIIS to reinforce the capacity of local actors involved in the data entry and to ensure the PNLMTN-CP's goals for data integration related to this activity are met and are not delayed by competing priorities.
- After the monitoring visits have been completed, a two-day follow-up meeting will be organized to address any challenges and gaps identified during the field visits.
- A one-day online meeting to present and validate the activity report and to discuss next steps. LOE only is required for this activity.

Once this activity has been completed, DIIS will be responsible for ensuring ongoing monitoring of MMDP data collection and data entry within DHIS in accordance with their mandate.

Drug Management

Proposed FY 2024 activities

Continue the participation of the PNLMTN-CP in CNCAM-CI coordination and planning activities: The NPSP has effectively integrated the CNCAM-CI quantification committee for better national planning. Medicines for NTDs control were then included in the national list of essential medicines in the same way as other medicines. In FY 2024, the PNLMTN-CP will continue to participate in the coordination and planning activities of CNCAM-CI.

Follow up the collaboration process between the PNLMTN-CP and the NPSP: The PNLMTN-CP will hold working sessions with the NPSP to refine the MOU according to the new epidemiological NTD data on the following: 1) the execution of the allocation plan; and 2) the cost of drug storage (No cost for the working sessions). Once the PNLMTN-CP and the NPSP have agreed on the terms of the MOU, the program will advocate with the MSHP-CMU/DGS for the signing of the MOU.

Availability or reliability of storage or transportation to the last mile. The PNLMTN-CP works in collaboration with the HDs and the NPSP throughout the process from receipt of drugs in the NPSP or PNLMTN-CP warehouses to distribution to the target populations. In addition, the regional pharmacists, and Pharmacy Managers (Pharmacy Preparer-Managers (PGP) and district pharmacists) carry out supervision at several levels (regions, health districts, and health areas) to ensure a sufficient supply of medicines and consumables is available, as well as whether appropriate storage and distribution conditions to the population are used. This is embedded in the FAA related to transportation of medicines from HDs to health areas and supervision of MDAs. All stages of the supply chain are supervised by the PNLMTN-CP who will make sure that the First Expiry First Out (FEFO) policy is implemented along the chain.

Management, supply of medicines and essential products The PNLMTN-CP will continue its participation in CNCAM-CI coordination and planning activities and the PNLMTN-CP will participate in the quarterly meetings of the CNCAM-CI's technical committees to analyze the program's performance indicators (availability rate and rate of execution of the supply plan and manage the NTD inventory, including providing the remaining inventory to inform the procurement needs of the NTD drugs in the next year) and the analysis (strengths and weaknesses) of the supply chain with a view to proposing measures and mechanisms for improving the system.

Managing adverse events (AEs) Adverse events (AEs) are reported on the PNLMTN-CP's case report forms during the MDA. The nurses in charge of the health areas are responsible for managing and reporting AEs. Thus, the reports produced by the peripheral levels and sent to the PNLMTN-CP include information on the nature and number of people with AEs and the management carried out to mitigate these effects. Districts report and monitor all cases of AEs and any serious side effects. The information is then forwarded on the national circuit to the Ivorian Pharmaceutical Regulatory Authority (AIRP) for follow-up. In FY 2024, the MSHP-CMU through the PNLMTN-CP will continue to supply the HDs with drugs for the OV, and STH-related AE management.

Achieving sustainability: Mainstreaming & Health Systems Strengthening

The PNLMTN-CP has been in phase 4 of the process since 2021 and has achieved the following:

- Established a multi-sectoral Technical Working Group (TWG).
- Revised normative documents for the fight against NTDs (NTDs national implementation SOPs, job aids, etc.).
- Organized a round table to mobilize national resources and monitor commitments.
- Gained involvement and commitment from the MENA (Ministère de l'Enseignement National et de l'Alphabétisation) with an agreement under review and under negotiation between the MSHP-CMU and the MENA.
- Engaged the NPSP on a framework agreement between the MSHP-CMU and the NPSP for the integration of NTD drugs into the national drug supply chain.
- Integrated MDA and morbidity indicators into DHIS2.
- Conducted ongoing advocacy toward CMU to integrate the management of morbidities linked to LF and trachoma into the CMU service package.
- Implemented bilateral negotiation discussions between the Government of Cote d'Ivoire and USAID to prioritize areas of support to the implementation of the sustainability plan.

For FY 2024, the PNLMTN-CP plans to evaluate its three-year plan to redirect objectives and strategies. The strategy for FY 2024 and activities prioritized in FY2024 workplan will focus mainly on learning from previous implementation and allowing time to different stakeholders whose role is relevant for a successful implementation of the sustainability to have productive dialogue, negotiation and agreements around more strategic approach for intervention that require cross sectorial approach. The outcomes of the planned consultations will inform actions in next years.

Governance activities:

Support the PNLMTN-CP to organize one semi-annual statutory meeting of the NTD multisectoral TWG

In previous years, the PNLMTN-CP initiated processes to engage multi-sector stakeholders as part of the implementation of the sustainability plan. These included formalizing its collaboration with MENA, following up commitments made at the domestic resource mobilization round table, strengthening CMU's coverage of LF and trachoma morbidities, integrating MMDD modules into the curricula of health worker

training institutions, and continuing to integrate MTN-CP indicators into DHIS2. In 2023, the PNLMTN-CP plans to organize the second annual meeting of the TWG to monitor the implementation of the sustainability plan. This meeting will provide an opportunity to ensure that the various commissions are operating effectively, and to give them a mandate to monitor the implementation of the processes initiated by PNLMTN-CP.

For FY 2024, as part of the follow-up to the advocacy efforts initiated by PNLMTN-CP, the key issues will focus on strengthening the strategic role of the TWG, and the ownership and transition to the multi-sector TWG of the above-mentioned processes. To this end, PNLMTN-CP is seeking Act I West's support for the organization of one of the two annual statutory meetings of the multisectoral TWG. The country undertakes to finance the second statutory meeting in accordance with the bilateral negotiation agreements. As a prelude to these meetings, the PNLMTN-CP, with the support of FHI 360, will draw up a matrix for monitoring the recommendations of the TWG meetings, to ensure that they are effectively implemented.

Support to the PNLMTN-CP and TWG to self-assess progress and current state after year three of sustainability plan implementation – three days with 35 participants: In FY 2023, PNLMTN-CP carried out a review of its sustainability plan, with a view to determining the proportion of activities carried out. This exercise enabled the NTDs program and other national stakeholders to make recommendations with the aim to reformulating activities and/or prioritizing activities to include in the NTDP's operational plan of CY 2023.

For FY 2024, the PNLMTN-CP, together with the Cross-sector TWG, will perform a self-assessment using the sustainability maturity model (SMM tool) to assess the progress made on the milestones and targets that were set in each sustainability priority included in the sustainability plan. To complement the exercise performed in FY 2022 which was mainly focused on the proportion of activities carried out and those not carried out, the methodology for the review will prioritize progress towards reaching the targets, discuss the lessons learned along the implementation of the strategies supporting each sustainability priority and any adjustments that can improve the implementation. The self-guided assessment approach is intended to create opportunity for the NTDP, the members of the cross sector TWG who have roles and responsibility in the implementation of the sustainability plan to have a deep discussion on what needs to be consolidated and approaches that need refinement. The approach envisioned through using the SMM review will provide relevant information to assess the level of achievement of the sustainability objectives included in the Sustainability Plan, help national stakeholders further discuss what is working and needs to be consolidated, and what needs to be adjusted or changed including how to foster the implementation of the results of the bilateral negotiation. PNLMTN-CP is therefore seeking Act I West's support in organizing a three-day workshop to conduct a self-guided assessment of the progress towards the implementation of the sustainability plan.

Organize a country-led workshop to share and the lessons learned, results and perspectives of the review of sustainability plan: The results of the self-guided review of the sustainability plan (previous activity) will be used to discuss the lessons learned from the implementation of the sustainability plan. The review will make it possible to 1) identify strengths, weaknesses, and bottlenecks in achieving target scores; and 2) formulate recommendations for maintaining or scaling up targets. Following the review workshop, the PNLMTN-CP will organize a pause and reflect meeting to identify prospects for sustaining the gains made for PC-NTD control in Côte d'Ivoire. This activity will be coordinated by the multi-sectoral TWG with the participation of actors identified throughout the process. This workshop will enable PNLMTN-CP and the TWG to do the following: 1) share experiences and lessons learned from the

implementation of sustainability interventions; 2) present the challenges and opportunities of this implementation; 3) analyze multi-sector collaboration for the effective participation of related sectors; and 4) to formulate recommendations for implementing the sustainability priorities that are still relevant in the subsequent years and revisit the lifetime of the sustainability plan.

For FY 2024, PNLMTN-CP is requesting support from Act I West to organize a 3-day workshop to assess and review the implementation of the sustainability plan and discuss approaches for implementing the priorities that are still relevant in the subsequent years.

MOH/NTDP consultation with USAID and follow up meeting on bilateral negotiation In FY 2022, Cote d'Ivoire Act | West team started to work closely with USAID to plan the bilateral negotiation process and sensitize the PNLMTN-CP/ MSHP-CMU on its goal. The bilateral discussions drew on the full relationship of the USG in Côte d'Ivoire to engage GOCI stakeholders (where decisions regarding policy, planning, and resource allocation reside). In FY 2023, Act | West provided support to bilateral negotiations by further analyzing sustainability plan priorities to support USAID's and MSHP-CMU/GOCI decision-making and sensitize national stakeholders on the process and the expected outcomes. The process allowed a direct dialogue over time to agree upon plans that reflect both USAID and GOCI contributions through an agreement.

In FY 2024, Act | West will support the GOCI/PNLMTN-CP to follow up on the implementation of the decisions made during the bilateral negotiation process through a one-day workshop. The workshop aims to review the recommendations made and the priorities and ensure the GOCI's buy-in and ownership regarding the implementation of the recommendations. The workshop will gather 14 stakeholders who participated to the first discussion of the bilateral negotiation, including three from the MOH authorities (DGS, the cabinet), one from the DIIS, two from the PNLMTN-CP, four representatives from Act | West and one member of the NTD multisectoral TWG. As the same exercise was performed in Togo in FY 2023, two members from Togo's NTDP, Togo's Secretary General, a representative from HDI and USAID's regional health manager will participate for experience sharing. As a prelude, preparatory meetings with the NTDPs in Cote d'Ivoire and Togo will take place in country before the workshop.

Prioritized functions

Technical assistance to PNLMTN-CP to Integrate MMDP modules into the curriculum of nurse school.

Côte d'Ivoire's health system covers the entire country, but not all health facilities have human resources trained to provide morbidity management related to PC-NTDs per WHO guidance. The PNLMTN-CP's MMDP Situation Analysis and its MMDP Strategic Plan both prioritize integrating MMDP modules into the curricula of health training institutions to ensure long-term health worker capacity. Additionally, Côte d'Ivoire's sustainability plan also proposes the inclusion of PC-NTD skills training in pre-service and medical education curricula (medical and nursing students). The training institutions in Cote d'Ivoire include the National Health Workers Training Institute (INFAS) and the Training Unit of Medical Sciences (UFR).

In 2023, three programs in charge of NTDs (the National Leprosy Elimination Program, the National Buruli Ulcer and Yaws Control Program and the PNLMTN-CP), in collaboration with INFAS, and supported by ALM, ANESVAD and the Raoul Follereau Foundation, began developing training modules to be included in the INFAS training curriculum within the framework of integrated NTD control and NTD case management. The initiative considers the initial and ongoing training of health workers (nurses and midwives) and the training of Dermato-NTD Nurse Specialists. By September 2023, the draft modules will be developed and presented to the specialists in charge of revising the existing courses at INFAS. INFAS specialists will finalize the content of the NTD modules to be integrated into the current curriculum. In its technical support to

the PNLMTN-CP, ALM will draw on its previous experiences in Ghana and Benin to also integrate MMDP into the pre-service training curricula for health workers.

For the 2024 fiscal year, the PNLMTN-CP, with technical support from ALM via Act | West, will engage INFAS to train and provide training materials to the teachers who will oversee the theoretical component of the courses and those in the field who will oversee the supervision of the courses.

At the end of this activity, the LF and trachoma MMDP training modules will have been integrated into the INFAS curriculum and nurse preceptors will have been trained to oversee nursing students in the provision of MMDP services. The revised curriculum, now including MMDP modules, will continue to be taught at nursing schools in Côte d'Ivoire on an ongoing basis. The MMDP training tools and a training course will also be made available online for health workers that are already providing services at health facilities in Côte d'Ivoire. The NTD program will support INFAS in conducting monitoring after the new curriculum has been finalized and is being taught at nursing schools. After that, INFAS will be responsible for conducting routine monitoring and supervision of MMDP training in line with their existing monitoring protocols and planned annual monitoring activities.

Other activities

HMIS Integration Documentation: Côte d'Ivoire has made progress in the integration of NTD data into DHIS-2. The PNLMTN-CP has successfully integrated MDA indicators and is currently working to strengthen the integration of morbidity indicators. The next steps in the integration process include: 1) pilot/test the use of the LF and trachoma MMDP data collection tools, 2) finalize the process and structure to input LF and trachoma MMDP data into DHIS2 based on data collection tools and 3) monitor the input of data in DHIS2, offering feedback and guidance where needed.

To document the process and identify lessons learned and integration gaps, Deloitte is supporting the PNLMTN-CP to document the process of integrating NTD data into the national HMIS through a country case study. The Cote d'Ivoire case study will contribute to a multi-country case study that Act | West is planning to realize in FY 2024 on integration of NTDs into HMIS. Act | West recently completed the Ghana case study report.

The outcomes of this documentation will provide the PNLMTN-CP, the MSHP-CMU, Act | West, the global NTD community, and donors with a clear, common understanding of the process, stakeholders, lessons learned, gaps that need to be covered, and rationale internally within the program and externally with partners.

IR3 PLANNED ACTIVITIES: SCH AND STH

Schistosomiasis

Proposed FY 2024 activities

In June FY 2023, Unlimit Health remapped 110 HDs for SCH/STH and treated 61 HDs. The PNLMTN-CP is waiting for the coverage and mapping data which will inform FY 2024 activities.

Soil-Transmitted Helminths

Proposed FY 2024 activities

For FY 2023, the 40 STH-endemic HDs requiring MDA are managed by Unlimit Health including the treatment for 14 HDs alone for STH. The SCH/STH MDA took place in June 2023 and the PNLMTN-CP is waiting for the data to inform FY 2024 activities.

Proposed FY 2024 Strategic Planning activities:

Organize a National OV Experts Committee (NOEC) meeting for OV elimination: In FY2024, the PNLMTN-CP will organize a three-day meeting of the CENI MTN-CP/OV Expert Committee to review and redefine OV elimination strategies in the context of stopping LF MDA in all districts but one. This will be conducted with technical and financial support from Act | West, WHO, and Sightsavers. The CENI meeting will also be an opportunity to review and analyze all OV data (BSA, OV pre-stop survey, OV desk review).

Workshop to review the national OV elimination plan (Consultation meeting PNLMTN-CP/WHO/Act | West/OV Experts): Given the current context of OV, it is essential to develop a national plan for the elimination of OV which will describe the epidemiological, entomological, and programmatic situation and define OV elimination objectives and strategic interventions in Côte d'Ivoire. Act | West will provide technical and financial support to the PNLMTN-CP for the hiring of a consultant for the development of the first draft of this plan and organize a 3-day residential review workshop with stakeholders.

Workshop to validate the national OV elimination plan: Act | West expects a strong commitment to the OV elimination program in Cote d'Ivoire at all levels (central level and sub-national levels). The OV program in the country has been dormant for a couple of years with almost no specific OV meetings or assessments conducted since 2018. Validation of the OV elimination plan as a strategic document is therefore critical to 1) ensure buy-in from all the stakeholders; 2) ensure a better understanding of the entomological and epidemiological situation in the country; and 3) understand the critical needs regarding programmatic management, resources, laboratory capacity, and long-term commitment for OV elimination by all stakeholders (regional and national health officials, implementing partners FHI 360 and Sightsavers, representatives of endemic districts). Act | West will provide technical and financial support for the validation of the national OV plan during a two-day residential workshop with the participation of the PNLMTN-CP, Technical Director of Act | West, WHO, Act | West /Experts OV and other partners.

Organize 3 quarterly coordination meetings with FHI 360 as part of the follow-up of the Act | West program: To improve coordination and planning of activities in FY 2024, Act | West will provide technical and financial support to organize one coordination meeting per quarter with the PNLMTN-CP. This will be a 1-day meeting with members of the PNLMTN-CP, FHI360, and technical partners involved in the fight against NTDs as needed.

Organize a meeting to monitor the implementation of the FAA: Act | West team will hold a monthly half day meeting to monitor the implementation of the FAA. This meeting will bring together 10 PNLMTN-CP members and seven members of Act | West (FHI360) in Abidjan.

Proposed FY 2024 activities: Organize the World NTD day in collaboration with the other partners and the NTD champions World NTD Day is held yearly on January 30 to enable the population to understand all the actions and activities carried out to control and eliminate NTDs.

In FY 2024, to strengthen USAID's visibility and the PNLMTN-CP's participation in the World NTD Day, Act | West will provide financial and technical support for co-financing of the World NTD Day mainly on media coverage; creating and printing posters, flyers, kakemonos, tarpaulins, sound system rental, office supplies (pens, pencils, notepads, pencil sharpener, eraser); communication of the World NTD Days

coordination team; designing and printing bags, abstract books, tee-shirts, badges; and support for the participation of the PNLMTN-CP. This important event, under the leadership of the MSHP-CMU /DGS, will be an opportunity to strengthen public awareness on NTDs and to mobilize national financial resources with the MSHP-CMU, political authorities, influential personalities and other organizations and partners.

To ensure smooth program planning and implementation, the FHI 360 Cote d'Ivoire country office will contact the USAID mission about event planning activities at least 30 days in advance (in addition to informing FHI 360 HQ) so initial information is on the mission's calendar. The country office will subsequently keep the mission informed on their level and degree of participation (e.g., as a speaker or as invited guest only) as celebration planning evolves with the NTDP. The country office will gather photos and media coverage of the event to share with FHI 360 HQ after the event concludes.

Proposed FY 24 GESI Activities

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) activities. In 2019, FHI 360 gender advisors conducted a gender and social inclusion analysis (qualitative research and desk review) and developed a gender strategy, to ensure Act | West and its partners are equitably addressing the needs of men, women, boys, and girls, including individuals with disabilities and ethnic minorities, in the NTDs control and elimination activities.

In FY 2022, the Act | West program provided technical and financial support to the PNLMTN-CP to conduct the following GESI activities: 1) integration of GESI sessions in the annual training of trainers of the MDA; 2) integration of GESI components in all planned revisions of PC-NTDs and MDA awareness materials (i.e., posters, flyers); 3) revision of MDA tools to collect CDD sex; and 4) addressing gender parity in the MDA steering committees.

In FY 2023, the Act | West program provided technical and financial support to the PNLMTN-CP to conduct a refresher GESI session during the annual MDA Training of Trainers. The following activities are also planned for the last quarter of FY 2023: 1) review new PNLMTN-CP NTD and MDA awareness raising materials (i.e., posters, flyers) to improve GESI messaging; 2) develop GESI-integrated job aids for CDDs to support them to address identified barriers to MDA access and participation; and 3) conduct a follow-up GESI data review.

In FY 2024, the Act | West program will continue to provide technical and financial support to strengthen and further the implementation of the above GESI activities through a GESI refresher training.

Conduct a refresher GESI session during the annual MDA Training of Trainers. The PNLMTN-CP carries out a series of cascading capacity building training of all the actors involved before each MDA. These capacity building efforts target supervisors within the regional team and the PNLMTN-CP program and CDDs under the supervision of district and regional teams. To support learning and skills from the GESI ToT in FY 2023, FHI 360 Côte d'Ivoire project staff will conduct an interactive, participatory refresher session for all PNLMTN-CP national and regional staff, as well as any FHI 360 Act West staff in the country office who have not already been trained on GESI with remote support from FHI 360's GESI Advisor, during the MDA training of trainers. These trainings will be conducted in FY 2024 for the ToT and then cascaded down to the district and CDD level.