Mali achieves a critical milestone toward elimination of lymphatic filariasis: all previously endemic districts have met criteria to stop MDA

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Mali Overview

• Mali is in West Africa, bordered by 7 countries

• Population in 2021: 21,960,825 inhabitants

• 10 administrative regions and the district of Bamako

• 75 health districts (HDs)
LF overview in Mali

• Lymphatic filariasis (LF) mapping with ICT cards was completed in 2004
• All 75 HDs were endemic for LF
• The country committed to the goal of eliminating LF as a public health problem by 2025 due to security challenges.
LF overview in Mali

- Implementation of annual mass drug administration (MDA) with albendazole and ivermectin began in 2005 in areas in southern Mali co-endemic with onchocerciasis.
- Scaled up to other endemic areas in northern Mali and reaching 100% geographical coverage in 2009.
- Since 2007, Mali LF program has benefited from funding from the USAID and the End Fund.
LF overview in Mali

• Political unrest and insecurity interrupted the NTD activities with 50 out of the 75 HDs missing 1 to 3 annual rounds of MDA between 2011 and 2014.

• However, all HDs implemented at least 5 effective rounds of MDA before undergoing pre-transmission assessment surveys (pre-TAS), following the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.

• TAS1 was conducted to assess whether MDA could be stopped, and in insecure HDs it was delayed by two to three years after successful pre-TAS.
Survey methods used

- Following World Health Organization guidelines, LF TAS1 were conducted in all 75 HDs that underwent at least 5 effective rounds of MDA and passed pre-TAS.
- Evaluation units (EU) were approved by the RPRG before TAS implementation.
- The Survey Sample Builder (SSB) was used to determine sample sizes and selected clusters.
- A community-based cluster sampling (in 19 EUs) and school-based cluster sampling (in 5 EUs) strategies were used depending on school enrollment rates.
Distribution of Evaluation Units

- TAS1 were conducted in all 75 HDs across Mali (24 Evaluation Units – EUs which 19 EUs community and 5 EUs school )*  
- As of December 2020, TAS1 has been completed in 75 HDs across Mali.

*In the abstract, 48 EUs are the current number of EUs used with smaller population of around 500,000, but for TAS1 the number of EUs was 24.
TAS1 implementation in the field

• The surveyors were trained according to the TAS guidelines with field practice included
• Additional pre-selected clusters were visited when needed
• Clusters were replaced when needed due to the security challenges
• Households in each cluster were randomly selected
All EUs surveyed passed TAS1!
20,755,520 Malians no longer need treatment against LF
As of 2020, Mali has interrupted transmission of LF and post-treatment surveillance is ongoing.
Challenges, Perspectives and Conclusion

- Complete TAS2 (8 EUs/26HDs) and TAS3 (18 EUs/20 HDs)
- Morbidity Management
- Complete the LF elimination dossier

If the security situation improves, Mali will be on track to achieve national LF elimination objectives by 2025.
Thank you for your attention!