



# Act to End Neglected Tropical Diseases | West FY 2024 Work plan-Togo October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024

*This work plan is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the sole responsibility of the Act to End NTDs | West Program, led by FHI 360 in partnership with Helen Keller International, Health and Development International, Deloitte, World Vision, and American Leprosy Missions, Inc. under Cooperative Agreement No. 7200AA18CA00011 and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.*

Table of Contents

ACRONYM LIST .....2

NARRATIVE .....4

    NATIONAL NTD PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND SUPPORT .....4

    IR1 PLANNED ACTIVITIES: LF, TRA, OV .....5

    IR2 SUSTAINABILITY and HSS STRATEGY ACTIVITIES.....7

        i. Systems Strengthening .....7

            1. Data Security and Management.....7

            2. Drug Management .....7

        ii. Sustainability .....8

            1. Governance.....9

            2. Prioritized Function ..... 10

            3. Other..... 11

    IR3 ACTIVITIES: SCH, STH, SURVEILLANCE ..... 11

## ACRONYM LIST

ALB	Albendazole
BMGF	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S.)
CDD	Community drug distributor
CES	Coverage Evaluation Survey
CHW	Community health worker
COGES	Health Center Management Committee ( <i>Comité des Gestion</i> )
CNO	National Organizing Committee (Comité National d'Organisation)
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
RFS	Head of health facility (Responsables de formations sanitaires)
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 percent per year.<sup>1</sup> The population is projected to be 8,472,173 in 2024, with 51.3 percent women and 48.7 percent 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 1,320 total peripheral health units (PHU) of which 730 PHUs or sub-districts conduct MDA. Lomé PHUs do not conduct MDA. Each PHU typically serves between one and 10 villages. The implementation unit (IU) for mass drug administration (MDA) varies according to the target disease: implementation occurs at district level for soil-transmitted helminths (STH), PHU level for schistosomiasis (SCH), and village level for onchocerciasis (OV).

Over the past decade, Togo has brought its neglected tropical disease (NTD) work under one coordination office 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 the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) began supporting the NTD program in 2009, a national expert committee was established to advise the NTD program in the implementation of NTD activities supported by USAID. At the beginning of fiscal year (FY) 2019 a national NTD budget line was created, and the Ministry of Health nominated an NTD program manager with responsibility for 10 NTDs (LF, trachoma, OV, SCH, STH, Guinea worm, Buruli ulcer, human African trypanosomiasis, Noma, and snakebite envenomation). The government's contribution for calendar year (CY) 2023 was 30,000,000 CFA (approximately \$53,690), the same amount since 2021 for program operations, in addition to salaries, infrastructure, vehicles, etc. These achievements testify to Togo's commitment to sustainable NTD implementation and management.

Togo's new strategic plan (2022-2026) was finalized in FY 2022, containing new programmatic goals, MDA targets, training approaches, MDA distribution strategies, and sustainability activities in accordance with Togo's sustainability plan. Its implementation started in FY 2023 and is opening the transition path from a vertical and externally funded approach to a locally funded, multi-sector strategy that will ensure sustained NTD success even after USAID support ends.

Togo is endemic for the five preventative chemotherapy NTDs (PC-NTDs): lymphatic filariasis (LF), onchocerciasis (OV), trachoma, schistosomiasis (SCH), and soil-transmitted helminths (STH). For FY 2024, Togo is planning several activities that will contribute to achieving the goal of OV and SCH elimination as a

---

<sup>1</sup> Report of the 4<sup>th</sup> general population census of Togo, 2010.

public health problem, STH control, and post-validation surveillance of trachoma and LF. In addition to routine training, social mobilization, preventive chemotherapy, and disease surveillance implementation, other important activities related to governance, advocacy, multi-sector collaboration will contribute to strengthening the national health system and ensuring sustainability of NTD programs implementation and follow-up.

### **NTD Partners in Country**

FY 2024 will be the 15th year of integrated NTD control activities in Togo with USAID funding through Health and Development International (HDI), and the 10th year HDI has received USAID funding through FHI 360. Led by the Togo MOH, many partners and programs have contributed to the success of Togo's Integrated Program for the Elimination and Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases. In addition to USAID, recent major NTD donors include Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (LSTMH), the Mectizan Donation Program (MDP), Merck, NTD Support Center (Atlanta), PATH, Sightsavers, the Task Force for Global Health (TFGH), Tropical Data, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Togo WHO office provides logistical support, including acting as consignee for importation of medications for MDA and DSA equipment. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) partnered with the National Onchocerciasis Elimination Program (NOEP) to conduct OV research in Togo in 2016 and 2017 and has supported operational research activities on trachoma and other NTDs. The University of South Florida (USF) has provided technical assistance (TA) on the laboratory side of OV surveillance in FY 2018 and FY 2019, and this collaboration continued in FY 2020 through USAID support, with training of three lab technicians from Togo's *Institut National d'Hygiène* (National Institute of Health, or INH) lab at Dr. Thomas Unnasch's lab at USF. Sightsavers has provided direct treatment and evaluation support to MOH for the OV national program over several years. In FY 2024, Sightsavers will not cover any entomology activities for Togo's OV program (Afangadji area, Kara, Centrale, and Plateaux regions). The TFGH is providing technical and financial support to Togo's MOH, in FY 2023, HDI and USF worked together to procure lab reagents needed for running ELISAs for Togo's OV program.

## **IR1 PLANNED ACTIVITIES: LF, TRA, OV**

### **Lymphatic Filariasis**

#### **Proposed FY 2024 activities**

No post-validation activities have been planned for FY 2024; however, if the security situation in the north region of Togo allows, HDI and the NTDP will work on a new proposal for LF post-validation operational research and resubmit to the TFGH.

### **Trachoma**

The WHO formally recognized Togo as having eliminated trachoma as a public health problem on May 28, 2022. A celebration of LF and trachoma elimination is scheduled for August 12, 2023, in Togo.

**Proposed FY 2024 activities:** For FY 2024, Togo plans to implement a post-validation survey (PVS) pilot project. Since there is no guidance from WHO for trachoma PVS, in FY 2023 HDI organized a meeting with WHO, CDC, TFGH, FHI 360, and Dr. Prempe (an ophthalmologist from Togo who was involved in trachoma surveys of 2017) to discuss trachoma PVS approaches and strategies in a low-prevalence context. A

proposal will be developed and submitted to the TFGH before the end of CY 2023. . Activities for this operational research of trachoma PVS will be implemented in FY 2024 if funding is granted from the TFGH.

## Onchocerciasis

### MDA Coverage

#### OV/SCH/STH MDA

#### Proposed FY 2024 Activities

##### **Calendar Year 2023 (CY 2023) Second Round MDA (Budgeted under FAA 1)**

A second CY 2023 round of integrated OV/SCH/STH MDA will be conducted in January 2024 targeting the following high-prevalence areas:

- OV: ≥ 5 years in 20 HDs
- SCH: school-age children (SAC) and high-risk adults in 58 PHU (across 18 HDs)
- STH: SAC in 7 HDs

##### **Calendar Year 2024 (CY 2024) First Round MDA (Budgeted under FAAs 2, 3, and 4)**

The first round of national integrated MDA in CY 2024 will be conducted in June 2024 targeting the following areas:

- OV: ≥ 5 years in 32 HDs
- SCH: SAC and high-risk adults in 614 out of 730 PHUs (across 39 HDs) STH: SAC (and in some districts, high-risk adults) in 36 HDs.

## OV DSA

#### Proposed FY 2024 activities

##### **OV Stop MDA Survey in Kara region across 7 HDs (150 villages)**

In FY2024, the NTDP is planning to conduct an OV stop-MDA survey in Kara region and collect around 15,000 DBS from 5-9 years old from 150 villages across 7 HDs. The DBS will be analyzed by the INH lab and results will be presented to the international OEC, along with the black flies PCR results for an OV stop-MDA decision. The survey will be implemented along Oti River (Assoli, Bassar, Binah, Dankpène, Doufelgou, Kéran and Kozah) where several epi and entomology surveys have been conducted with good results:

##### **Analysis of DBS from DSA (stop MDA) in Kara region**

Following the OV stop-MDA survey in Kara region, the DBS collected will be analyzed at the INH lab in Lomé. An estimated 15,000 DBS will be collected, and the cost of reagents, customs clearance, and personnel time will be covered.

##### **Entomology component of Kara region OV Stop MDA survey**

The NTDP will conduct the entomology component of the stop-MDA surveys in the FY 2024. An estimated 30,000 flies are planned to be collected around six productive breeding sites in Kara region.

**Entomology component for Plateaux Est and West, and Afangadji area**

The entomology component for Plateaux Est and West and Afangadji area in Plateaux region and entomology impact assessment survey in Afangadji are included in Togo's FY2024 work plan. Because of its size, the OEC recommended to divide Plateaux into two EUs around the two basins (East basin and West basin), which now will be considered two separate transmission zones. In each transmission zone, at least 6,000 flies will be collected. Flies will be collected from six productive breeding sites in Plateaux (the East basin has one breeding site and the West basin has five breeding sites). For the Afangadji breeding area and another one (Dzrekpon breeding site) near the area of Afangadi, which the MOH also wants to test, at least 6,000 flies will be collected from each. This will help Togo's OV program to 1) decide to stop MDA in Maritime region completely, if the Afangadji entomology results show a level under the threshold of infection; and 2) present Plateaux stop-MDA entomology data to the OEC for a stop-MDA recommendation.

**IR2 SUSTAINABILITY and HSS STRATEGY ACTIVITIES****i. Systems Strengthening****1. Data Security and Management****Proposed FY 2024 Activities****Follow-up on dissemination for the final Data Security SOP (Budgeted under IR2 Data Security and Management)**

In FY 2024, the NTDP plans to disseminate and operationalize the targeted SOPs that were drafted with the help of Act | West. The NTDP will distribute the SOPs by producing physical copies or distributing electronic versions to stakeholders engaged in NTD data management. The execution of the policies and procedures contained within these SOPs will contribute to the security of all non-DHIS2 data, while comprehensive input of all NTD data into the DHIS2 system is underway. Additionally, implementation will ensure the secure storage and handling of primary data sources moving forward. Key recipients of the new SOP will encompass groups such as the Division of Information, Statistics, Studies, and Research (*Division d'information, de statistique, d'étude et de recherche*) within the MOH, NTDP staff, NTD focal points, and other relevant MOH stakeholders. Finally, Act | West will support the NTDP to explore the option of including the implementation of the SOP into the data review process, DQA, subsequent data validation sessions and SOP implementation assessment.

**2. Drug Management****FY 2024 Drug Management Activities**

As part of annual retraining prior to the main MDA, in April/May 2024, 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. As an additional support, HDI will collaborate closely with NTDP to track expiry dates and utilization-timing projections for all NTD-related drugs, in detail, to ensure that programmatic timing-decisions do not lead to expiration of drugs. This latter additional drugs-management support will not have any budgetary implication for USAID.

Act| West will support the cost of packaging and per diems for delivery personnel, drivers, and drug handlers, as well as fuel to enable transportation and supervision. As in FY 2023, Act | West will only



support drug distribution to the regional level for all regions. District level focal points are in charge of collecting drugs for their respective HD and travel to the regional level to do so. Furthermore Act | West will support the NTDP for JRSM and to conduct reverse logistics and data validation activities after each planned MDA.

For FY 2024, the NTDP will work more closely with the local WHO office and the local USAID office to address clearance of materials from Togo's customs and prevent further delay in DSAs implementation. Building upon the discussion during the high-level meeting with the Secretary General during the bilateral negotiation, FHI 360's HSS team and supply chain lead will provide an in-country technical assistance to support HDI and the NTDP identify mainstreaming gaps and opportunities and define a mainstreaming scope to support Togo long term vision to further integrate NTDs into the national supply chain system. As Togo's NTDP starts to engage with the UHC department which is coordinating the definition of the UHC package of services, understanding parameters for mainstreaming NTD commodities into the national supply system is critical.

### **Support the improvement of two regional warehouses with furnishing and supplies**

Following up on the warehouse assessment conducted in November 2022, during which five regional facilities and 33 district-level facilities were evaluated, the NTDP observed that several facilities lacked the necessary equipment and/or supplies. The NTDP plans to improve two regional warehouses in FY 2024 and equip them with supplies and furnishings such as thermostats, humidity control, fire extinguishers, shelves, tables, chairs and pallets which were missing during the FY 2023 evaluation. The improvements will ensure better storage of NTD drugs in the targeted warehouses.

### **SAE Activities**

#### **FY 2024 Severe Adverse Events (SAE) Activities**

In FY 2024, timely notification and 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 will be assigned to investigate. The Togo MOH uses their own form and WHO forms to report SAEs. The NTDP will report any SAE to HDI to report to FHI 360 and USAID within 24 hours.

#### **ii. Sustainability**

Togo has successfully progressed to Phase 4 (implementation of the sustainability plan) of the sustainability approach to implement activities delineated in the Sustainability Plan.

For a successful implementation of the sustainability plan, NTDP initiated a bilateral consultation that led to an in-country discussion between the MOH and USAID with participation of FHI 360 and HDI in FY 2023. The meeting participants agreed on areas USAID will support, interventions that require MOH support, and the commitments over the next years within the bilateral negotiation framework. These activities will ensure continuation of NTD programs, and surveillance approaches will be in place for diseases that have been eliminated as public health problems, to prevent their recrudescence.

Phase 4 is now underway, which implements priorities identified by the NTDP in the Sustainability Plan. A main priority is securing additional domestic funding for NTD program services. As such, the NTDP, with

Act | West support, used TIPAC financial data to develop a targeted engagement case to highlight funding gaps for morbidity management, surveillance, and the school-based joint platform for SCH/STH deworming aimed at stakeholders like the MOH, the Ministry of Sanitation and Hygiene, and the Ministry of Education. Togo's Sustainability Plan will continue to be implemented in FY 2024.

## 1. Governance

### TIPAC data entry and analysis workshops

#### Proposed FY 2024 activities

##### **TIPAC Data Entry Workshop (Budgeted under HDI IR2 Governance)**

Togo is planning to undertake TIPAC data entry in FY 2024, with in-country support from Act | West, addressing the shortcomings identified in FY 2023.

The NTDP is requesting Act | West support to provide technical resources and guidance to overcome challenges encountered in previous years with the current version of TIPAC. FHI 360 and Deloitte will put in place a mechanism to help key people within the NTDP and within HDI country team to identify challenges with successfully completing the data entry and remedies. Some actions include: a full completion of the data capture sheet to ensure that fundings from different sources are captured, developing an approach to capture the cost of the pilot phase of the deworming through school-based platform and using the LF calculators for an accurate costing of the MMDP needs. As the NTDP engages with the UHC division at MOH to include MMDP into the UHC package, the MOH leadership has requested during the high-level meeting of the bilateral negotiation, to have accurate data and financial needs for MMDP services to further support the NTDP advocacy with the UHC Division along the development of the UHC package of services Togo is undergoing. Act | West's technical support to use the LF calculator was discussed as one the option to prepare data for the technical consultations and advocacy for integration of MMDP into the UHC package of services. The NTDP intends to utilize the output from this process to continue to conduct financial planning and make programming cost projections, as well monitor how programmatic shifts evolve. .

##### **TIPAC data analysis workshop (Budgeted under HDI IR2 Governance)**

Upon completion of the TIPAC data entry, the NTDP will organize a three-day workshop. This session will involve a select group of stakeholders (i.e., the NOH/Directorate of Finance and UHC division , the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Education, Social Affairs, Ministry of Planning, FHI 360, Deloitte, HDI, WHO, Sightsavers, ANESVAD, and DAHW) whose roles are crucial for budget advocacy, with the aim of conducting a financial gaps analysis, budget forecasts, and pinpointing critical, prioritized, and achievable gaps to include in domestic resource mobilization efforts.

### **Provide TA to support implementation and use of the engagement case for meeting with potential local donors**

#### Proposed FY 2024 activities

In FY 2024, building upon the development of the Engagement Case in December 2022 (FY 2023), Act | West will support the NTDP to use the results of the Engagement Case for engagement at the district level, to the health directorate, MOH, Ministry of Education, and laboratory partners with the goal of

securing financial commitments, and facilitating the mainstreaming of NTDs' needs into the national surveillance system and the UHC package of services.

### **Support to the implementation of the decisions of the bilateral negotiation**

As Togo moves toward Phase 4 (implementation of the sustainability plan), the FY 2024 workplan has prioritized support for implementing the decisions made at the bilateral negotiation between the Ministry of Health and USAID in February 2023. The activities or processes the NTDP has selected for implementation in FY 2024 are related to four main areas: 1) strengthening the NTDP's program management capacity, 2) integrating NTDs surveillance within the national disease surveillance system, 3) supporting the Case management subcommittee of the cross-sector coordination mechanism for technical consultations with local experts on inclusion of MMDP into the UHC package and 4) pursuing the pilot MDA using school and community platforms.

## **2. Prioritized Function**

### **Refine surveillance model and incorporate it into Togo's strategic plan (Bilateral Negotiation priority)**

In FY 2024, Togo's NTDP plans to organize a workshop to revise their recently developed 2022-2026 strategic plan and incorporate the surveillance component to ensure surveillance strategies are designed and planned for every NTD that has reached the status of elimination as a public health problem. Prior to the meeting, the budgeted consultants are envisioned by the NTDP as providing the technical input necessary for the workshop. There are three infections in Togo's strategic plan, for which the surveillance aspect will need to be developed by an expert (OV, SCH and LF) and included in the plan. A total of five days consultation per infection is planned for the expert to work on, and develop a draft for revision and validation during the workshop. A two-day workshop is planned during which the NTDP will work with their partners and expert committees to discuss and include the surveillance approach and strategies for each NTD in Togo's strategic plan. The inclusion of the surveillance component will be in accordance with priorities in Togo's sustainability plan and bilateral negotiation priorities identified by the MOH in FY 2023.

### **Morbidity Management Committee Meeting Technical Consultations with Experts in Lomé (Bilateral Negotiation priority)**

During the bilateral negotiation discussions, Togo's Secretary General committed to fund cross-sector coordination mechanism meetings. The NTDP is requesting financial support to organize ~~two~~ one meeting of the Morbidity Management Committee. Three committees were created in the coordination mechanism, and two of them are receiving Act | West support for yearly meetings (OEC, SCH/STH expert committee). The morbidity management aspect was identified by the NTDP as an aspect requiring support within the domains of Togo's sustainability plan, which will foster the implementation of some strategies included in the sustainability plan. Therefore, the NTDP is requesting support for one yearly meeting of the Morbidity Management Committee.

### **MDA using alternative distribution strategies (Bilateral Negotiation priority)**

#### **FY 2024 planned activities**

In FY 2024, the NTDP plans to conduct MDA in the two health districts of Lacs and Vo from Maritime region using schools and community distribution point strategies in the districts of Vo and Lacs, after refining the approach based on lessons learned from the outcomes of the evaluation of the March 2023 MDA pilot. Training and social mobilization will precede MDA implementation and will be modified as needed in follow-up to the pilot project evaluation and recommendations. Drug transportation will precede the

distribution, and the reverse logistics will take place after the MDA, as for the traditional MDA. Any necessary adjustments will be made to optimize the alternative MDA strategy before testing it in new districts.

Before the government can decide whether they want to continue with this strategy, the NTDP plans to compare the cost and effectiveness of the two MDA approaches: Traditional door- to -door MDA for SCH/STH and school-based MDA combined with fixed point for treatment of children not enrolled at school (the pilot MDA). This builds off the work from the previous year by repeating the test procedure a second time to address some of the gaps observed during the first year and see if it works better the second year. The NTDP is testing new distribution strategies in their MDA and is requesting support to evaluate different distribution platforms and perform a cost-efficacy analysis of MDA strategies used. This will provide additional evidence to support assessment of the new MDA strategies being tested. (*This activity is planned for FY 2025*).

### 3. Other

#### HMIS Integration Documentation

##### **FY 2024 planned activities**

FY 2024 activities will support the NTDP in achieving a clear understanding of the process, stakeholders, and rationale for NTD data integration into the national HMIS. Following the completion of Phase 1 in FY 2023, Act | West will continue supporting the NTDP in documenting the integration of NTD data into the national HMIS through the following activities:

- In Phase 2, the NTDP with Act | West support will conduct a two-day, in-country technical validation workshop to review and verify the information documented in the draft HMIS country report. Further, the NTDP will discuss success factors, lessons learned from integrating NTD data in DHIS2, and implications for the sustainability process.
- In Phase 3, the HMIS country report will be finalized by undergoing a virtual final review with Act | West and the NTDP.

#### IR3 ACTIVITIES: SCH, STH, SURVEILLANCE

##### Schistosomiasis

##### **Proposed FY 2024 Activities**

##### **SCH Impact Assessment in 14 HDs**

To date 17 out of 39 HDs (324 out of 720 sub-districts) have been reassessed between 2021 and 2023. For FY 2024, Togo is planning to conduct SCH/STH impact assessments in 296 USPs from 14 HDs all of which have completed five to six rounds of effective (>75% coverage) MDA. The remaining 100 USPs from the remaining eight HDs are planned to be surveyed in FY 2025 which will provide an updated national picture of all SCH/STH endemicity and help focus attention on problem areas, as well as updating treatment frequency guidelines.

**SCH Treatment Guide update workshop**

A data review workshop was held in Q1 of FY 2023 to finalize the SCH/STH tracker and address data inconsistencies in the historical databases. A sub-district list with the most up-to-date prevalence was finalized with proposed SCH/STH treatment policy changes and any sub-districts that had not recently been re-surveyed would review their treatment policy after assessment by the NTDP in FY 2024/25. In FY 2024 a similar data review workshop is planned to review the 189 sub-districts surveyed in FY 2023 and 269 sub-districts to be surveyed in FY 2024 to update the SCH/STH treatment strategy in these USPs/sub-districts. The findings from this workshop will then be discussed at the SCH/STH committee meeting.

After the report by PHU chief (Responsables de formations sanitaires, or RFS) and regional health professionals about some of the HDs with high SCH treatment coverage, which nevertheless presented recurrent hematuria cases among schoolchildren, the NTDP plans to conduct an information, education, and communication (IEC) campaign in these districts to promote infection prevention behaviors among schoolchildren. For example, river bathing habits have been identified as a probable cause of SCH re-infection and resulting hematuria. The aim is to reduce the incidence and prevalence of hematuria in those settings.

**STH/SCH Steering Committee Meetings**

The SCH/STH steering committee had its first meeting in November 2023. During the meeting, the committee reviewed and agreed on their terms of reference and discussed their organization and modes of operation. They also reviewed the results of Togo's FY 2021 SCH/STH impact assessment and SOS and provided guidance on the treatment guide policy adjustment in the context of new WHO SCH treatment guidelines. For FY 2024, Togo has planned a 3-day SCH/STH committee meeting in Lomé. The committee continues reviewing SCH and STH assessment data and making recommendations on treatment policy adjustments, based on assessment outcomes.

**OEC with International Experts**

Act | West will support a two-day meeting in FY 2024 for the OEC to review OV data from Savanes and the Plateaux and Kara regions, make MDA decisions for eligible regions, and advise the national program on the best way forward to achieve OV elimination in the remaining regions. HDI will support the travel of two HDI staff and one external expert. HDI staff will provide secretarial, technical, and logistical assistance to this meeting, including help with review, analysis, and presentation of data, coordination of experts, and support for implementation of recommendations from the OEC.

**OEC Follow-up Meeting with Domestic Experts**

A one-day meeting with domestic OV experts will take place months after the meeting with international experts to track and follow progress on decisions reached in the first meeting and advise the national program on recommended next steps. The Expert Committee provides advice, among other things, on next steps in monitoring progress toward OV elimination in Togo. HDI staff will provide secretarial, technical, and logistical assistance to this meeting, including help with review, analysis, and presentation of data, coordination of experts, and support for implementation of recommendations from the OEC.

**World NTD Day**

This is an important event to recognize efforts being made in Togo to fight NTDs, to acknowledge accomplishments, and sensitize the population on further NTD programs activities. In FY 2024, Togo is planning to celebrate World NTD Day on or around January 30, 2024.