

Nigeria Work Plan

FY 2023

Program Year 5

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ACT | EAST PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The U.S. Agency for International Development Act to End Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) | East Program supports national NTD programs in reaching World Health Organization goals for NTD control and elimination through proven, cost-effective public health interventions. The Act to End NTDs | East (Act | East) Program provides critical support to governments to create sustainable platforms for NTD services within robust and resilient health systems. The Act | East Program is implemented by a consortium of partners, led by RTI International and including The Carter Center; Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF); Light for the World (LFTW); Results for Development (R4D); Save the Children; Sightsavers; and WI-HER.

In Nigeria, Act | East Program activities are implemented by The Carter Center in Abia, Delta, Ebonyi, Edo, Enugu, Imo, Nasarawa, and Plateau States and by RTI International in Cross River State and at the federal level.

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Learning Activities are marked with this icon throughout the narrative.

ACRONYMS LIST

AE	Adverse Event
ALB	Albendazole
ASCEND	Accelerating Sustainable Control and Elimination of NTDs
CDD	Community Drug Distributor
CIs	Community Implementers
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CRS	Cross River State
DBS	Dried Blood Spot
DHIS2	District Health Information System-2
DSA	Disease-Specific Assessment
EDC	Electronic Data Capture
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
FMOH	Federal Ministry of Health
FTS	Filariasis Test Strips
FY	Fiscal Year
HMIS	Health Management Information System
HSS	Health System Strengthening
IR	Intermediate Result
IVM	Ivermectin
LF	Lymphatic Filariasis
LGA	Local Government Area
LLIN	Long-Lasting Insecticide-treated Net
LMIS	Logistics Management Information System
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDA	Mass Drug Administration
MERLA	Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, Learning, and Adapting
NGDO	Non-Governmental Development Organization
NIS	NTD Information System
NOEC	National Onchocerciasis Elimination Committee
NTD	Neglected Tropical Disease
OV	Onchocerciasis
PC	Preventive Chemotherapy
R4D	Results for Development
SAC	School-Age Children
SAE	Serious Adverse Event
SCH	Schistosomiasis
SCM	Supply Chain Management
SCT	Supervisor's Coverage Tool
SMOH	State Ministry of Health
STH	Soil-Transmitted Helminths
TAS	Transmission Assessment Survey
TCC	The Carter Center
TF	Trachomatous Inflammation–Follicular
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

NARRATIVE

NATIONAL NTD PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND SUPPORT

Nigeria is the most populous African nation, with an estimated 207.8 million people, expected to reach 260 million by 2025. The country is divided into six zones comprising 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory. The 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs) serve as the primary implementation units for the neglected tropical disease (NTD) control and elimination program. The National NTD Program in Nigeria focuses on five diseases: lymphatic filariasis (LF), trachoma, onchocerciasis (OV), soil-transmitted helminths (STH), and schistosomiasis (SCH).

In 2007, Nigeria established integrated NTD programming to improve collaboration among partners. The Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) leads and coordinates the National NTD Program in collaboration with nongovernmental development organizations (NGDOs), United Nations agencies, and other stakeholders, including the private sector. The FMOH is responsible for defining the criteria for partnership, expanding the partnership base, and streamlining partners' activities to avoid duplication of efforts. The FMOH encourages partners to work in an integrated approach, particularly where diseases are co-endemic. The state ministries of health (SMOHs) are responsible for establishing state NTD programs and appointing NTD focal points. The SMOHs ensure that policies and guidelines are adapted and implemented to meet the LGAs' needs, including the provision of sufficient technical and supportive supervision so that NTD activities are integrated into state and LGA health facilities.

Service delivery and activity reporting at the LGA level rely on a collaborative relationship between the Education Secretary and the LGA NTD coordinator, with the latter leading. This coordination occurs at the lowest level of operations in the schools and communities. Teachers play a role similar to that of community drug distributors (CDDs); both are responsible for operationalizing interventions to ensure impact. The teachers support all activities relating to mobilizing school-age children (SAC) for school-based deworming; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) education; and data reporting from the schools to the Education Secretary. Community-selected CDDs ensure that mobilization, medicine distribution, and data collation and reporting to the health facility level are conducted efficiently. These frontline workers are critical to the success of intervention activities.

IR1 PLANNED ACTIVITIES: LF, TRACHOMA, OV

Lymphatic Filariasis

In FY23, Act | East will continue to provide support to the Nigeria LF program for surveys and dossier development. Specific activities are detailed below.

- **LF MDA (TCC):** Act | East will support MDA in 36 LGAs, one of which is re-MDAs following pre-TAS failure in FY22. Act | East will support cascaded training, social mobilization, drug distribution, and supervision. After training, participants will be tested to ensure that they have adequately retained and understood the material. Supportive supervision during cascade trainings will be conducted with a training supervisory checklist to ensure training quality.**LF Pre-TAS (TCC, RTI) :** Act | East will support pre-TAS in 12 LGAs. Three of these LGAs will implement re-pre-TAS after a successful second round of re-MDA.

- **LF TAS1 (TCC):** Act | East will support TAS1 in 33 LGAs (12 stopping MDA and 21 SCH/STH integrated survey). These LGAs passed pre-TAS in FY21 and FY22. **LF TAS1 with integrated SCH/STH DSA (TCC):** Twenty-one out of the 33 TAS1 LGAs listed above will be part of an integrated survey, including data collection for SCH and STH. Standard TAS methodology (blood samples collected from SAC for FTS) will serve as the platform for the survey. There will be two additional team members: (1) a lab technician and (2) lab scientist. In addition to assisting blood collection for TAS, these team members will also collect urine and stool samples from eight schools using a mix of purposive and random sampling. These samples will be analyzed at frontline health facilities by the mobile laboratory team daily that will be powered by rented mobile generators. The team member who is involved with blood sample collection for TAS will help with the lab work. Quality control will be conducted on 10% of positive specimens by an independent state or university lab staff personnel.
- **LF TAS2 (RTI):** Act | East will support seven TAS2 in CRS. Planning, training and survey implementation will take place beginning in Q1 of FY23.

Onchocerciasis

In FY23, Act | East will continue to provide support to the Nigeria OV Program for MDA. Specific activities are detailed below.



- **OV MDA (TCC):** Act | East will support one round of OV MDA in 55 LGAs.
- **OV Epidemiological Surveys (RTI):** Act | East will support OV epidemiological Stop MDA surveys in 15 LGAs in CRS.
- **NOEC (RTI):** Act | East will provide funding for one 3-day NOEC meeting.



The NOEC approved the reclassification of CRS from Red (transmission ongoing) to Tan (transmission suspected interrupted) after surveys in 2017 showed that there were no positive dried blood spot (DBS) sample and recommended that CRS conduct epidemiological and entomological surveys. In planning and implementing the CRS stop-MDA surveys in FY23, Act | East will work closely with the NOEC and FMOH to answer the question: “How can Act | East support the implementation of high-quality and timely OV surveys in Nigeria?”; this supports answering the program learning question “What are best practices for standardizing and conducting high-quality surveys?” Though this learning question is not a part of the FY23 program priorities, Act | East is highlighting it as a critical part of Nigeria’s work in OV moving forward. As part of survey planning, Act | East will work with the NOEC, FMOH, SMOH, and partners to understand the following:

- Viability of survey sites through river prospection
- Lab capabilities for analysis of epidemiological samples
- Impact of cross-border transmission of OV in CRS

Learnings from the planning and implementation of the epidemiological surveys will be summarized from biweekly status updates and from a debrief meeting after surveys are completed and will be used for decision-making afterwards. Act | East will share progress and lessons learned at the upcoming NOEC meeting and support the key recommendations from the NOEC affecting CRS.

Trachoma

In FY23, Act | East will provide support to the Nigeria Trachoma Program. Specific activities are detailed below.

- **Trachoma Dossier Meeting (RTI):** Act | East will provide targeted technical and financial support for dossier preparation during one in-person three-day workshop in Abuja to review draft dossier documents. Approximately 22 participants will include representatives from the FMOH's National Trachoma Elimination Program, Act | East, and other trachoma partners and stakeholders. 3. IR2 SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) STRATEGY ACTIVITIES

Drug Management

In FY23, Act | East will support the following:

- **Diagnostics procurement** RTI HQ will procure diagnostics for OV survey analyses.
- **Update Assessment of NTD Commodity Drug Management and LMIS Process (RTI):** Act | East will provide technical support to review and update the recently completed assessment of NTD commodity drug management and LMIS processes. During the first biannual supply chain management (SCM) stakeholders review meeting, Act | East will add to the agenda to determine what is needed to migrate NTD management into LMIS with accurate tracking to ensure drugs and diagnostics reach intended areas for MDA and DSAs.
- **FMOH Supervision and Monitoring of SCM across Nigeria (RTI):** Act | East will support four supervisory visits, one to the federal store and one visit to each of the three Act | East-supported zones (North Central, South East, and South South). These visits are intended to help the National NTD Program verify accurate medicine inventories. Act | East will support costs for travel and per diem for FMOH as well as transportation reimbursement for state coordinators and facility personnel.
- **Biannual SCM Stakeholders' Review Meeting (RTI):** These 1-day meetings (held twice per year) are aimed at providing coordination within different government agencies responsible for facilitating issuance of the Importation Duty Exemption Certificates and the ease of clearing donated medicines into Nigeria. Act | East will support venue rental, refreshments, and transportation for 25 participants for two meetings in Abuja. Participants will include representatives from the FMOH and its subsidiary departments, WHO, Ministry of Finance, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, Nigeria Immigration Services and Nigeria Customs Services, the private sector, clearing agencies, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Achieving Sustainability: Mainstreaming and HSS

Summary Work to Date and Planned Activities

In FY23, Act | East will support the following:

- **Costing Analysis of NTD Targeted Interventions (R4D):** In FY23, Act | East will conduct a costed analysis of NTD targeted interventions at the state level to inform the budgeting and planning process during the 2023 budget cycle.

IR3 PLANNED ACTIVITIES: SCH, STH:

Soil -Transmitted Helminths

STH MDA Supervision (TCC): TCC has supported STH treatments since 2014 in the seven South East/South South States, and since 2013 in Plateau and Nasarawa. In FY23, Act | East will provide financial support for supervision of the school-based MDA for STH in 135 LGAs in the TCC-supported states. About a third of these will receive ALB as the intervention, in conjunction with LF program activities.

Schistosomiasis

SCH MDA Supervision (TCC): In FY23, Act | East will provide financial support for supervision of the school-based MDA for SCH in 127 LGAs in the TCC-supported states.