

# HAITI Work Plan

FY 2020

Program Year 2

October 2019–September 2020



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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 also provides critical support to countries on their journey to self-reliance, helping them create sustainable programming for NTD control within robust and resilient health systems. The Act | East Program is being implemented by a consortium of partners, led by RTI International and including The Carter Center; Fred Hollows Foundation; IMA World Health; Light for the World; Results for Development (R4D); Save the Children; Sightsavers; and Women Influencing Health, Education, and Rule of Law (WI-HER).

In Haiti, Act | East program activities are implemented by IMA World Health.

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## ACRONYMS LIST

AE	Adverse event
ALB	Albendazole
ASCP	Agents de Santé Communautaire Polyvalent
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDD	Community drug distributors
CL	Community leaders
CP	Community promoters
DEC	Diethylcarbamazine citrate
DELR	<i>Direction d'Epidemiologie de Laboratoire et de Recherche</i> (Directorate of Laboratory and Research Epidemiology)
DSA	Disease-specific assessment
DSF	Directorate of Family Health
EU	Evaluation unit
FTS	Filariasis test strip
FY	Fiscal year
HNTDCP	Haiti Neglected Tropical Diseases Control Program
HSS	Health systems strengthening
IDA	Ivermectin, diethylcarbamazine citrate, and albendazole
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IMA	Interchurch Medical Assistance World Health
IR	Intermediate Result
LF	Lymphatic filariasis
LOE	Level of effort
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MDA	Mass drug administration
MOH	Ministry of Health
MSPP	Ministry of Public Health and Population
NTD	Neglected tropical disease
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
SA	Supervision area
SAC	School-age children
SCT	Supervisor's coverage tool
STH	Soil-transmitted helminths
TAS	Transmission assessment survey
TIPAC	Tool for integrated planning and costing
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WI-Her	Women Influencing Health, Education, and Rule of Law
WHO	World Health Organization

# NARRATIVE

## 1. NATIONAL NTD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### LF

Approximately 10.8 million<sup>1</sup> people in Haiti require mass drug administration (MDA) for lymphatic filariasis (LF), caused by *Wuchereria bancrofti* transmitted by mosquitoes (*Culex quinquefasciatus*). In 2001, in line with the global LF elimination goals defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Haiti Neglected Tropical Diseases Control Program (HNTDCP) set a goal to eliminate LF by 2020 and continue control activities for soil-transmitted helminths (STHs) throughout the country. Haiti follows the LF strategy through consecutive annual MDA rounds with diethylcarbamazine citrate (DEC) and albendazole (ALB) for at least five years to eliminate LF as a public health problem. By 2012, the HNTDCP had reached 100% geographic coverage with support from its partners, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through the ENVISION project, University of Notre Dame, The Carter Center, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Task Force for Global Health, and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO). Haiti has since made incredible strides towards its program goals and successfully stopped MDA in 118 out of 140 endemic districts, or communes.

### STH

STH is endemic throughout Haiti, as determined by mapping conducted by MSPP and partners in 2002. The HNTDCP's aim has been to control STH in school-age children (SAC) through annual treatment with ALB to reduce the intensity of infections and protect infected individuals from morbidity. Since the start of the LF program, SAC have received treatment through an integrated approach: MDA with DEC plus ALB, which is conducted in schools by community drug distributors (CDDs). Integrated treatment continues in the remaining LF-endemic districts, though as LF MDA has scaled down substantially, the MSPP, HNTDCP, and partners are continuing to discuss the best strategy for future deworming efforts after the interruption of LF transmission.

Since January 2015, the Directorate of Family Health (Direction de Santé de la Famille [DSF]), a division of the MSPP, conducts the two annual rounds of ALB-only school- and community-based MDA targeting children aged 2–14 years in 2,000 schools in the 10 departments (200 schools in each department). One round of the ALB-only MDA was funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in the 10 departments, except where MDA is ongoing. Based on 2013 prevalence data, DSF has planned a third round of MDA for in Grand'Anse annually. The MDA is supplemented by training that focuses on STH prevention, which has been rolled out to nurses, teachers, and students.

## 2. IR1 PLANNED ACTIVITIES: LF

### Proposed FY20 Activities

Based on the achievements made during FY18 and FY19 through ENVISION support, including lessons learned and best practices, Act | East staff, in collaboration with MSPP and partners, proposes the activities presented below for FY20. **Update as of December 2019:** Some activities were removed from the FY20 work plan and are considered gaps for FY20.

**Activity 1. Re-pre-TAS in 4 communes:** Three communes in the North (Dondon, Cap-Haitien, and Plaine-du-Nord) and one commune in West (Cabaret) are eligible for a second pre-TAS (hereafter re-pre-TAS) in

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<sup>1</sup> CIA World Factbook (July 2018 estimate): <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ha.html>

FY20. Re-pre-TAS in the four North and West communes will take place in January and February 2020. Given differing predicted LF transmission risk within the communes of Cabaret, Dondon, and Plaine-du-Nord, these communes each will be split into 2 EUs for re-Pre-TAS, with two assessment sites in each EU. Cap-Haitien will be divided into 3 EUs, with two assessment sites in each EU. This means a total of 9 re-pre-TAS assessments (in 18 sites) will be supported. Any EUs that pass should move to TAS1, but if any fail, MDA needs to be implemented.

- Re-pre-TAS also includes providing more **training and supervision**, in which Act | East will provide support to all levels of MSPP (central, department, and commune) and local authorities.

#### **Activity 2. MDA in up to 11 communes:**

- *North, Northwest, West, and Gonaïves (8 communes):* MDA will take place between March and May 2020 in Quartier-Morin, Limonade, Milot, Acul-du-Nord, Port-de-Paix, Croix-des-Bouquets, Arcahaie, and Gonaïves. Note that MDA in Milot will be also part of OR supported by the Task Force for Global Health, where a strategy of house-to-house delivery will be compared with the traditional fixed post-delivery.
- *Communes failing pre-TAS (up to 3 communes):* If any of the four communes fail pre-TAS in Q2 of FY20, Act | East will conduct MDA between March and May 2020. Though it is difficult to estimate which communes may fail pre-TAS, based on past results, it is possible that Cap-Haitien, Plaine du Nord and Cabaret will fail re-pre-TAS. Based on this assumption, MDA is planned for these three communes.

*MDA Strategy:* IDA is now included in the new Haiti LF Strategic Plan, developed with support from PAHO, and Act | East staff are ready to contribute to any IDA operational plans developed by the MSPP, Act | East is planning for all MDA in FY20 to be conducted using DEC+ALB only. IDA may be considered in FY21.

*Outside the Metropolitan Area:* Act | East will use best practices from the 2018 metropolitan area MDA strategy, results from the ENVISION FY19 SCT, and microplanning in Milot, Acul-du-Nord, Gonaïves, and Port-de-Paix, to develop revamped strategies for MDA outside the metropolitan area.

**Activity 3. MDA Supervision:** Act | East will provide support to all levels of MSPP (central, department, and commune) and local authorities. Pre-MDA activities include holding refresher trainings for CLs, CPs, and CDDs, as well as supervision training for ASCPs.

#### **Activity 4. TAS1 in one EU:**

- Up to nine EUs may be eligible for TAS1, depending on the results of re-pre-TAS in Dondon, Cap-Haitien, Plaine-du-Nord, and Cabaret. TAS1 will occur between April and May 2020. Based on previous results, it is likely that Dondon is the most likely to pass re-pre-TAS and will advance to TAS 1.

#### **Learning questions**

The Act | East Program proposes focusing on two learning questions in Haiti in FY20. These questions are preliminary and will be agreed upon in consultation with USAID and pending the finalization of the Act | East program-wide learning agenda. Once finalized, additional information around the proposed activities to assist in answering these questions will be developed.

- Many communes in the North and West departments have repeatedly failed pre-TAS and TAS, especially in areas where reported MDA coverage have been acceptable. What are the reasons behind the repeated failures?

- Does the sampling methodology used during TAS adequately represent the focal transmission identified during pre-TAS? Is another sampling framework more appropriate?

### 3. SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY ACTIVITIES (IR2 AND IR3)

#### Data Management

##### Proposed FY20 Activities:

**Activity 1. Integrated database support:** In FY20, Act | East will continue to assist MSPP on the integrated NTD database using staff level of effort (LOE).

**Activity 2. Tool for integrated planning and costing (TIPAC) support:** Based on the new NTD strategic plan, the Act | East team will also plan to conduct an on-the-job refresher training on the TIPAC for the new MSPP staff to identify the essential needs of the program, as well as show any funding gaps following the planned activities.

**Activity 3. MDA real-time data collection training:** In FY20, Act | East will use lessons learned from the FY19 pilot to build a comprehensive two-day training for ASCPs. The first day will be dedicated to general MDA overview, supervision duties and training on the open data kit data collection. The second day will focus on a practicum, where ASCPs will practice using the system on their mobile phones.

#### Drug Management

##### Proposed FY20 Activities:

Act | East will support drug diagnostic clearance and TAS supply shipping, drug storage, drug transport clearance to warehouse, drug transport from national warehouse to communes for non-metropolitan and metropolitan MDA, drug transport from communes to distribution posts for metropolitan and non-metropolitan MDA, drug repackaging, reverse supply-chain of drugs and diagnostic stocks post-MDA/drugs recuperation.

Act | East will supply FTS for Haiti.

#### Mainstreaming and HSS Activities (IR2)

Haiti does not fall under the HSS framework for Act | East FY20, however it is a gender priority country. All gender-related activities will be postponed to FY21.

#### STH (IR3):

##### Proposed FY20 Activities

**Activity 1. STH Strategic Meeting:** The school-based survey has been completed. Once the results from the school-based impact survey have been finalized, Act | East will facilitate a partner meeting in FY20 aimed at developing and validating a strategy for the way forward, including identifying funding gaps and transitioning toward country ownership. This meeting will be a one-day meeting added onto the existing bi-annual Haiti NTD partner meeting in April 2020.

**Activity 2. Integrated MDA:** Act | East will conduct integrated MDA activities in up to 11 communes in FY20. These communes will also support the integrated STH/LF MDA as stated under IR1 planned activities.

