

Mozambique Work Plan

FY 2020

Program Year 2

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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; Save the Children; Sightsavers; and Women Influencing Health, Education, and Rule of Law (WI-HER).

In Mozambique, Act | East Program activities are implemented by RTI International.

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ACRONYM LIST

ASCEND	Accelerating Sustainable Control and Elimination of NTDs
CNTD	Centre for Neglected Tropical Diseases (at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine)
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DSA	Disease-specific assessment
FAA	Fixed amount award
FY	Fiscal year
GET 2020	WHO Alliance for the Global Elimination of Trachoma by 2020
HMIS	Health Management Information System
HSS	Health systems strengthening
INS	<i>Instituto Nacional de Saúde</i> (National Institute of Health)
IR	Intermediate Result
IU	Implementing unit
LF	Lymphatic filariasis
MDA	Mass drug administration
MISAU	<i>Ministério de Saúde</i> (Ministry of Health)
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
NTD	Neglected tropical disease
OV	Onchocerciasis
PC	Preventive chemotherapy
Q	Quarter
REMO	Rapid epidemiological mapping of OV
RTI	RTI International (registered trademark and trade name of Research Triangle Institute)
SAFE	Surgery–Antibiotics–Facial cleanliness–Environmental improvements
SCH	Schistosomiasis
STH	Soil-transmitted helminths
TAS	Transmission Assessment Survey
TF	Trachomatous Inflammation–follicular
TIS	Trachoma Impact Survey
TSS	Trachoma Surveillance Survey
TT	Trachomatous trichiasis
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, sanitation, and hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

NARRATIVE

1. NATIONAL NTD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Mozambique is divided into 159 districts¹ across 11 provinces, with an estimated 2019 population of 28.2 million (projected from 2007 census). Currently, 28 districts require mass drug administration (MDA) for trachoma, 95 for lymphatic filariasis (LF), 159 for schistosomiasis (SCH), and 151 for soil-transmitted helminths (STHs). Mapping has been completed for all five NTDs that are treatable through preventive chemotherapy (PC), although some uncertainty remains about the hypoendemic status of onchocerciasis (OV) in some districts.

Under the coordination of the National Directorate of Public Health, each province is responsible for planning and coordinating NTD activities in each implementing unit (IU). The provincial representatives coordinate activities at the provincial level, act as an intermediary body between the district and national levels, and report to both provincial and national bodies.

At the central level, the *Ministério de Saúde* (Ministry of Health [MISAU]) is organized into two arms: (1) the National Directorate of Public Health, under which the National NTD Program operates; and (2) the National Directorate of Medical Assistance, within which is the Ophthalmology Department. Under both of these arms, the provincial and district directorates of health operate throughout the country. The National NTD Program and the Ophthalmology Department collaborate closely. The National NTD Program maintains responsibility for managing MDA campaigns for trachoma, LF, SCH, and STH, while the Ophthalmology Department manages trichiasis surgeries. Disease-specific assessments (DSAs) for all NTDs are led by the National NTD Program, except for trachoma impact surveys (TISs), trachoma surveillance surveys (TSSs), and trichomatous trichiasis (TT)-only surveys, which are jointly managed between the two arms. MISAU is in the process of restructuring in 2019, which will see the National NTD Program combined with the national Non-Communicable Disease Program, under the leadership of the current NTD Coordinator. Any operational research is typically handled by the *Instituto Nacional de Saúde* (National Institute of Health [INS]), which also sits in MISAU at the national level.

Other NTD Partners

The National NTD Program in Mozambique is fortunate to have highly committed partners collaborating with each other and with MISAU to provide the best possible support. The consortium of partners draws on organizations funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID), which include government units, national nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), international NGOs (INGOs), and private donors. Despite collaboration and support having been strong, two non-USAID-funded NTD projects which supported all LF, SCH, and STH MDA, surveys, and morbidity management in Mozambique are concluding in 2019. Support was provided by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine's Centre for Neglected Tropical Diseases (CNTD) through a group of multidisciplinary initiatives funded by DFID, including a subgrant from the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative for the program called Integrated Control of Schistosomiasis and Intestinal Helminths in Sub-Saharan Africa (ICOSA), to manage the SCH and STH activities.

¹ At the start of ENVISION support in fiscal year 2013 (FY13), Mozambique was composed of 142 districts. Redistricting in the provinces of Maputo, Manica, Nampula, Tete, and Zambézia in 2015 resulted in the current demarcation of 159 districts.

It is expected that the three-year, DFID-funded Accelerating Sustainable Control and Elimination of NTDs (ASCEND) project, recently awarded to Crown Agents, will begin supporting activities previously covered by the other DFID-funded initiatives. The project will focus on two areas: the PC diseases: OV, trachoma, SCH, and LF; and an additional disease, visceral leishmaniasis, that requires innovative and intensified disease management.

The other NTD project to end in 2019 is the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust (The Trust) Trachoma Initiative. In 2014, RTI International was selected to serve as the coordinating partner for The Trust to assist MISAU in coordinating the scale-up of trichiasis surgeries. This five-year project was managed by Sightsavers U.K. through the International Coalition for Trachoma Control. The implementing partners (Light for the World and Sightsavers) worked closely with MISAU at the provincial and district levels and with RTI at the country level. The project built capacity for conducting trichiasis surgical outreach and supported provinces in transitioning their services back to the general health system as TT elimination targets were achieved.

The relationships between the National NTD Program and the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector are expected to continue to grow as partners—including WaterAid, World Vision, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and Save the Children—become increasingly interested in maximizing the impact of WASH activities on NTD control and prevention. Through these partnerships, ENVISION explored ways to disseminate key messages, such as the importance of hand and face washing to prevent eye diseases (among others) via the various partners’ activities. In FY16, WaterAid facilitated sessions for one of the WHO modules on WASH from the Program Managers Training Course. ENVISION and WaterAid also collaborated in a local primary school in Maputo Province on Global Hand Washing Day to introduce key messages on trachoma prevention through face and hand washing. Act | East will continue working on community strategies for addressing NTDs and WASH and advocating for the importance of water and sanitation to help reduce the prevalence of NTDs in Mozambique. Through these partnerships, Act | East will be able to encourage support for the “F” and “E” components of the trachoma elimination SAFE strategy (Surgery–Antibiotics–Facial cleanliness–Environmental improvements).

2. IR1 PLANNED ACTIVITIES: LF, TRACHOMA, OV

Trachoma

In FY20, Act | East will continue to support the trachoma program through MDA, surveys, and dossier development. Act | East will also continue to play an essential role in supporting the central MISAU in national-level coordination of activities. Specific activities in support of trachoma elimination in Mozambique are listed below.

- **Trachoma MDA:** Only one district, Inhassunge, is expected to require MDA in FY20. Act | East will support all components of MDA including district-level training; social mobilization; drug transportation and management, including reverse supply chain activities after MDA; and drug distribution to approximately 104,737 beneficiaries. Although the project anticipates success in the other 27 districts that are planning impact surveys, an empirical review of TIS pass rates from Mozambique and other countries showed that even after completion of the recommended number of rounds with sufficient coverage, some districts’ prevalence rates may remain above 5%. Therefore, Act | East has set aside a contingency budget in the program-level work plan to cover MDA in an estimated 5 additional districts. Funds for investigation into possible TIS failures have also been allocated. For this investigation, Act | East will analyze subdistrict-level MDA data and visit the districts in question, if needed.

- **Trachoma impact and surveillance surveys:** Act | East will support TISs in 27 districts (29 evaluation units) in Q3 and Q4 of FY20 and TSSs in 12 districts (12 evaluation units) in Q1, FY20. For both the impact and surveillance surveys, field teams will assess children between 1 and 9 years old for prevalence of TF and trichomatous inflammation–intense, and people 15 years and older for prevalence of TT, scarring trachoma, corneal opacity, and visual impairment. They will use WHO’s simplified trachoma grading system to identify and register trachoma cases, and they will employ WHO’s Tropical Data service.
- **Training for TIS/TSS:** To prepare for the surveys targeted in FY20, Act | East will train approximately 34 graders and 34 recorders on the Tropical Data protocol, clinical grading, and electronic data capture. This will be a refresher training for the returning graders and many of the recorders.
- **Supervision of TIS/TSS:** MISAU has one certified master grader (Head of the National Department), four certified grader trainers (NTD Coordinator, two ophthalmologists, one ophthalmic technician), and three certified recorder trainers (two RTI staff, one MISAU staff). They will lead and supervise TIS trainings and field implementation, noting that some may only be able to serve as trainers and not supervisors, due to the extensive time commitment involved with data collection. A MISAU grader supervisor and an RTI recorder/logistics supervisor will oversee each field team.
- **Participation in MISAU’s monthly NTD coordination meetings (staff time only):** These meetings will be an opportunity to review the status and progress of planned MISAU NTD activities, to provide input into upcoming activities, and to share the preliminary results of activities supported by Act | East.
- **Participation in PC-NTD partner coordination meetings (staff time only):** RTI will coordinate quarterly meetings among the partners, including WHO, USAID, the ASCEND consortium, and others that support the MISAU national PC-NTD program. These meetings will constitute an opportunity to discuss the activities implemented by each partner, to identify opportunities for collaboration, and to avoid duplication.
- **Ongoing development of the trachoma elimination dossier:** In FY20, Act | East will technically support quarterly sessions, bringing together the WHO, the MISAU NTD team, and partners involved in trachoma elimination efforts. The purpose will be to jointly review the dossier drafts, harmonize information, address any challenges, and decide on next steps.

Lymphatic Filariasis

It is expected that the ASCEND project will take over support for LF MDA and DSAs; however, Act | East will provide technical support as needed, specifically:

- **Ongoing development of the LF elimination dossier (staff time only):** At MISAU’s request, RTI will provide technical support to MISAU in preparing for LF MDA and surveys. RTI will review the information and documents needed for the LF elimination dossier and compile those that are available. Through informal work sessions at MISAU, twice during FY20, RTI will assist MISAU in continuing to prepare a preliminary version of the dossier’s narrative and data annex files based on the information available.

3. SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY ACTIVITIES (IR2 AND IR3)

Drug Management

In FY20, Act | East will continue to support routine supply chain management activities for the trachoma MDA planned in one district (Inhassunge). The assistance will include transportation, supervision, reverse supply chain oversight, and—where necessary—incineration of expired drugs. Act | East expects that the country will have sufficient inventory remaining in-country following the FY19 MDA campaign to support MDA in this district. Therefore, Act | East will support the transportation of this inventory from the provincial medicine warehouses to Inhassunge.

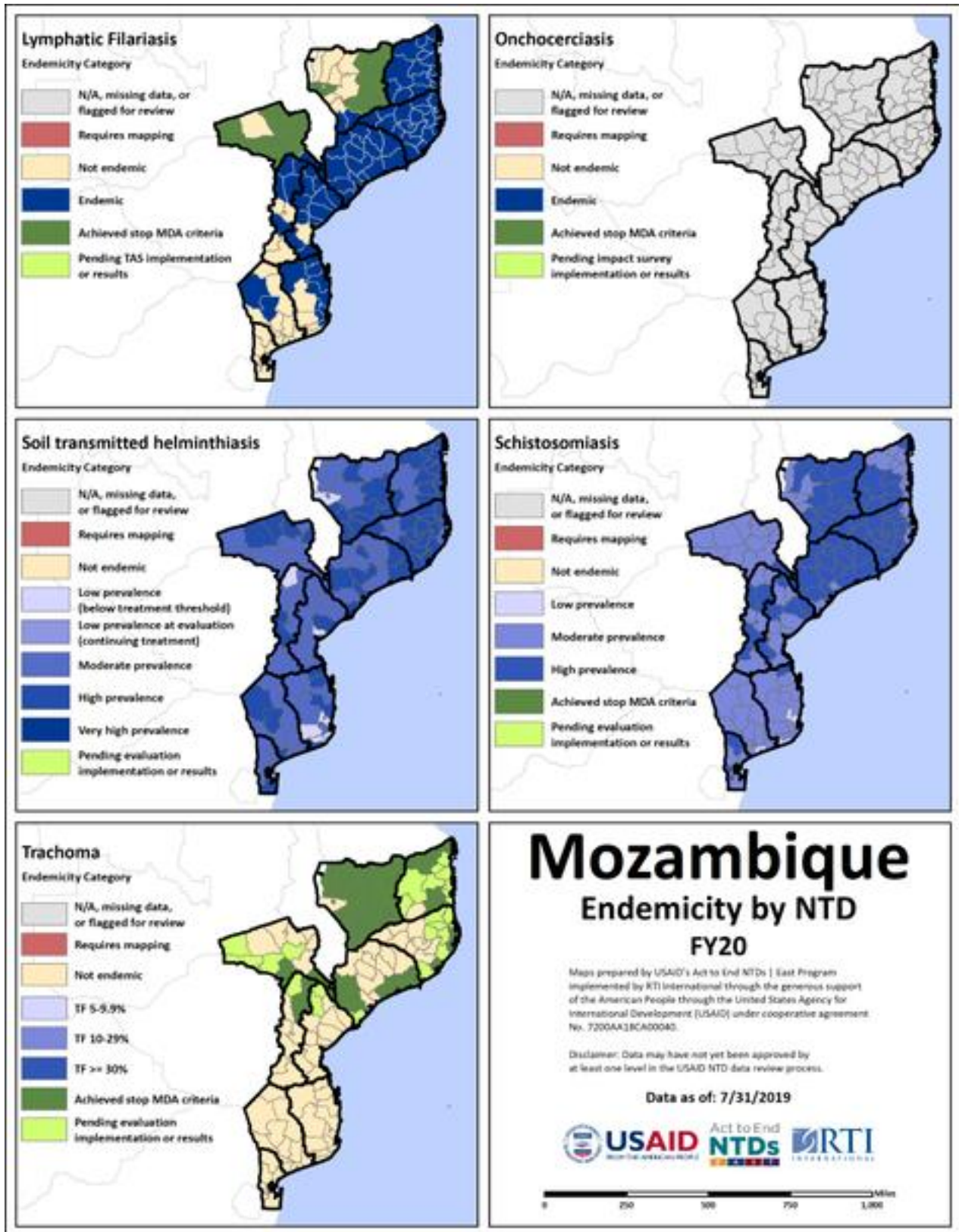
Although Act | East does not anticipate additional MDA in FY21, the program will continue supporting MISAU to complete the Trachoma Elimination Monitoring Form.

Mainstreaming and Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) Activities (IR2)

In FY20, Act | East will document the NTD successes and identify challenges within the health system that, once addressed, will create an enabling environment for the country to meet the global control and elimination goals and to sustain these gains. Specific activities include:








Activity 1: Rapid assessment: Through short-term technical assistance from a local consultant, Act | East will compile comprehensive records and document the implementation of the Mozambique NTD program from 2014–2019, when USAID’s ENVISION project supported the program. The assessors will review existing literature, interview stakeholders and partners of the NTD program, and participate in ongoing NTD- and HSS-related meetings in country. They will present the findings in (1) a booklet that can be disseminated to various partners, and (2) a presentation that can be conducted at various domestic and international conferences.

APPENDIX 1: MAPS



Mozambique

Progress towards Elimination in FY20 Trachoma

-  Not endemic
-  Endemic, in MDA phase
-  Pending DSA results
-  TIS in FY20
-  TSS in FY20
-  In post-MDA surveillance phase
-  Requires mapping

Data as of: 7/31/2019

Data Source: USAID's WTD Database

Maps prepared by USAID's Act to End NTDs (AEN) Program implemented by RTI International through the generous support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under cooperative agreement No. 7200AA18C00040.

Disclaimer: Data may have not yet been approved by at least one level in the USAID WTD data review process.

