

# Act to End NTDs | East

## FY22 Q1 Monthly Updates

**October 1, 2021– December 31, 2021**

Cooperative Agreement No. 7200AA18CA00040

Prepared for  
Rob Henry, AOR  
Office of Infectious Diseases  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington DC, 20532

Prepared by  
RTI International  
3040 Cornwallis Road  
Post Office Box 12194  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194



## **Act to End NTDs | 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 RTI International with a consortium of partners, led by RTI International and including includes 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)

October 2021

ETHIOPIA

Act | East Partner: RTI, Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF), Light for the World (LFTW), WI-HER, R4D

Total population: 109,654,569

COP: Biruck Kebede

Districts: 870

RTI HQ Team: Scott McPherson, Sabrina Eyob, Dano Gunderson, Elizabeth Plunkett, Molly Brady, Wangeci Thuo

Endemic diseases: LF (75), TRA (699), OV (222), SCH (424), STH (546)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF	OV	STH	Trachoma
<b>MDA</b>	<b>0/1 district + 0/1 camp</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG (0/1 camp)</li> <li>• Oromia-FHF (0/1 district)</li> </ul>	<b>0/83 districts + 0/5 refugee camps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG (0/16 districts)</li> <li>• BG (0/5 camps)</li> <li>• Oromia-LFTW (0/67 districts)</li> </ul>	<b>0/1 district</b>	<b>0/52 districts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gambella (0/6 districts)</li> <li>• Oromia-FHF (0/46 districts)</li> </ul>
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	<b>Pre-TAS: 0/10 districts + 0/1 camp</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG (0/5 districts)</li> <li>• BG (0/1 refugee camp)</li> <li>• Oromia-LFTW (0/5 districts)</li> </ul> <b>TAS1: 0/20 districts + 0/3 camps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG (0/9 districts)</li> <li>• BG (0/3 camps)</li> <li>• Oromia-LFTW (0/11 districts)</li> </ul>			<b>TIS: 0/122 districts + 0/7 refugee camps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG (0/2 districts)</li> <li>• Gambella (0/3 districts)</li> <li>• Gambella (0/7 camps)</li> <li>• Oromia-FHF (0/88 districts)</li> <li>• Oromia-LFTW (0/29 districts)</li> </ul> <b>TSS: 0/54 districts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG (0/6 districts)</li> <li>• Gambella (0/4 districts)</li> <li>• Oromia-FHF (0/13 districts)</li> <li>• Oromia-LFTW (0/31 districts)</li> </ul>
<b>MERLA</b>	<b>Sub-district level MDA and SCT data (Partners)-</b> Waiting for partners to submit this information. <b>CES (FHF)-</b> FHF is working on data collector recruitment. <b>Gambella Region-DQA (RTI)-</b> Field work complete. Data cleaning and report writing is underway.			
<b>HSS</b>	<b>NTD Sustainability Plan Document-</b> Awaiting MOH endorsement. <b>Third National Master Plan Costing-</b> RTI supported the development of detailed activity of the master plan. The MOH is now developing the actual costing based on these detailed activities. <b>Rapid GESI Assessment (RTI-Gambella)-</b> Completed in FY21. Data analysis is underway. <b>Rapid GESI Assessment (FHF-Oromia)-</b> Completed in FY21. Data analysis is underway. <b>GESI Assessment Poster-</b> To be presented to the Triangle Global Health Consortium conference in November 2021.			

Summary and explanation of **changes** made to table above since last month:

- Table has been updated with approved FY22 activities.

Highlights:

- RTI in collaboration with BG RHB completed LF TAS2 in 4 districts and pre-TAS in 2 refugee camps (FY21 activity).
- RTI in collaboration with BG RHB completed trachoma TSS in five districts and two refugee camps of Assosa zone; results are being finalized (FY21 activity).

- Report writing is underway for the ongoing DSA investigation in 15 districts by Act I East partners.
- At the request of the MOH, RTI staff participated in a Tropical Data TOT. A total of 19 grader candidates attended the training, 12 of which qualified to be grader trainers, 2 as standard graders, and the remaining 5 trainees did not qualify. All 14 recorder trainees qualified as to be trainers. This should alleviate current challenges related to the shortage of qualified trainers in the country.
- RTI supported ten one-day woreda-level annual NTD review meetings focusing on the annual MDA performance. Participants reviewed sub-district MDA coverage and SCT reports which will be compiled into a final report as required as the final FAA milestone.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- **TIS in Gambella Camps:** RTI will undertake TIS in the seven refugee camps of Gambella region in January 2021.
- Multiple woredas are still on hold to receive MDA in Horoguduru zone in Beneshangul-Gumuz due to insecurity.

**Other upcoming activities:**

- Act | East partners will continue to provide technical support to RHBs and districts to report MDA coverage via DHIS2 in November 2021.
- Act I East partners will continue to provide technical support and follow up for compilation of sub-district level MDA data as part of the FY21 FAA deliverables.
- Partners will continue to undertake preparatory activities related to FY22 trachoma DSAs.
- RTI will hold a virtual country-level Act | East partners meeting with the aim of making it a recurring monthly meeting.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/et>

National: [ከቪ.ድ-19 – ስለ ከቪ.ድ-19 \(ephi.gov.et\)](https://www.eph.gov.et)

October 2021

HAITI

**Act | East Partners:** RTI, WI-HER

**COP:** Uder Antoine

**RTI HQ Team:** Katie Crowley, Amy Veinoglou, Danu Gunderson, Elizabeth Plunkett

**Total population:** 11.7 million (2020 est.)

**Districts:** 140 communes

**Endemic diseases:** LF (140) STH (140)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22**

	LF	STH
<b>MDA</b>	0/7 communes	0/7 communes
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	TAS2 in 0/2 EUs TAS3 in 0/4 EUs	N/A
<b>MERLA</b>	National LF Pause and Reflect Meeting Pre-MDA census in 2 communes Coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 2 communes MDA real-time data collection in 7 communes	

**Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:**

- Table has been updated with approved FY22 activities.

**Security and fuel crisis update:** The security situation in Haiti continues to be precarious with increased reports of kidnapping and gang activity. There was a national fuel shortage the week of October 19<sup>th</sup>, and a strike from October 25-27<sup>th</sup>, which led RTI’s office to close temporarily. The fuel shortage has yet to be resolved. Gangs have blocked key fuel distribution points in the south, with gang leaders claiming that they will authorize distribution only once the Prime Minister resigns. The fuel shortage has delayed the pre-MDA census planned in one commune in November.

**Highlights:**

- RTI completed staff recruitment and onboarding for USAID’s Act | East Haiti program. The Act | East Haiti team met with the national NTD coordinator, Dr. Telfort, to present and discuss planned FY22 activities.
- RTI received remaining DEC and ALB from IMA and is storing the drugs at the RTI office in Port-au-Prince in preparation for the FY22 MDA. The majority of the DEC expires in May 2022 and all of the ALB expires in May or July 2022.
- The Act | East team began preparations for the national LF Pause and Reflect meeting planned for December 13-15<sup>th</sup>, including developing the key learning questions and draft meeting agenda and extending invitations to key partners and stakeholders. The team has been holding weekly data discovery meetings to review and analyze results from FY21 *data-forward approach* activities, including the pre-MDA census, Milot operational research study, and GESI assessment. Act | East

will continue to refine the agenda and key learning questions in collaboration with MSPP, USAID, and partners leading up to the meeting.

- Act | East met virtually with the departmental and communal nurses to plan for the upcoming pre-MDA census activity in Cabaret and Arcahaie. In light of the ongoing security and fuel shortage challenges, the group outlined a feasible plan to achieve recruitment, training and operation before the end of the calendar year.
- Act | East drafted a term of reference (TOR) for the planned social mobilization consultancy. The TOR is being reviewed by MSPP and USAID before it will be posted in mid-November.
- Act | East followed up with the national coordinator about the Joint Application Package (JAP) and will continue to monitor this to ensure the JAP is submitted on time.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- When the fuel shortage is no longer limiting travel, Act | East will begin recruitment and training of surveyors and supervisors for the pre-MDA census in Cabaret and Arcahaie (West Department). This is a community-based activity; a house-to-house census to collect population data for MDA and future surveys. Surveyors chosen from their local places will meet with household members to collect information such as demographic data as well some data related to acceptability and social mobilization regarding MDA in the communes of interest.
- The RTI Act | East Haiti team will hold a staff retreat in early December to foster team building, strengthen collaboration and improve communication across the new team.

**Other upcoming activities:**

- The national LF Pause and Reflect meeting will be held virtually from December 13-15<sup>th</sup> and will include participation from the MSPP, implementing partners, donors, and PAHO/WHO.
- Signature of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between RTI and the MOH and MENFP.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

WHO: [Haiti covid-19 updates](#)

MSPP: [SurveillancedelaCOVID-19, Haiti, 2020-2021](#)

October 2021

INDONESIA

Act | East Partner: RTI

COP: Jim Johnson

RTI HQ Team: Alexis Serna, Nandini Pillai, Nancy Warren,  
Sinan Hatik

Total population: 274,859,094

Districts: 514

Endemic diseases: # ever endemic districts  
LF (236), SCH (2), STH (514)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF
DSAs (#EUs)	Pre-TAS : 2/12 EUs TAS2 : 0/17 EUs TAS3 : 1/6 EUs Mini-TAS : 0/1 Eus

Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:

- Updated table with approved FY22 activities.
- Updated number of surveys completed during October 2021.

Highlights:

- **Pre-TAS** were organized in collaboration with the MOH in the districts of Barito Timur, Central Kalimantan from October 11 to 17; and Nabire, Papua from October 17 to 28, 2021. These surveys were all community-based, targeting children and adults 5-60 years old. Results for the survey in Barito Timur are pending laboratory analysis of the night blood samples by the relevant Regional Environmental Laboratory. The survey in Nabire used FTS and all sample results were negative.
- A school-based **TAS3** was organized one EU of Lebak district, Baten province in collaboration with the MOH from October 20 to November 2 using FTS among children aged 6 to 7 years old. Although schools are at 50% capacity due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the survey team worked with school administrations to ensure that eligible students were at schools on the days survey teams were visiting. No major adaptations to the regular survey methodology were required. Results are pending survey completion in the second EU in the district.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- **TAS3** is planned in the second EU of Lebak district in November 2021.
- **Pre-TAS** are tentatively planned during the month of November 2021 in the districts of Bulungan, Sumba Barat, Mamberamo Tengah, Manggari Timur, and Bogor.
- **TAS2** is tentatively planned in the district of Tasikmalaya, West Java province in November 2021.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/searo/country/id>

National: [Beranda](#) | [Covid19.go.id](#)

October 2021

MOZAMBIQUE

**Act | East Partner:** RTI

**COP:** Dr Mawo Fall

**RTI HQ Team:** Scott McPherson, Sabrina Eyob, Danielle Epps, Keerthana Hirudayakanth, Molly Brady, Wangeci Thuo

**Total population:** 30,881,854

**Districts:** 161

**Endemic diseases:** LF (113), OV (5), SCH (159), STH (151), Trachoma (65)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22**

	Trachoma
<b>MDA</b>	0/8 districts
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	<b>TIS:</b> 0/6 EUs
<b>MERLA</b>	The Act   East data officer is regularly working with MISAU and ASCEND project to update all NTD data in the integrated database from 2017 to present. Tool completion and updates are presented during technical meetings.

**Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:**

- Table has been updated with approved FY22 activities.

**Highlights:**

- The Chinde Coverage Evaluation Survey validated reported coverage. The reported MDA coverage for the August 2021 MDA was 88% and the survey coverage was 91.5%. The survey included 291 households and a total of 1,245 respondents.
- The Act | East COP supported the NTD coordinator to prepare a presentation on the smartphone-based screening tool to identify trachomatous trichiasis for the November 2021 ASTMH meeting. The NTD coordinator will present learnings from the field training where 991 photos were taken and evaluated.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- **National Stakeholders Meeting:** Scheduled for November 2021.
- **FAA development:** MDA FAA planning meetings with provincial and district staff in Nampula and Manica, November 2021.
- **TT smartphone tool testing:** RTI will support the testing of the tool in two districts (Chemba district, Sofala province and Guro district, Manica province) in December 2021.
- **Conflict Planning Meeting:** Act | East and MISAU staff will travel to Cabo Delgado to meet with local authorities in December 2021.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/mz>

National: <https://www.misau.gov.mz/>



## October 2021

### NEPAL

**Act | East Partner:** RTI, WI-HER, R4D

**COP:** Dharmpal Prasad Raman

**RTI HQ Team:** Alexis Serna, Nandini Pillai, Nancy Warren,  
Sinan Hatik

**Total population:** 30,201,100 (2021 estimate)

**Districts:** 77

**Endemic diseases:** # ever endemic districts:  
LF (63), Trachoma (20) & STH (77)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22**

	LF
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	Re Pre-TAS: 0/10 districts TAS1 : 0/7 districts TAS2 : 0/16 districts TAS3 : 0/13 districts
<b>HSS</b>	Domestic Resource Mobilization Case Study: November- December 2022 GESI Behavior Change Activity: December 2021- April 2022

#### Summary and explanation of **changes** made to table above since last month:

- Table has been updated with approved FY22 activities.

#### Highlights:

- FAA signed with VBDRTC to conduct school-based TAS 2 in 10 districts (Bhojpur, Udayapur, Dailekh, Accham, Bajura, Doti, Dadeldhura, Baitadi, Bajhang and Darchula). VBDRTC completed district level orientation in 9/10 districts. The activity could not be completed in Bajhang district due to a roadblock caused by a landslide and will be completed soon after the road is re-opened. TAS2 in these districts was originally planned for April-May 2021 but was delayed due to a rise in COVID cases in target districts at that time.

#### Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- Field work for TAS 2 in six districts (Jarjarkot, Lalitpur Rural, Myagdi, Sunsari, Surkhet, and Tehrathum) in Nov-Dec 2021.
- Field work for TAS 2 in 10 districts (Bhojpur, Udayapur, Dailekh, Accham, Bajura, Bhajhang, Doti, Dadeldhura, Baitadi and Darchula) and orientation meetings and field work for TAS 1 in two districts (Bardiya and Dhankuta) in Nov-Dec 2021.
- Protocol development, orientation meetings and field work for Re Pre TAS in five districts (Morang, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke and Kailali) in Dec 2021-Jan 2022.
- NTD Steering Committee meeting in Nov-Dec 2021.
- LF MDA School Awareness Programs in two districts (Jhapa and Bara) in Dec 2021-Feb 2022.
- LF MDA Technical Support in two municipalities of Bara district in Dec 2021-March 2022.

#### COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/searo/country/np>

National: <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/>

October 2021

NIGERIA

**Act | East Partner:** RTI, The Carter Center, R4D

**COP:** Benjamin Nwobi

**RTI HQ Team:** Scott McPherson, Sabrina Eyob, Danielle Epps, Keerthana Hirudayakanth, Molly Brady, Wangeci Thuo

**Total population:** 207.8 million

**Districts (LGAs):** 774

**Endemic diseases:** LF (553), OV (449), SCH (691), STH (415), Trachoma (143)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22**

	LF	OV	SCH	STH
<b>MDA</b>	<b>0/40 districts</b> (0/39 TCC, 0/1 RTI)	<b>0/98 districts</b> (0/83 TCC, 0/15 RTI)	<b>0/90 districts</b> (TCC)	<b>0/120 districts</b> (TCC)
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	<b>Pre-TAS : 0/39</b> (TCC 0/38, RTI 0/1) <b>TAS 1 : 1/38</b> (TCC 0/37, RTI 1/1)			

**Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:**

- Table has been updated with approved FY22 activities.
- TAS 1 completed in Bekwara, delayed from September 2021.

**Highlights:**

- Act | East staff participated in meeting organized by FMOH between October 11-15, 2021 in Abuja to finalize the draft National Onchocerciasis Elimination Guideline. The draft guideline was reviewed to ensure it aligns with the national plan and the final draft is being awaited from FMOH.
- Act | East staff participated in the National Trachoma Task Force (NTTF) Meeting organized by FMOH in Abuja between October 21-22, 2021. The key resolutions from the meeting include:
  - NTTF to conduct interviews with individuals to provide historical information that will help to enrich the Trachoma Dossier narrative.
  - Outstanding surgical audits will not be conducted until security improves in affected states.
  - Partners should support the states to ensure that TT surgery supervision reports are submitted to the NTTF.
- Act | East staff participated in the meeting organized by FMOH to develop the draft Lymphatic Filariasis MMDP Guideline for Nigeria. FMOH is expected to share the developed draft guideline document for further review by partners.
- Act | East staff conducted a feedback meeting with stakeholders in Ebonyi State to discuss result of failed pre-TAS LGAs and plans for follow-up MDA.
- Act | East staff supported Enugu and Ebonyi states SMOH to conduct state-level and LGA-level Health Workers' trainings for MDA.
- MERLA focal point (HQ) and the Act | East Nigeria Implementation Manager facilitated orientation for a newly hired MERLA specialist.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- **Strategic Planning Meeting:** The CRS State NTD program propose to conduct their annual NTD meetings with stakeholders in November 2021.
- **Pre-MDA and MDA activities:** Advocacy meetings, training of Health Workers, and MDA supervision planned to be conducted in Delta, Enugu, Ebonyi, Edo and Imo States in November 2021 for OV/LF MDA.
- **LF TAS 1:** LF TAS 1 in 6 LGAs of Imo, and 1 LGA in Ebonyi States tentatively scheduled for November 2021.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/ng>

National: [NCDC Coronavirus COVID-19 Microsite](#)

## October 2021

### PHILIPPINES

**Act | East Partner:** RTI , R4D

**RTI HQ Team:** Alexis Serna, Nandini Pillai, Nancy Warren, Sinan Hatik

**Total population:** 112,919,769

**Districts/Provinces:** 82

**Endemic diseases:** # ever endemic districts  
LF (47) SCH (29) STH (82)

#### Activities supported by Philippines DOH in 2022

	LF	SCH	STH
<b>MDA</b>	0/2 provinces	0/29 provinces	0/82 provinces
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	TAS1 : 0/2 TAS2 : 0/6 TAS3 : 0/7		

#### Activities supported by USAID in FY22

<b>HSS</b>	NTD costing analysis and province/municipality TA
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#### Summary and explanation of **changes** made to table above since last month:

- Updated list of planned TAS and MDA, all supported by the DOH.

#### Highlights:

- Act | East secured an extended branding waiver for materials Act | East reproduced and shared with health officials in Sultan Kudarat, a province with ongoing conflict and the site of the first IDA pilot MDA in the Philippines. The IDA MDA was originally scheduled for October 2021 but has been re-scheduled to July 2022.
- Draft training materials and M&E indicators for the NTD Pre-Service Curricula have been approved by the Commission for Higher Education (CHED). Act | East played a significant role in developing these materials and facilitating their review and approval by the DOH and CHED. Health science universities are scheduled to re-open in January with a flexible learning schedule and NTD pre-service curricula materials will be woven into curricula for medical, nursing, physical therapy, medical technology and midwifery students.
- Financing consultant Dr. Liezel Rombaua conducted preliminary interviews with regional health units on their LF programs. DOH restructuring and policy changes are expected to impact regional budgets next year.

#### Upcoming activities:

- Act | East staff and consultants are invited to participate in DOH organizational development and program restructuring discussions that will impact sub-national level budgets and disease-specific donor programs.

#### COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

The COVID-19 situation in the Philippines stabilized in the last week of October down to 3,000 reported new cases per day from a peak of 20,000 a day in the August 2021 surge.

WHO: [WHO Philippines | World Health Organization](#)

National: [COVID tracker Philippines - Bing](#)

[COVID-19 Case Tracker | Department of Health website \(doh.gov.ph\)](#)P

## October 2021

### SOUTHEAST ASIA (BANGLADESH, LAO PDR, VIET NAM)

**Act | East Partner:** RTI, FHF in Vietnam

**Total population:** Bangladesh (173,346,194); Lao PDR (7,119,891); Viet Nam (95,913,875)

**Districts:** Bangladesh (64); Lao PDR (17); Viet Nam (63)

**RTI HQ Team:** Alexis Serna, Nandini Pillai, Nancy Warren, Sinan Hatik

**Endemic diseases:** Bangladesh LF (19) STH (64); Lao PDR LF (1) STH (1), SCH (17); Viet Nam LF (4), STH (63), TRA (15).

**TABLE: Activities in FY22, non-USAID funding**

	LF	Trachoma
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	Bangladesh TAS3: 0/1 (TAS3 supported by WHO)  Lao PDR TAS3: 0/1 (TAS3 supported by WHO)	Viet Nam TSS: focal areas of Lung Ho commune (TSS supported by FHF)
<b>MERLA</b>	Learning activity on dossier development models	

#### Summary and explanation of **changes** made to table above since last month:

- Table has been updated with FY22 activities.

#### Bangladesh

##### Highlights:

- DIP survey started in LF high-endemic districts. Survey is expected to be completed by the end of November.
- TAS3 in Rangpur is scheduled to begin November 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Dr. Ramaiah Kapa updated the national LF dossier draft. The dossier is expected to be ready for submission in January 2022, pending completion of the DIP and TAS3 surveys.

##### Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- Act | East will support photography of the DIP survey in Lalmonirhat, a high-endemic district, through a local photographer. The photographer is expected to accompany the survey team and the Act | East technical consultant on Nov 20-23<sup>rd</sup>.

##### COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

- WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/searo/country/bd>
- National: [করোনা ভাইরাস ইনফো ২০১৯ - Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Information Bangladesh | corona.gov.bd](#)



## Lao PDR

### Highlights:

- TAS3 in Attapeu is scheduled to begin November 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Act | East technical consultant Dr. Ramaiah Kapa and Act | East Asia Regional Advisor Jim Johnson continued to develop a draft document to support post-validation surveillance plans in the LF dossier. These documents will be shared for comment with WHO Lao who will discuss opportunities to implement PVS with the Lao PDR government (CPME).

## Viet Nam

### Highlights:

- Although COVID rates have reduced across the country, the rainy season started in the northern areas of the country making it difficult to reach the 2-4 villages in Lung Ho province that were not reached in the TSS that took place last year. VNEH agreed to complete the survey in these villages and FHF agreed to fund the activity. The teams will re-visit a survey plan following the rainy season in March- April 2022.



October 2021

TANZANIA

Act | East Partners: RTI, WI-HER, R4D

COP: Shabbir Lalji

RTI HQ Team: Katie Crowley, Amy Veinoglou, Lisa Chowthi Brooks, Erica Shoemaker, Wangeci Thuo, Upendo Mwingira

Total population: 57.6 million (2021)

Districts: 184

Endemic diseases: LF (119), TRA (71), OV (28), SCH (184), STH (184)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF	OV	SCH	STH	Trachoma
<b>Mapping</b>	N/A	OV Elimination mapping: 0/4 districts OV Exclusion mapping: 0/2 districts	N/A	N/A	Desk review: 0/6 districts
<b>MDA</b>	0/4 districts	0/9 districts (R1) 0/28 districts (R2)	0/8 districts	0/41 districts	0/5 districts
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	Re-Pre-TAS: 0/1 district TAS1: 0/1 EU TAS3: 0/24 EUs iTAS: 0/7 Eus	Pre-stop MDA survey (epi): 0/1 district Stop-MDA survey (epi & ent): 0/3 districts iTAS: 0/7 EUs	0/4 districts	N/A	TIS: 0/6 EUs TSS: 0/2 EUs

<b>MERLA</b>	Coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 9 districts (0/4 LF, 0/4 OV, 0/1 TRA) Trachoma DSA Outcome investigation in 0/5 districts Trachoma MDA microplanning in 0/5 districts
<b>HSS</b>	Develop M&E plan for the sustainability activities in the NTD Master Plan Launch NTD Master Plan and Sustainability Plan Support TZNTDCP integration into the health sector planning SWAp TWG Support Comprehensive Council Health Plan (CCHP) development Strengthen federal and district capacity for planning, budgeting, and resource mobilization Advocacy Strategy Implementation: 1 high-level national and 1 regional/district level meeting GESI iDARE/behavior change activity in 5 districts

Summary and explanation of **changes** made to table above since last month:

- Table updated with approved FY22 activities.

Highlights:

- RTI completed staff recruitment and onboarding for USAID’s Act | East Tanzania program. Recruitment is ongoing for the final vacant position, a MERLA Officer to be based in Dodoma. Act | East conducted an introductory meeting with the Tanzania national NTD Control Program (NTDCP) on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

- Act | East Tanzania and the NTDCP prepared to implement the iTAS in 7 EUs that was originally planned in FY21. The team held an orientation session on October 21<sup>st</sup> with Act | East HQ to review and finalize the protocol and prepare for the survey training. Pre-visits to the 7 EUs (Mpwapwa DC, Mpanda DC, Nachingwea DC, Ruangwa DC, Liwale DC, Njombe TC, Bagamoyo DC & Chalinze DC) began on October 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Act | East is supporting the NTDCP to develop protocols for an enhanced OV coverage evaluation survey (CES) 4 districts (Ifakara TC, Mlimba DC, Malinyi DC and Ulanga DC), which includes a qualitative component, and LF CES in 4 districts (Kilwa DC, Mtama DC, Mtwara-Mikindani MC and Mafia DC).
- The protocol for trachoma surveillance surveys (TSS) in 2 EUs of Songwe DC and Kalambo DC was approved by Tropical Data.
- Act | East developed first drafts of the FY22 Fixed Amount Award (FAA) packages for MDA implementation in the districts and regions, including completing the pre-award assessment for each district and region.
- OV16 Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) kits arrived in country on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and are in the process of being cleared from customs. The application for the import permit of Zithromax tablets and Zithromax POS was also initiated.
- From October 16 – 19<sup>th</sup>, Act | East supported NTDCP in contributing to the formulation of the new sector wide approach (SWAp) implementation framework that will implement the current Health Sector Strategic Plan 5 (HSSP V). New TWGs were formulated with proposed 7 TWGs instead of 11 under previous HSSP IV. NTDCP will belong to TWG number 3 - Service Delivery. The SWAp secretariat put forward a follow up action for NTDCP to formulate priority interventions to be integrated into the respective TWG.
- Planning was initiated for supporting comprehensive council health plan (CCHP) development to advocate for NTD domestic resource mobilization to 6 districts (Mkalama DC, Kilombero DC, Longido DC, Kibaha DC, Mkuranga DC and Moshi DC).

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- **iTAS team trainings** will be conducted on November 3–4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 followed by fieldwork from November 5–21<sup>st</sup>.
- **OV CES pre-visits** in 4 districts (Mlimba DC, Ulanga DC, Ifakara DC, Malinyi DC), and **LF CES pre-visits** in 4 districts (Kilwa DC, Mtama DC, Mtwara-Mikindani MC and Mafia DC) will begin on November 10<sup>th</sup>, with training of field teams from November 14<sup>th</sup> and field work from November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- **Trachoma surveillance surveys (TSS)** will be conducted from November 15 – December 3<sup>rd</sup>, starting with a pre-visit to the districts (November 15-21<sup>st</sup>), followed by refresher training for the survey teams (November 22-23<sup>rd</sup>) and data collection in the field (November 24-December 3<sup>rd</sup>).
- **Regional Review and Planning meetings:** Act | East will support the NTDCP to organize disease-specific regional review and planning meetings in early December 2021. This will involve separate review meetings for LF, trachoma, OV and SCH/STH districts held in four different regional centers (covering all the 13 regions and 52 districts implementing MDA in FY22). In preparation for these

meetings, national facilitators will first hold an orientation from 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Act | East will secure a large venue with good ventilation that can accommodate social distancing amongst participants (meeting size will range from 19 – 31 participants per meeting) and provide masks and hand sanitizers.

- **Support Comprehensive Council Health Plan (CCHP) development:** TZNTDCP will be working with PORALG in planning to meet the targeted councils for NTD funding from councils' own budgets. This activity is planned to start in November 2021.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

**WHO:** <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/tz>

**National:** <https://www.moh.go.tz/en/covid-19-info>

## October 2021

### UGANDA

**Act | East Partner:** RTI, The Carter Center, WI-HER, R4D, Save the Children **Total population:** 41,740,474 (2019)

**COP:** Benjamin Binagwa

**Districts:** 134

**RTI HQ Team:** Katie Crowley, Amy Veinoglou, Helena Molina, Elizabeth Plunkett, Richard Killian, Upendo Mwingira

**Endemic diseases:** LF (64), TRA (51), OV (32), SCH (92), STH (134)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22**

	LF	OV	SCH	STH	Trachoma
<b>MDA</b>	N/A	6/9 districts (R1) 0/11 districts (R2)	N/A	N/A	5/5 districts (Oct 2021) 0/2 districts (Sept 2022)
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	TAS3: 0/17 EUs	N/A	N/A	N/A	TIS: 0/3 districts
<b>MERLA</b>	Trachoma coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 3 districts Data quality assessment in Moroto NTD data management training using DHIS2				
<b>HSS</b>	Develop national NTD program advocacy strategy (in progress) Targeted cost analysis National and district funds flow analysis Finalize and institutionalize GESI MDA training curriculum Develop national SBC packages for NTDs and GESI				

#### Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:

- Updated table with approved FY22 activities.
- Updated completed OV and TRA MDAs and in progress HSS activity.

#### Highlights:

- **Joint MDA Launch with Kenya:** Act | East supported the Ministry of Health to organize a launch event for the joint cross-border MDA with Kenya on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at Alakas Primary School in Amudat district. The function was presided over by the Minister for Karamoja Affairs, Hon. Dr. Mary Goretti Kitutu. The Kenya team was led by the NTD Program Manager at the Ministry of Health and the West Pokot Minister of Health. MDA effectively started on both sides of the border on October 22<sup>nd</sup> with Uganda focusing on Moroto, Amudat, Nakapiripirit and Nabilatuk. During our cross-border review meeting, our Kenyan colleagues informed us that they had not started treatment on the Turkana side because of budgetary limitations but promised to start on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November. In the meantime, pre-MDA activities are ongoing in Turkana with microplanning already completed.
- **Community registration and social mobilization:** Registration of communities was completed prior to the start of MDA to ascertain the number of people to be treated and guide the quantification of medicines required. This was followed by social mobilization of communities for MDA using mobile vans, megaphones, radio talk shows, radio jingles and announcements.

- **Drug distribution and MDA supervision:** Medicine distribution in the districts of Nabilatuk, Amudat, Moroto and Nakapiripirit started on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2021. While this was planned to take only 7 days, in Nakapiripirit, Moroto and Amudat the exercise took longer because of insecurity caused by cattle rustling (Moroto and Nakapiripirit) and continued influx of communities from Kenya, most notable in Amudat. This led to unavoidable extension of distribution of medicines to ensure no one was left untreated. Supportive supervision was provided by teams comprising of MOH, Act | East and the district local government officers. A supervision check list and data verification guide were used to guide the MDA supervision and data validation processes. District NTD Focal persons were assigned specific sub-counties to supervise, supported by central level team members. In some districts like Moroto and Amudat, district local government officers like RDCs, LC5 chairpersons and security officers supported the teams in field supervision, especially in areas where there were obvious challenges. They worked together with sub county and parish supervisors to ensure all eligible community members were reached with medicines. Both health workers and VHTs were involved in medicine distribution in order to reach all areas and the different population segments. All districts where MDA took place were categorized as hard to reach because of the terrain, the location of the communities including gold mines, distant kraals and urban and peri-urban populations. In some of the districts, health workers camped in the hard-to-reach areas and the kraals for about 3 to 5 days until MDA was completed. Sub-county security officers were involved in areas where there was insecurity.
- **MDA outreach for pastoralist populations:** MDA outreach was conducted in the districts of Kween and Bulambuli where pastoralists from Amudat and West Pokot in Kenya had gone to look for pasture and water for their animals. This was carried out by a team comprising of health workers and the NTD focal person from Amudat, Act | East staff, the MoH Trachoma Program Manager and district staff from Kween and Bulambuli. A pre-visit to these districts and mapping of the kraals was done prior to drug distribution.
- **GESI behavior change activity completed in Moroto district,** with additional support and coaching to behavior change teams in Lotisan and Nadunget sub-counties during MDA, to help their efforts in engaging with the relevant cohorts to complete behavior change tools and journals and encourage uptake during MDA. Finalization of all completed tools and journals, and a final report is in progress, with preliminary results among the cohorts being gathered virtually.
- **Onchocerciasis MDA:** The Carter Center supported OV MDA in the districts of Gulu, Adjumani, Kitgum, Moyo, Lira and Omoro. Data verification and compilation is ongoing.
- **Advocacy Strategy Development:** A final draft of the Uganda national NTD Program Advocacy Strategy was completed and shared with the MOH and Act | East for review.

#### Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- **Reverse supply chain:** Act | East will support reverse logistics to retrieve and quantify the balances of medicines after completion of the trachoma MDA in the 5 districts through November 2021. Any remaining balances of medicines will be stored at the district medical stores.
- **Training on processing, analyzing, and packaging NTD financial data:** This activity was originally planned in FY21 but postponed to FY22. R4D's financing consultant will facilitate a central training in Kampala targeting selected MoH-NTDCP and district local government staff in December 2021. The training will focus on processing, analyzing, and packaging NTD data to develop an investment case for the NTD program. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the training will have a maximum of 20 participants.

- **Trachoma quarterly review and dossier update meetings:** Act | East will support these meetings which are expected to take place early December. One of the agenda items will be to review the joint MDA exercise with Kenya including reviewing treatment coverage in the 5 districts.
- **Coverage evaluation survey (CES):** CES is planned in the three districts of Buliisa, Nabilatuk, and Amudat to assess reported coverage of the trachoma MDA. In Amudat district, the CES will involve an oversample of 10 additional clusters to ascertain coverage amongst mobile and nomadic populations. Act | East will develop the survey protocol, facilitate the training of survey teams, and supervise data collection in the field. The CES is scheduled to commence in early December.
- **Targeted Advocacy sessions.** This is planned to be carried out at the national level and in six districts. The NTD Control Program and the NTD advocacy subcommittee will conduct high- and sub national-level advocacy and engagement activities with senior management of relevant ministries and six targeted local governments (Nebbi, Buliisa, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Nabilatuk, and Amudat). These meetings are scheduled for November and December this year and about 12 sessions will be conducted involving 25 participants at the national level and about 20 participants for the district level advocacy.
- **Multi-sectoral coordination** meetings are also planned to take place at both the national and district levels. At the national level, The NTDCP, with support from Act | East, will convene quarterly NTD Secretariat meetings to review program performance against disease-specific objectives and implementation of the sustainability plan strategies and activities. Approximately 25 participants will be invited per meeting. The meeting for this quarter will likely take place in December. At the district level, Act | East will support one of the four extended District Health Management Team meeting targeting 15 participants in each of the six districts of Nebbi, Buliisa, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Nabilatuk, and Amudat.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/ug>

National: [Home - COVID-19 | Ministry of Health](#)

## November 2021

### ETHIOPIA

**Act | East Partner:** RTI, Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF), Light for the World (LFTW)

**Total population:** 109,654,569

**COP:** Biruck Kebede

**Districts:** 870

**RTI HQ Team:** Scott McPherson, Sabrina Eyob, Dano Gunderson, Elizabeth Plunkett, Molly Brady, Wangeci Thuo

**Endemic diseases:** LF (75), TRA (699), OV (222), SCH (424), STH (546)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22**

	LF	OV	STH	Trachoma
<b>MDA</b>	<b>0/1 district + 0/1 camp</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG (0/1 camp)</li> <li>• Oromia-FHF (0/1 district)</li> </ul>	<b>0/83 districts + 0/5 refugee camps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG (0/16 districts)</li> <li>• BG (0/5 camps)</li> <li>• Oromia-LFTW (0/67 districts)</li> </ul>	<b>0/1 district</b>	<b>0/52 districts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gambella (0/6 districts)</li> <li>• Oromia-FHF (0/46 districts)</li> </ul>
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	<b>Pre-TAS: 0/10 districts + 0/1 camp</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG (0/5 districts)</li> <li>• BG (0/1 refugee camp)</li> <li>• Oromia-LFTW (0/5 districts)</li> </ul> <b>TAS1: 0/20 districts + 0/3 camps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG (0/9 districts)</li> <li>• BG (0/3 camps)</li> <li>• Oromia-LFTW (0/11 districts)</li> </ul>			<b>TIS: 0/122 districts + 0/7 refugee camps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG (0/2 districts)</li> <li>• Gambella (0/3 districts)</li> <li>• Gambella (0/7 camps)</li> <li>• Oromia-FHF (0/88 districts)</li> <li>• Oromia-LFTW (0/29 districts)</li> </ul> <b>TSS: 0/54 districts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG (0/6 districts)</li> <li>• Gambella (0/4 districts)</li> <li>• Oromia-FHF (0/13 districts)</li> <li>• Oromia-LFTW (0/31 districts)</li> </ul>

<b>MERLA</b>	<b>Sub-district level MDA and SCT data (Partners)-</b> <i>Data analysis underway, to be discussed next partners meeting.</i> <b>CES (FHF)-</b> Data collector recruitment is ongoing. <b>Gambella Region-DQA (RTI)-</b> <i>RTI Ethiopia reviewing assessment report and working with the regional NTD team to draft action points and finalize the report.</i>
<b>HSS</b>	<b>NTD Sustainability Plan Document-</b> Awaiting MOH endorsement. <b>Third National Master Plan Costing-</b> RTI supported the development of detailed activity of the master plan. The MOH is now developing the actual costing based on these detailed activities. <b>Rapid GESI Assessment (RTI-Gambella)-</b> Completed in FY21. Data analysis is underway. <b>Rapid GESI Assessment (FHF-Oromia)-</b> Completed in FY21. Data analysis is underway.

#### Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:

- Updates to MERLA activities.

#### Highlights:

- RTI provided onsite training to FHF & LFTW teams on face shield assembly on magnifying loupes for trachoma DSAs. FHF started Tropical Data trainings and LFTW completed trachoma survey preparatory activities but is awaiting the improvement of the security situation in the targeted districts before proceeding with surveys.
- Act | East met with the Acting Director of the Partnership and Cooperation Directorate (PCD) at MOH to discuss NTD financial sustainability, Act | East and PCD are working to identify areas of

collaboration in the development of the broader health system funding strategy and NTD financial road map that could rely on domestic resource mobilization.

- The RTI team attended the National NTD Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting held at FMOH. Items discussed include: the National M&E TWG trainer of trainers, MOH NTD plan, National NTD 3<sup>rd</sup> master plan, and current NTD DHIS2 system implementation progress and future directions.
- Act | East convened the first country-level internal Act | East partners monthly meeting. Clarification was given on FY22 activities focusing on those that require coordination among the three partners, and a briefing was given on the DSA investigation protocol where agreement was reached to prioritize DSA investigations going forward.
- Supply Chain Management TA participated in process flow preparation to support the enterprise resource planning (ERP) implementation team at EPSA; this was established to substitute the existing database with ERP (a database designed to capture the overall processes in EPSA). The TA is currently conducting annual inventory result reconciliation and has facilitated receipt and distribution of four Zithromax shipments to 102 woredas of Sidama and SNNP regions and eight districts of Somalia region.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- **TT algorithm study:** RTI will support implementation of the TT algorithm study in 2 districts of Jimma zone, Oromia region in December 2021.
- **TIS in Oromia:** FHF will conduct TIS in 14 targeted districts of Oromia from December 2021 to January 2022.
- **TIS in Gambella Camps:** RTI will undertake preparatory activities to implement TIS in the seven refugee camps of Gambella region in January 2022.
- **TAS in Beneshangul-Gumuz Camps:** RTI will begin preparations for TAS1 in two refugee camps of BG region in January 2022.

**Other upcoming activities:**

- Act | East partners will continue to provide technical support to RHBs and districts to report MDA coverage via DHIS2 in December 2021.
- Act | East partners will continue to provide technical support and follow up with the collection and compilation of sub-district level MDA data and SCT reports.
- Partners will continue to undertake all the needed preparatory activities related to planned trachoma DSAs in FY22.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/et>

National: [ከñ,ድ-19 – ስለ ከñ,ድ-19 \(ephi.gov.et\)](http://hñ,ድ-19 – ስለ ከñ,ድ-19 (ephi.gov.et))



November 2021

HAITI

**Act | East Partners:** RTI, WI-HER

**COP:** Uder Antoine

**RTI HQ Team:** Katie Crowley, Amy Veinoglou, Dan Gundersen, Elizabeth Plunkett

**Total population:** 11.7 million (2020 est.)

**Districts:** 140 communes

**Endemic diseases:** LF (140) STH (140)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22**

	LF	STH
<b>MDA</b>	0/7 communes	0/7 communes
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	TAS2 in 0/2 EUs TAS3 in 0/4 EUs	N/A
<b>MERLA</b>	National LF Pause and Reflect Meeting Pre-MDA census in 2 communes Coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 2 communes MDA real-time data collection in 7 communes	

**Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:** None.

**Security and fuel crisis update:** The security situation in Haiti remains unpredictable; the G9 Federation gangs leader declared ceasefire for a few weeks allowing access to key fuel distribution points. Schools, hospitals, and other critical institutions resumed activities; the empty streets of Port au Prince gradually filled with people as in the past. During this period of relative calm, the Haiti Act | East team was able to travel to begin preparations for the pre-MDA census in two communes (see below). However, it remains challenging to find sufficient fuel. The government is considering revising fuel prices on the market, which is already causing a lot of reactions and comments from different sectors considering the current economic situation of the country. Cases of kidnappings continue to rise. A long-awaited cabinet reshuffle occurred in late November, which was intended to improve the overall security situation in the country. Despite this, insecurity is likely to increase during the upcoming holiday season.

**Highlights:**

- The Act | East Haiti team met with Dr. Pavel Desrosiers, the Executive Director of the Infectious Diseases Unit of MSPP, who oversees global coordination of the LF/Malaria, HIV/AIDs, and TB programs, to present and discuss planned FY22 NTD activities.
- RTI and the Ministry of Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) about activities to be implemented during Act | East. RTI is awaiting feedback from MSPP about a similar MOU between RTI and MSPP.
- The Act | East Haiti and HQ teams prepared for the national LF Pause and Reflect meeting in December 2021, including finalizing the agenda, completing data analysis of FY21 data-forward activities, and drafting and recording presentations.
- Act | East staff traveled to Arcahaie and Cabaret to hold planning meetings with local actors and authorities in preparation for the pre-MDA census scheduled for January 2022. Following these planning meetings, the recruitment process is underway in coordination with the communal nurses who are responsible for selecting potential surveyors.

- Act | East posted the terms of reference for the planned social mobilization consultancy. The consultant will coordinate with Act | East and MSPP to compile a revised social mobilization and communications strategy that considers key recommendations from Haiti's Pause and Reflect Meeting in December 2021.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- Training of surveyors and supervisors for the pre-MDA census in Cabaret and Arcahaie (West Department) is planned the first week of January 2022. This is a community-based activity; a house-to-house census to collect population data for MDA and future surveys. Surveyors chosen from their community will meet with household members to collect demographic data as well as some data on MDA acceptability and social mobilization.
- The Act | East Haiti team will hold a staff retreat December 11<sup>th</sup> to foster team building, strengthen collaboration and improve communication across the new team.

**Other upcoming activities:**

- The national LF Pause and Reflect meeting will be held virtually from December 13-15<sup>th</sup> and will include participation from the MSPP, MENFP, implementing partners, donors, and PAHO/WHO.
- MDA safety workshop is scheduled for January 2022; this is a pivotal activity aiming at increasing acceptability by improving quality of management of side effects at commune level.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

WHO: [Haiti covid-19 updates](#)

MSPP: [SurveillancedelaCOVID-19, Haiti, 2020-2021](#)

## November 2021

### INDONESIA

**Act | East Partner:** RTI

**COP:** Jim Johnson

**RTI HQ Team:** Alexis Serna, Nandini Pillai, Nancy Warren, Sinan Hatik

**Total Population:** 274,859,094

**Districts:** 514

**Endemic diseases:** # ever endemic districts  
LF (236), SCH (2), STH (514)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22**

	LF
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	Pre-TAS : 8/12 EUs
	TAS2 : 1/17 EUs
	TAS3 : 2/6 EUs
	Mini-TAS : 0/1 EUs

#### Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:

- Updated number of surveys completed during November 2021.

#### Highlights:

- Pre-TAS** were organized in collaboration with the MOH in the districts of Bulungan from November 1-6; Sumba Barat from November 1-6; Manggari Timur from November 8-15; Mamberamo Tengah from November 18-22; and in two Evaluation Units in Bogor from November 15-19 and November 22- 26. These surveys were all community-based, targeting children and adults 5-60 years old. Results for the survey in Bulungan, Sumba Barat, and Manggari Timur are pending laboratory analysis of the night blood samples by the relevant Regional Environmental Laboratory. The surveys in Mamberamo Tengah and Bogor used FTS. Bogor passed with 0 positives and a final report for Mamberamo Tengah is still forthcoming.
- A school-based **TAS3** was organized in one EU of Lebak district from November 1-12 in collaboration with the MOH, as well as a school-based **TAS2** in Tasikmalaya from November 15-30. Both surveys used FTS among children aged 6 to 7 years old. Although schools are at 50% capacity due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the survey teams worked with school administrations to ensure that eligible students were at schools on the days survey teams were visiting. No major adaptations to the regular survey methodology were required. The TAS3 in Lebak included samples from 1648 students from 40 schools, with no positive results. The TAS2 in Tasikmalaya sampled 1731 students from 45 schools, with 4 positive cases which was below the critical cut off value. Both surveys are considered to have passed.

#### Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- Pre-TASs** are tentatively planned in three Evaluation Units within the district of Bogor during the month of December 2021.

#### COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/searo/country/id>

National: [Beranda | Covid19.go.id](https://beranda.covid19.go.id)

## November 2021

### MOZAMBIQUE

**Act | East Partner:** RTI

**COP:** Dr. Mawo Fall

**RTI HQ Team:** Scott McPherson, Sabrina Eyob, Danielle Epps, Keerthana Hirudayakanth, Molly Brady, Wangeci Thuo

**Total population:** 30,881,854

**Districts:** 161

**Endemic diseases:** LF (113), OV (5), SCH (159), STH (151), Trachoma (65)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22**

	Trachoma
<b>MDA</b>	0/8 districts
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	TIS: 0/6 EUs
<b>MERLA</b>	The Act   East data officer is regularly working with MISAU and ASCEND project to update all NTD data in the integrated database from 2017 to present. Tool completion and updates are presented during technical meetings.

**Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:** None

#### Highlights:

- Act | East participated in the Mozambican Eye Care Coalition (MECC) meeting, hosted by Sightsavers. Participants from RTI, Light for the World (LFTW), Olha do mundo, Ocularis and MISAU ophthalmology program staff were present. Partners shared their major activities during FY21 and planned FY22 activities and discussed the status of the development of the national ophthalmology plan, the dates of the next MECC meeting, HMIS indicators and drug importation fees.
- Act | East continues to work with MISAU staff, including the NTD coordinator, finance team, and health management provincial and districts teams of Manica and the concerned districts (Guro, Tambara and Macossa) on the fixed amount award (FAA) documents.
- The Act | East COP presented at the ASTMH annual meeting on “The evolution of tools used to measure treatment for malaria and NTDs: achievements and gaps” as part of the session “Beyond the Campaign: Integration of Vertical Disease Control Programs Into Primary Care; Lessons Learned From NTDs and Malaria” on November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Act | East staff are coordinating with ITI and CMAM (Central de Medicamentos e Artigos Médicos (Center for Drugs and Medical Supplies)) to ship Zithromax to Mozambique in February 2022.

#### Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- FAA development:** MDA FAA planning meetings with provincial and district staff in Nampula in December 2021.
- TT smartphone tool testing:** RTI will support the testing of the tool in two districts (Chemba district, Sofala province and Guro district, Manica province) in January 2022.
- Conflict Planning Meeting:** Act | East and MISAU staff will travel to Cabo Delgado to meet with local authorities in February 2022.
- National Stakeholders Meeting:** Scheduled for February 2022.

#### COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/mz/> National: <https://www.misau.gov.mz/>

## November 2021

### NEPAL

**Act | East Partner:** RTI

**COP:** Dharmpal Prasad Raman

**RTI HQ Team:** Alexis Serna, Nandini Pillai, Nancy Warren,  
Sinan Hatik

**Total population:** 30,201,100

**Districts:** 77

**Endemic diseases:** # ever endemic districts:  
LF (63), Trachoma (20) & STH (77)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22**

	LF
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	Re Pre-TAS: 0/10 districts TAS1 : 0/7 districts TAS2 : 0/16 districts, <b>ongoing</b> TAS3 : 0/13 districts
<b>HSS</b>	Domestic Resource Mobilization Case Study: November- December 2022, <b>recruitment ongoing</b> GESI Behavior Change Activity: December 2021- April 2022

**Summary and explanation of **changes** made to table above since last month:**

- Updated status of TAS2 and DRM case study.

**Highlights:**

- FAAs were signed with two organizations for upcoming MDA strengthening and social mobilization activities in support of the February 2022 MDAs. Local NGO MASS will implement LF MDA Technical Support in two municipalities of Bara district and local NGO CHDS will conduct School Awareness Activities in 2 districts (Jhapa and Bara). Field activities for both programs will begin in December 2021 and continue through MDA.
- VBDRTC completed enumerators training and started field work of school-based TAS 2 in 16 districts (Terhathum, Sunsari, Lalitpur (rural), Myagdi, Surketh, Jajarkot, Bhojpur, Udayapur, Dailekh, Accham, Bajura, Doti, Dadeldhura, Baitadi, Bajhang and Darchula). This activity was initially planned for April-May 2021 but was delayed due to a rise in COVID cases in targeted districts. The first National NTDs Steering Committee Meeting took place November 24-25. High level officials from MoHP including health secretary, and joint secretaries from Ministry of Urban Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock development, Ministry of Prime Minister Office and Council of Ministers participated in the meetings. Approved minutes from the meeting are not yet available. Some agenda items relevant to Act | East included:
  - Extension of National NTDs Steering Committee membership to include Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Municipal Association of Nepal /Rural Municipal Association of Nepal.
  - Discussion of plans for World NTDs Day on January 30, 2022.
  - Formation of disease specific/integrated Technical Working Groups.
  - Update the official LF elimination target date from 2028 to 2030.
  - Update the official VL elimination target date from 2024 to 2030.
  - Confirmation that VBDRTC will continue to implement LF surveys in Nepal.

- Discussion of dissemination plans for Trachoma Post Validation Surveillance guideline as soon as possible.
- Discussion around the need to have full STH program in the country.
- Role of high level multi-sectoral advocacy forums for NTDs control and elimination.
- Drafting and integrated roadmap of NTD control-aligned with WHO global roadmap-2030

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- **Dissemination workshop for GESI assessment findings** with EDCD, USAID Nepal and WHO Nepal in December 2021 in Kathmandu. This workshop will also include a discussion of recommendations for improving the upcoming round of MDA.
- **TAS1 in two districts** (Bardiya and Dhankuta) field work in Nov-Dec 2021.
- **Re Pre TAS in five districts** (Morang, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke and Kailai) in Dec 2021-Jan 2022.
- **School Awareness Support Activities in 2 districts** (Jhapa and Bara) in Dec 2021-Feb 2022.
- **LF MDA Technical Support in two municipalities of Bara** in Dec 2021-March 2022.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/searo/country/np>

National: <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/>

## November 2021

### NIGERIA

**Act | East Partner:** RTI, The Carter Center

**COP:** Benjamin Nwobi

**RTI HQ Team:** Scott McPherson, Sabrina Eyob, Danielle Epps, Keerthana Hirudayakanth, Molly Brady, Wangeci Thuo

**Total population:** 207.8 million

**Districts (LGAs):** 774

**Endemic diseases:** LF (553), OV (449), SCH (691), STH (415), Trachoma (143)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22**

	LF	OV	SCH	STH
<b>MDA</b>	<b>0/40 districts</b> (0/39 TCC, 0/1 RTI)	<b>0/98 districts</b> (0/83 TCC, 0/15 RTI)	<b>0/90 districts</b> (TCC)	<b>0/120 districts</b> (TCC)
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	<b>Pre-TAS : 0/39</b> (TCC 0/38, RTI 0/1) <b>TAS 1 : 1/38</b> (TCC 0/37, RTI 1/1)			

**Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:** None

#### Highlights:

- Act | East supported the CRS Strategic Planning Meeting during November 3-5, 2021. Timelines for all FY22 activities were developed.
- Act | East staff participated in a one-day meeting organized by FMOH on November 16, to introduce the DHIS2 software for NTD data, share experiences, lessons, and recommended steps to improve deployment in scale-up states. Outcomes include:
  - FMOH requested the commitment of partners on the use of DHIS-2 software for reporting NTD treatment data in supported states.
  - FMOH plans to continue using paper-based Village Registers and Summary Forms while transitioning into using electronic Summary Forms in the DHIS2.
  - Administrative and reporting roles of stakeholders on the platform was agreed.
- Act | East facilitated the release of the remaining 743 dried blood spot (DBS) samples collected in FY19 by FMOH for analysis using the OV-16 ELISA method. The results of the analysis showed that all samples were negative, the implication of which is the end of ivermectin MDA in Cross River State following stop-MDA entomological and epidemiological assessments. FMOH is seeking partner support for these surveys.
- FMOH shared the report of the LF TAS1 conducted in Calabar South (CR EU4) and Bekwara (CR EU3) LGAs in September (FY21) and October (FY22) respectively; both LGAs passed TAS1.
- Through Act | East support, The Carter Center has commenced TAS1 in 6 LGAs of Imo and Ebonyi States.
- Act | East supported FMOH and CRS SMOH to conduct a state level MDA training for Master Trainers from the SMOH and the Primary Health Care Development Agency between November 25-

27. Cascade training to the LGA-level commenced in southern senatorial district of CRS during Nov 30-Dec 1.

- Trainings for MDA were conducted in Delta state for Front Line Health Workers (FLHW) and for CDDs in Enugu and Ebonyi States during November 25-27, 2021.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- **Pre-MDA activities:** Advocacy visits for annual rounds of MDA will be conducted in Enugu, Plateau and Nasarawa States, as well as training of LGA Team members of the Central and Northern senatorial districts of Cross River State (CRS) all during December 1-15, 2021.
- **MDA:** LF, Oncho, SCH and STH MDA will be conducted in Enugu, Ebonyi, Edo, Delta and Imo States before December 31, 2021.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/ng>

National: [NCDC Coronavirus COVID-19 Microsite](#)



## November 2021

### PHILIPPINES

**Act | East Partner:** RTI

**RTI HQ Team:** Alexis Serna, Nandini Pillai, Nancy Warren,  
Sinan Hatik

**Total population:** 112,919,769

**Districts/Provinces:** 82

**Endemic diseases:** # ever endemic districts. LF  
(47) SCH (29) STH (82)

#### Activities supported by Philippines DOH in 2022

	LF	SCH	STH
<b>MDA</b>	0/2 provinces	28/28 provinces	0/82 provinces
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	TAS1 : 0/2 TAS2 : 0/6 TAS3 : 0/7		

#### Activities supported by USAID in FY21

<b>HSS</b>	NTD costing analysis and province/municipality TA: in progress
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**Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:** None

#### Highlights:

- A Department Order was issued reorganizing the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau once again. Dr. Jose Gerard Belimac is the new chief of the Infectious Disease and Epidemiology Division (IDED). Act | East will technically support IDED and administratively fall under the Partner Management Division headed by Dr. Anna Marie Garfin. Former IDED director, Dr. Leda Hernandez was promoted to Assistant Regional Director of the Department of Health Regional Office in Region IVa – CALABARZON and will no longer directly support the central LF program.
- Act | East coordinated with officials from the DOH Regional Office IVB-MIMAROPA (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) to develop and print IEC materials for IDA MDA which is planned on the second half of 2022.
- Act | East staff, DOH staff with NTD expertise, and CHED officials finalized the workplan and M & E plan for the Integration of NTDs in the Pre-Practice Curricula.
- Act | East, the DOH, and CHED have agreed to support a launch of the curricula in time for World NTD Day celebration.
- Act | East has coordinated regular meetings with Ms. Camille Baladjay of the DOH Lymphatic Filariasis program on with R4D financing consultant, Dr. Liezel Rombaua, to maintain close coordination on provincial level costing analysis.

#### Upcoming activities:

- Coordination with DOH and CHED on a **World NTD Day celebration** planned for January 30, 2022.

#### COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

WHO: [WHO Philippines](#) | [World Health Organization](#)



Act | East Country Updates for USAID  
Q1 (October – December 2021)

National: [COVID tracker Philippines - Bing](#)  
[COVID-19 Case Tracker | Department of Health website \(doh.gov.ph\)](#)P

## November 2021

### SOUTHEAST ASIA (BANGLADESH, LAO PDR, VIET NAM)

**Act | East Partner:** RTI, FHF in Vietnam

**Total population:** Bangladesh (173,346,194); Lao PDR (7,119,891); Viet Nam (95,913,875)

**Districts:** Bangladesh (64); Lao PDR (17); Viet Nam (63)

**RTI HQ Team:** Alexis Serna, Nandini Pillai, Nancy Warren, Sinan Hatik

**Endemic diseases:** Bangladesh LF (19) STH (64); Lao PDR LF (1) STH (1), SCH (17); Viet Nam LF (4), STH (63), TRA (15).

**TABLE: Activities in FY22, non-USAID funding**

	LF	Trachoma
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	Bangladesh TAS3: 1/1 (TAS3 supported by WHO)  Lao PDR TAS3: 0/1 (TAS3 supported by WHO)	Viet Nam TSS: focal areas of Lung Ho commune (TSS supported by FHF)
<b>MERLA</b>	Learning activity on dossier development models	

#### Summary and explanation of **changes** made to table above since last month:

- TAS3 in Bangladesh complete.

#### Bangladesh

##### Highlights:

- DIP survey completed data collection in high endemic districts. One remaining low-endemic site remains incomplete and will be visited by a field team in mid-December.
- Act | East local consultant completed DIP supervision in three high endemic districts. Recommendations were made to help field teams improve data recording accuracy in the electronic data capture system.
- Act | East supported photography of DIP survey in three survey locations in a high endemic district.
- TAS3 in Rangpur complete, with final results and a report expected in late December.
- Dr. Ramaiah Kapa is working with Act | East local consultant and MOHFW to fill in final data gaps in the draft dossier. Bangladesh aims to submit their dossier to WHO in February/March 2022.

##### Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- Planning for MOHFW-hosted World NTD Day activity, with support and participation from Act | East.

##### COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/searo/country/bd>

National: [করোনা ভাইরাস ইনফো ২০১৯ - Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Information Bangladesh | corona.gov.bd](http://corona.gov.bd)



## Lao PDR

### Highlights:

- TAS3 started on November 22<sup>nd</sup> in Attapeu province and is scheduled to be completed by December 17<sup>th</sup>. A DIP survey will also take place in 4 locations in the province, four health centers and one provincial hospital in coordination with the TAS3.
- WHO Country Office will meet with CPME and DCDC after the TAS is complete to obtain data to fill gaps in the draft dossier and discuss the concept for PVS developed by Act | East in close coordination with WHO Lao country office. The final agreed on plan will be included in the dossier.

## Viet Nam

### Highlights:

- The first of two workshops with VNEH and sub-national level partners to finalize the dossier is planned for January 2022. This workshop will take place in a hybrid format, with Hanoi-based government officials and FHF staff attending in person and all other participants attending virtually.

### Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- FHF and VNEH will coordinate on a World NTD Day event in mid-January, ahead of the Tet holiday.
- FHF and VNEH will coordinate a hybrid in-person/virtual dossier workshop in January 2022.

### COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/wpro/country/vn>

National: [BAN CHỈ ĐẠO QUỐC GIA PHÒNG CHỐNG DỊCH BỆNH COVID 19 \(vnpt.vn\)](http://BAN_CHI_DAO_QUOC_GIA_PHONG_CHONG_DICH_BENH_COVID_19.vnpt.vn)

November 2021

TANZANIA

Act | East Partner: RTI International

COP: Shabbir Lalji

RTI HQ Team: Katie Crowley, Amy Veinoglou, Erin Gullikson, Erica Shoemaker, Wangeci Thuo, Upendo Mwingira

Total population: 57.6 million (2021)

Districts: 184

Endemic diseases: LF (119), TRA (71), OV (28), SCH (184), STH (184)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF	OV	SCH	STH	Trachoma
<b>Mapping</b>	N/A	OV Elimination mapping: 0/4 districts OV Exclusion mapping: 0/2 districts	N/A	N/A	Desk review: 0/6 districts
<b>MDA</b>	0/4 districts	Round 1: 0/9 districts Round 2: 0/28 districts	0/35 districts	0/41 districts	0/6 EUs
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	Re-Pre-TAS: 0/1 district TAS1: 0/1 EU TAS3: 0/24 EUs iTAS: 7/7 EUs	Pre-stop MDA survey (epi): 0/1 district Stop-MDA survey (epi & ent): 0/3 districts iTAS: 7/7 EUs	0/4 districts	N/A	TIS: 0/6 EUs TSS: 2/2 EUs

<b>MERLA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 9 districts: 4/4 LF, 4/4 OV, 0/1 TRA</li> <li>Trachoma DSA outcome investigation in 0/5 districts</li> <li>Trachoma MDA microplanning in 0/5 districts</li> </ul>
<b>HSS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop M&amp;E plan for the sustainability activities in the NTD Master Plan</li> <li>Launch NTD Master Plan and Sustainability Plan</li> <li>Support TZNTDCP integration into the health sector planning SWAp TWG</li> <li>Support Comprehensive Council Health Plan (CCHP) development</li> <li>Strengthen federal and district capacity for planning, budgeting, and resource mobilization</li> <li>Advocacy Strategy Implementation: 1 high-level national and 1 regional/district level meeting</li> <li>GESI iDARE/behavior change activity in 5 districts (4 TRA, 1 OV)</li> </ul>

Summary and explanation of **changes** made to table above since last month:

- Completed activities: iTAS in 7 EUs; coverage evaluation surveys (CES) for LF and OV in 8 EUs; trachoma surveillance surveys (TSS) in 2 EUs.
- Act | East team reviewed the annual SCH treatment plan with NTDCP and confirmed that 35 districts are planned for SCH MDA in FY22 (revised from 8 districts in the work plan). This change does not have funding implications as Act | East was already planning to treat these districts for STH.

Highlights:

- In preparation for the OV and LF CES, Act | East supported a refresher training for data collectors from November 12-13<sup>th</sup> in Morogoro. Pre-visits were then conducted for OV CES in 4 districts in Mahenge focus (Ifakara TC, Mlimba DC, Malinyi DC and Ulanga DC), and for LF CES in 4 districts (Kilwa DC, Mtama DC, Mtwara-Mikindani MC and Mafia DC) from November 10-27<sup>th</sup>. Data collection for the surveys was completed by the end of November and results will be analyzed in December.

- Act | East and NTDCP conducted a training for research assistants and lab technicians from November 3-4<sup>th</sup> in Dar es Salaam in preparation for the iTAS. Data collection for iTAS was then completed from November 5-22<sup>nd</sup> in 8 districts, divided into 7 EUs: Mpwapwa DC, Njombe TC, Mpanda DC, Liwale DC, Nachingwea DC, Ruangwa DC and Bagamoyo DC and Chalinze DC.
- Act | East supported TSS in 2 EUs (Songwe DC and Kalambo DC). Data collection was completed from November 24 – December 3<sup>rd</sup> and was preceded by a refresher training for graders and recorders which took place in Mbeya. The training involved two separate classrooms, one with 10 graders and one with 10 recorders.
- The Act | East team met with NTDCP to prepare for the upcoming disease-specific review and planning meetings for 13 regions and 52 districts, scheduled for December 6-18<sup>th</sup>. Planning meetings were also convened with WI-HER to prepare for the GESI orientation which is integrated into the upcoming review and planning meetings for trachoma and OV.
- The NTDCP's Pharmacist supported several procurements and shipments including:
  - Clearance and storage of OV16 Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) kits which arrived in country on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Coordination with TMDA to process the importation permit for the upcoming donation of Zithromax tablets and POS expected to arrive in country in late December or early January; and
  - Requesting additional stock of FTS for upcoming TAS from Abbott.
- In line with Tanzania's NTD sustainability plan, Act | East supported Comprehensive Council Health Plan (CCHP) development in 15 councils from 11 regions. This activity involved orienting the councils on how to plan for NTD activities depending on the disease burden and level of resources available at the respective councils. Councils' capacity building started on November 29<sup>th</sup> and concluded on the December 4<sup>th</sup>. The activity was led by PORALG and Directorate of Planning and Policy (DPP) offices which ensured a high level of ownership and buy in by these two key government ministries. The Planning and Reporting (Plan Rep) system was used for planning and final documents were printed and signed by the council health secretaries, DMOs and planning officers. Great emphasis was put on allocating funds from reliable sources. Monitoring and evaluation will be done to ensure councils abide to the plans and disburse allocated funds. Districts that were capacitated during these meetings included Longido DC, Moshi DC, Gairo DC, Kilosa DC, Mlimba DC, Ulanga DC, Korogwe DC, Chemba DC, Kiteto DC, Kyela DC, Masasi DC, Kibaha DC, Mkuranga DC, Nkasi DC and Tunduru DC.
- Act | East finalized the FY22 FAA packages. One regional and one district FAA package were shared with USAID for review and approval.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- National Facilitators Orientation Review and Planning meetings: National facilitators orientation for the diseases – specific review and planning meetings for 13 regions and 52 districts will be conducted from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021. During this meeting and the disease-specific review and planning meetings noted below, Act | East and NTDCP will follow the established COVID SOPs, including use of face masks and hand sanitizers, availability of hand washing facilities, and ensuring physical distancing by limiting the number of participants in a room to no more than 16 people.
- Disease specific review and planning meetings for 13 regions and 52 districts will be conducted from 6<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021. This will include an orientation on WI-HER's iDARE methodology for 4 trachoma and 1 OV district.

- Act | East will support the NTDCP to conduct a trachoma DSA outcome investigation in five districts in January. This will involve a desk review of existing data for all five districts. In Kiteto DC South, Longido DC, and Simanjiro DC, the desk review will build on previous DSA outcome investigation findings. In Monduli DC and Mpwapwa DC North EU where DSA investigations have not been done previously, data will be collected through field investigations using qualitative methods. This will require field visits to these two districts to conduct qualitative interviews.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

**WHO:** <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/tz>

**National:** <https://www.moh.go.tz/en/covid-19-info>



## November 2021

### UGANDA

**Act | East Partner:** RTI, The Carter Center, WI-HER, R4D, Save the Children **Total population:** 41,740,474 (2019)

**COP:** Benjamin Binagwa

**Districts:** 134

**RTI HQ Team:** Katie Crowley, Amy Veinoglou, Helena Molina, Elizabeth Plunkett, Richard Killian, Upendo Mwingira

**Endemic diseases:** LF (64), TRA (51), OV (32), SCH (92), STH (134)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22**

	LF	OV	SCH	STH	Trachoma
<b>MDA</b>	N/A	9/9 districts (R1) 0/11 districts (R2)	N/A	N/A	5/5 districts (Oct 2021) 0/2 districts (Sept 2022)
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	TAS3: 0/17 EUs	N/A	N/A	N/A	TIS: 0/3 districts
<b>MERLA</b>	Trachoma coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 3 districts (in progress) Data quality assessment in Moroto NTD data management training using DHIS2				
<b>HSS</b>	Develop national NTD program advocacy strategy (in progress) Targeted cost analysis National and district funds flow analysis Finalize and institutionalize GESI MDA training curriculum Develop national SBC packages for NTDs and GESI				

#### Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:

- Trachoma CES in 3 districts is in progress to be completed by mid-December 2021.
- The Carter Center completed OV MDA in all districts targeted for partial Act | East support.

#### Highlights:

- **Joint MDA with Kenya completed:** Preliminary coverage data for the recent trachoma MDA concluded in the 5 districts of Amudat, Buliisa, Nakapiripirit, Nabilatuk and Moroto indicates that all districts achieved a coverage rate of over 85%. Final coverage data for each district will be validated and shared in December. As noted in the November monthly update, the high treatment coverage was associated with the following factors:
  - Enhanced supervision by MOH, Act | East, and district teams
  - Microplanning with districts and lower-level teams to ensure all communities are reached and sufficient medicines and supplies delivered especially to hard-to-reach locations
  - Outreach teams camping in hard-to-reach areas to access herdsmen before they left kraals
  - Urban and peri-urban populations successfully served by health workers
  - Improved social mobilization that involved mobile vans with speakers announcing importance of MDA, days when MDA will take place, and who needed to get the medication. Radio talk shows were also used in addition to door-to-door mobilization by VHTs and Lc1 chairpersons.

The strategies listed above were employed in order to address key issues that were identified. For example, literacy among VHTs and the general community in the Karamoja region is quite low, hence the strategy of including health workers in the MDA exercise. Additionally, data quality becomes an issue with low literacy levels among VHTs, hence the increased supervision.

- **Preparations for the Coverage Evaluation Survey (CES):** Preparatory meetings for the CES in three districts of Buliisa, Nabilatuk, and Amudat were held. Meetings included the MOH team, district teams and the Act | East teams both at country and HQ level. The purpose of these meetings was to agree on modalities for carrying out the exercise including protocol review, data management strategies as well as orienting survey teams. The protocol and data collection tools were reviewed and prepared for data capture. Online training was conducted for the central level teams (MOH and Act | East) by the Act | East HQ MERLA team and the trachoma technical advisor.
- **OV MDA:** The Carter Center supported OV MDA the 12 districts of Kasese, Moyo, Kitgum, Gulu, Omoro, Lira, Lamwo, Amuru and Nwoya. Adjumani, Pader and Oyam (9 of which were partially supported by Act | East). Data compilation for MDA is in the final stages.

#### Upcoming activities requiring COVID-19 protocols:

##### RTI

- **Reverse supply chain:** Act | East will support the retrieval and quantification of the balances of medicines after the trachoma MDA in the 5 districts in December 2021. Medicines with a short shelf life will be retained and utilized by the respective districts. Balances of Zithromax® tablets will be retrieved from the districts to the Vector Control Division stores at the MOH to avoid misuse at the district level. These will be kept until the next round of MDA.
- **Coverage evaluation survey (CES):** Data collection for the trachoma CES is scheduled to start the first week of December in the three districts of Buliisa, Nabilatuk, and Amudat. In Amudat district, the CES will involve an oversample of 10 additional clusters to ascertain coverage amongst mobile and nomadic populations especially those that were located and treated in neighboring Kween and Bulambuli districts. Act | East and central level MOH teams will supervise this activity.
- **NTD Secretariat meeting:** The NTD Secretariat meeting that brings together partners and other stakeholders will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 at Ridar Hotel, Mukono District with a total number of 24 participants. Among the agenda items are program specific updates, presentation, and discussion of the draft NTD advocacy strategy, an update on the progress on the implementation of the sustainability plan and harmonization and inclusion of additional NTD indicators into the DHIS2. World Vision will meet the costs of per diem and fuel for MOH, venue hire and meals for the participants during the meeting.
- **NTD Master Plan Implementation review:** Act | East plans to participate in a meeting to review the implementation status of the NTD Master Plan, which is being supported by Sightsavers from December 7-8<sup>th</sup>. This review is expected to lead to the update of the NTD Master Plan in line with the current NTD elimination trajectory in Uganda and the WHO 2030 roadmap.

##### R4D

- **Presentation of NTD financing assessment findings:** The findings of the assessment of NTD financial and programmatic records and NTD stakeholder mapping will be presented and discussed at the NTD secretariat meeting scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The timing of this activity fits in well with the ongoing review of the NTD master plan. Some of the findings of this assessment will provide useful information to be included in the master plan.

- **Training on NTD Financing:** MOH and district-level staff will be trained on processing, analyzing, and packaging NTD financial data. This data will be used for advocacy as well as budgeting for NTD program activities at both national and district level. This is expected to take place in January 2022.

#### Save The Children

- **Radio talk shows:** Two radio talk shows will be broadcast on local radio stations in Moroto and Nakapiripit districts on 9<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The purpose of these talk shows is to inform community members about the ongoing trachoma F&E component of the broader SAFE strategy. Panelist on the show will include staff from the district health office.
- **Community consultations on SBCC materials:** Consultations on SAFE SBCC materials and pre-testing will be carried out starting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 in Amudat, Moroto, Nabilatuk and Nakapiripit districts. This will help in adaptation of the existing SAFE strategy SBCC materials which will be used in community sensitization.
- **Airing of radio SAFE SBCC spot messages targeting nomadic populations** in Moroto, Nabilatuk, Nakapiripit, & Amudat districts will be conducted on radio stations in Nakapiripit, Amudat & Moroto districts starting early January 2022. The messages will be aimed at making communities understand the importance of F&E as part of the trachoma elimination strategy.

#### WI-HER

- Finalization of GESI MDA materials tentatively scheduled for January 2022.
- Virtual and physical coaching to behavior change teams in Moroto to continue implementing the 'F' and 'E' components of the SAFE strategy will continue in January.

#### COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/ug>

National: [Home - COVID-19 | Ministry of Health](#)

## December 2021

### ETHIOPIA

**Act | East Partner:** RTI, Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF), Light for the World (LFTW)

**Total population:** 109,654,569

**COP:** Biruck Kebede

**Districts:** 870

**RTI HQ Team:** Scott McPherson, Sabrina Eyob, Dano Gunderson, Elizabeth Plunkett, Molly Brady, Wangeci Thuo

**Endemic diseases:** LF (75), TRA (699), OV (222), SCH (424), STH (546)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22**

	LF	OV	STH	Trachoma
<b>MDA</b>	<b>0/1 district + 0/1 camp</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG (0/1 camp)</li> <li>• Oromia-FHF (0/1 district)</li> </ul>	<b>0/83 districts + 0/5 refugee camps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG (0/16 districts)</li> <li>• BG (0/5 camps)</li> <li>• Oromia-LFTW (0/67 districts)</li> </ul>	<b>0/1 district</b>	<b>0/52 districts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gambella (0/6 districts)</li> <li>• Oromia-FHF (0/46 districts)</li> </ul>
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	<b>Pre-TAS: 0/10 districts + 0/1 camp</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG (0/5 districts)</li> <li>• BG (0/1 refugee camp)</li> <li>• Oromia-LFTW (0/5 districts)</li> </ul> <b>TAS1: 0/20 districts + 0/3 camps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG (0/9 districts)</li> <li>• BG (0/3 camps)</li> <li>• Oromia-LFTW (0/11 districts)</li> </ul>			<b>TIS: 0/122 districts + 0/7 refugee camps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG (0/2 districts)</li> <li>• Gambella (0/3 districts)</li> <li>• Gambella (0/7 camps)</li> <li>• Oromia-FHF (0/88 districts)</li> <li>• Oromia-LFTW (0/29 districts)</li> </ul> <b>TSS: 0/54 districts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG (0/6 districts)</li> <li>• Gambella (0/4 districts)</li> <li>• Oromia-FHF (0/13 districts)</li> <li>• Oromia-LFTW (0/31 districts)</li> </ul>
<b>MERLA</b>	<b>Sub-district level MDA and SCT data (Partners)</b> – Data is being analyzed for Trachoma and OV MDAs. <b>CES (FHF)</b> – Data collector recruitment is ongoing. <b>Gambella region-DQA (RTI)</b> - Draft report generated and Gambella RHB is working on the feedback.			
<b>HSS</b>	<b>NTD Sustainability Plan</b> - Document has been endorsed by the MOH. <b>Third National Master Plan:</b> Preparatory activities are underway for formal launching by MOH and partners. <b>Rapid GESI Assessment (RTI-Gambella)</b> - Data analysis is underway. <b>Rapid GESI Assessment (FHF-Oromia)</b> - Data analysis is underway			

#### Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:

- Updates to HSS activities.

#### Highlights:

- FHF has completed TIS field work in 8 woredas; field work is underway in 6 additional woredas of Oromia region.
- RTI attended the supply chain management (SCM) technical working group (TWG) meeting; SCM/reverse logistics supervision findings were presented, MDA-safety TWG TOR was presented for subsequent finalization.

- RTI participated in World NTD Day preparatory committees led by MOH. The event agenda is being finalized and resources from partners are being identified.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- **World NTD Day:** Act | East will participate in World NTD Day festivities in Sidama region on January 31, 2022.
- **TAS in Beneshangul-Gumuz Camps:** RTI will conduct LF TAS1 in two refugee camps of BG in January 2022.
- **TIS in Oromia:** FHF will finalize TIS in six districts of Oromia region in January 2022.
- **TIS in Gambella Camps:** RTI will undertake preparatory activities to implement TIS in the seven refugee camps of Gambella region in February 2022.
- **TT algorithm study:** RTI will support implementation of the TT algorithm study in two districts of Jimma zone; Oromia region, in February 2022.

**Other upcoming activities:**

- **LF TWG Meeting:** RTI team will participate in a virtual LF TWG meeting in January 2022.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/et>

National: [ኮቪድ-19 – ስለ ኮቪድ-19 \(ephi.gov.et\)](http://epi.gov.et)

December 2021

HAITI

**Act | East Partners:** RTI, WI-HER

**COP:** Uder Antoine

**RTI HQ Team:** Katie Crowley, Amy Veinoglou, Dan  
Gunderson, Elizabeth Plunkett

**Total population:** 11.7 million (2020 est.)

**Districts:** 140 communes

**Endemic diseases:** LF (140) STH (140)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22**

	LF	STH
<b>MDA</b>	0/7 communes	0/7 communes
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	TAS2 in 0/2 EUs TAS3 in 0/4 EUs	N/A
<b>MERLA</b>	National LF Pause and Reflect Meeting Pre-MDA census in 2 communes Coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 2 communes MDA real-time data collection in 7 communes	

**Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:** None

**Security and fuel crisis update:** Throughout December the precarious calm which prevailed in late November was maintained; the ceasefire declared by the G9 gang leader was observed, allowing continuous access to fuel distribution points across the country. Schools, hospitals, all other institutions had been able to freely carry out their customary activities; however, kidnappings, murders and other abuses continue throughout the metropolitan area. Mid-December the steep increase of fuel prices did not translate into the expected violence in the street and sporadic demonstrations failed to attract masses in the street. Overall, the sharp increase in murder and crime expected during the holiday season did not take place.

**Highlights:**

- Act | East Haiti team supported the MSPP to hold a virtual National LF Pause and Reflect meeting from December 13-15<sup>th</sup>. The meeting presented data analysis and results from FY21 data-forward activities, which included the pre-MDA census, GESI assessment, and Milot operational research project. Through break-out groups and facilitated open discussion, participants agreed on key data-driven recommendations to take forward in FY22 toward improving LF MDA coverage.
- RTI’s Act | East Haiti staff organized and attended a team retreat on December 10<sup>th</sup> to foster team building amongst the new staff and discuss goals and objectives for FY22.
- Act | East finalized recruitment of surveyors for the upcoming pre-MDA census in mid-January.
- Act | East convened an evaluation committee meeting with a representative from MSPP to review applications for the social mobilization consultancy. A winner was selected, and the team is hopeful that the consultant will be on-board by mid-January.
- Act | East met with the Haiti NTDCP to discuss their concept note for World NTD Day 2022.

- There is a change in the Leadership of the MOH/UCMIT (Unité de controle des maladies infectieuses): Dr Pavel Desrosiers was replaced by Dr Lemoine Frantz who is a former LF national coordinator.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- Act | East team will begin training of surveyors and supervisors for the **pre-MDA census in Cabaret and Archaie (West Department) in mid-January 2022**. Recruitment is underway for two field coordinators that will assist the MERLA team in training and overall implementation of the census. Surveyors chosen from their local places will meet with household members to collect information such as demographic data as well some data related to acceptability and social mobilization regarding MDA in the communes of interest. Proper COVID-19 protocols will be followed, including breaking the training into two separate sessions of approximately 25 participants each.

**Other upcoming activities:**

- Following the LF P&R meeting an action plan is being prepared in coordination with MSPP departmental and communal level staff.
- Act | East is set to meet the new MOH/UCMIT Director (Dr Frantz Lemoine) to share the project's vision and plan for FY22.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

WHO: [Haiti covid-19 updates](#)

MSPP: [SurveillancedelaCOVID-19, Haiti, 2020-2021](#)

December 2021

INDONESIA

Act | East Partner: RTI

COP: Jim Johnson

RTI HQ Team: Alexis Serna, Nandini Pillai, Nancy Warren,  
Sinan Hatik

Total population: 274,859,094

Districts: 514

Endemic diseases: # ever endemic districts  
LF (236), SCH (2), STH (514)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF
DSAs (#EUs)	Pre-TAS : 11/12 EUs TAS2 : 1/17 EUs TAS3 : 2/6 EUs Mini-TAS : 0/1 Eus

Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:

- Updated number of surveys completed during December 2021.

Highlights:

- Three **Pre-TAS** were organized in collaboration with the MOH in each of three Evaluation Units in the district of Bogor from November 29 to December 3; from December 6 to 10; and from December 13 to 17, 2021. These surveys were all community-based, targeting children and adults 5-60 years old, and used FTS. Only one positive test was found at one of the sites, and therefore all three surveys were determined as passing.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- TAS2** is planned for the district of Karawang using FTS beginning on January 17, 2022.
- An **M&E Coordination Meeting** with participants from the 10 regional laboratories and the MOH is scheduled for January 12 and 13, 2022 in Jakarta in order to synchronize plans and funding for all proposed LF assessments to be implemented in 2022.
- LF Diagnostics Training** will be implemented at the University of Indonesia for 20 participants from regional laboratories and local health service staff from January 18 to 20 in Jakarta.
- TAS Supervisor Training** will be implemented in Jakarta for 20 participants from regional laboratories and local health services from January 25 to 27.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/searo/country/id>

National: [Beranda](#) | [Covid19.go.id](#)



## December 2021

### MOZAMBIQUE

**Act | East Partner:** RTI

**COP:** Dr. Mawo Fall

**RTI HQ Team:** Scott McPherson, Sabrina Eyob, Danielle Epps, Keerthana Hirudayakanth, Molly Brady, Wangeci Thuo

**Total population:** 30,881,854

**Districts:** 161

**Endemic diseases:** LF (113), OV (5), SCH (159), STH (151), Trachoma (65)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22**

	Trachoma
<b>MDA</b>	0/8 districts
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	TIS: 0/6 EUs
<b>MERLA</b>	The Act   East data officer is regularly working with MISAU and ASCEND project to update all NTD data in the integrated database from 2017 to present. Tool completion and updates are presented during technical meetings.

**Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:** None

#### Highlights:

- Act | East continues to work with MISAU staff, including the NTD coordinator, finance team, and health management provincial and districts teams of Manica and the concerned districts (Guro, Tambara and Macossa) on the fixed amount award (FAA) documents.
- The Act | East COP and M&E officer participated in a virtual meeting with the MISAU NTD staff to prepare for World NTD Day. Discussion is ongoing on the location and agenda of the event. Minister of Health participation is expected with activities focused on TV and radio spots, and panel discussion. Several implementing partners will support the event.
- ITI is awaiting confirmation from CMAM (Central de Medicamentos e Artigos Médicos (Center for Drugs and Medical Supplies) that there is no need for pre-shipment drug inspection. Zithromax is expected to arrive in country in February 2022.

#### Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- TT smartphone tool testing:** Act | East will support the testing of the tool in two districts (Chemba district, Sofala province and Guro district, Manica province) in January 2022.
- World NTD Day:** Act | East will participate in World NTD Day activities on January 30, 2022.
- Conflict Planning Meeting:** Act | East and MISAU staff will travel to Cabo Delgado to meet with local authorities in February 2022.
- National Stakeholders Meeting:** Scheduled for February 2022.

#### COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/mz/>

National: <https://www.misau.gov.mz/>

December 2021

NEPAL

Act | East Partner: RTI

COP: Dharmpal Prasad Raman

RTI HQ Team: Alexis Serna, Nandini Pillai, Nancy Warren,  
Sinan Hatik

Total population: 30,201,100

Districts: 77

Endemic diseases: # ever endemic districts:  
LF (63), Trachoma (20) & STH (77)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF
DSAs (#EUs)	Re-Pre-TAS: 0/10 districts TAS1 : 0/7 districts ; surveys ongoing TAS2 : 6/16 districts ; surveys ongoing TAS3 : 0/13 districts
HSS	Domestic Resource Mobilization Case Study: November- December 2022 GESI Behavior Change Activity: December 2021- April 2022

Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:

- Updated completed surveys and indicated surveys that are ongoing.

Highlights:

- Field work of school based TAS 2 in six districts (Terhathum, Sunsari, Lalitpur Rural, Myagdi, Surketh and Jajarkot) was completed, with final reports forthcoming.
- Field work of school based TAS 2 in 10 districts (Bhojpur, Udayapur, Dailekh, Accham, Bajura, Doti, Dadeldhura, Baitadi, Bajhang and Darchula) started in December 2021.
- Field work of school based TAS 1 in two districts (Bardiya, Dhankuta) started in December 2021.
- Strategic dissemination of GESI assessment results from Kapilbastu, Dang and Banke districts took place with EDCD and MOHP officials at the national level. Further dissemination at the district/municipality level will take place at MDA planning meetings in January and February 2022 once materials are developed from the final recommendations.
- Social mobilization activities being implemented through FAAs began with partner organizations. School awareness programs, implemented by CHDS, and technical support to two municipalities in Bara district, implemented by MASS began in December with trainings. These will continue through MDA, which is currently scheduled to begin February 12, 2022.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- Re-Pre -TAS in five districts (Morang, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke and Kailai) is scheduled for January-February 2022.
- LF MDA planning, preparation, and implementation activities in 10 districts (Jhapa, Morang, Bara, Lamjung, Parbat, Baglung, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke and Kailali) will take place from January to February 2022.
- Act | East is working closely with WHO County office and Regional office to coordinate an IDA planning meeting in early January.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/searo/country/np>

National: <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/>

## December 2021

### NIGERIA

**Act | East Partner:** RTI, The Carter Center

**COP:** Benjamin Nwobi

**RTI HQ Team:** Scott McPherson, Sabrina Eyob, Danielle Epps, Keerthana Hirudayakanth, Molly Brady, Wangeci Thuo

**Total population:** 207.8 million

**Districts (LGAs):** 774

**Endemic diseases:** LF (553), OV (449), SCH (691), STH (415), Trachoma (143)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22**

	LF	OV	SCH	STH	Trachoma
<b>MDA</b>	<b>0/40 districts</b> (0/39 TCC, 0/1 RTI)	<b>0/98 districts</b> (0/83 TCC, 0/15 RTI)	<b>0/90 districts</b> (TCC)	<b>0/120 districts</b> (TCC)	<b>0/40 districts</b> (0/39 TCC, 0/1 RTI)
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	<b>Pre-TAS : 0/39</b> (TCC 0/38, RTI 0/1) <b>TAS 1 : 1/38</b> (TCC 0/37, RTI 1/1)				<b>Pre-TAS : 0/39</b> (TCC 0/38, RTI 0/1) <b>TAS 1 : 1/38</b> (TCC 0/37, RTI 1/1)

**Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:** None

#### Highlights:

- Act | East supported the Cross River State (CRS) NTD program to conduct the training for LGA level team in preparation for 2022 MDA. The 2-day training was held across the 3 senatorial districts of the State between November 30 to December 7, 2021. Each LGA Team developed a micro plan using the Excel-based microplanning tool; concerns were raised on the unavailability of pharmacovigilant reporting form for reporting adverse drug reactions, and Logistics Management Information (LMIS) forms.
  - States are awaiting medicine allocation for ivermectin and albendazole. The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration (NAFDAC) has implemented a new process for drug clearance that has caused delays. Further MDA cascade trainings to the front-line health facility and community drug distributors was halted to await availability of medicines.
- Act | East staff held a virtual meeting with the CRS NTD team on December 16, 2021 to start preparations to mark 2022 World NTD Day. The state aligned with this year's theme and lined-up activities to prioritize local resource mobilization to achieve health equity to end the neglect of poverty-related diseases.

#### Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- Pre-MDA and MDA activities:** Advocacy visits and other MDA activities in CRS for OV in 15 LGAs and LF in one LGA in January 2022.

- **World NTD Day 2022 activities:** Act | East will support the State MOH's across USAID-supported states to conduct activities to mark the 2022 World NTDs Day on January 30, 2022.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/ng>

National: [NCDC Coronavirus COVID-19 Microsite](#)

## December 2021

### PHILIPPINES

Act | East Partner: RTI

RTI HQ Team: Alexis Serna, Nandini Pillai, Nancy Warren,  
Sinan Hatik

Total population: 112,919,769

Districts/Provinces: 82

Endemic diseases: # ever endemic districts. LF  
(47) SCH (29) STH (82)

#### Activities supported by Philippines DOH in 2022

	LF	SCH	STH
MDA	2/46	0/28 provinces	0/82 provinces
DSAs (#EUs)	TAS1 : 1/2 TAS2 : 0/6 TAS3 : 0/7		

#### Activities supported by USAID in FY22

HSS	NTD costing analysis and province/municipality TA: in progress
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#### Summary and explanation of **changes** made to table above since last month:

- Updated surveys completed by DOH; TAS1 in EU1 of Sultan Kudarat passed.

#### Highlights:

- A Bureau Order was issued reorganizing the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau. Dr. Jose “Gerard” Belimac is the new Chief of the Infectious Disease (ID) Division. The new structure does not have specific disease programs but will function as a cohesive unit based on the modes of transmission of the infectious disease. Dynamic adjustments to the new structure, personnel and roles are expected to continue throughout 2022, through mid-year national elections.
  - USAID’s Act | East staff from RTI International will provide strategic support to two collaborative units within the ID division: Integrated Diagnostics and Laboratory Network and Integrated Research and Innovation.

#### Upcoming activities:

- Facilitation, coordination, consultation/participation on the process of the organizational development of the DOH “One DCPB” within the new framework.
- Preparations for World NTD Day involving the re-organized DPCB and the Commission on Higher Education.

#### COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

WHO: [WHO Philippines | World Health Organization](#)

National: [COVID-19 Case Tracker | Department of Health website \(doh.gov.ph\)](#)

December 2021

SOUTHEAST ASIA (BANGLADESH, LAO PDR, VIET NAM)

Act | East Partner: RTI, FHF in Vietnam

**Total population:** Bangladesh (173,346,194); Lao PDR (7,119,891); Viet Nam (95,913,875)

**Districts:** Bangladesh (64); Lao PDR (17); Viet Nam (63)

**RTI HQ Team:** Alexis Serna, Nandini Pillai, Nancy Warren, Sinan Hatik

**Endemic diseases:** Bangladesh LF (19) STH (64); Lao PDR LF (1) STH (1), SCH (17); Viet Nam LF (4), STH (63), TRA (15).

TABLE: Activities in 2022, non-USAID funding

	LF	Trachoma
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	Bangladesh TAS3: 1/1 (TAS3 supported by WHO) Lao PDR TAS3: 1/1 (TAS3 supported by WHO)	Viet Nam TSS: focal areas of Lung Ho commune (TSS supported by FHF)
<b>MERLA</b>	Learning activity on dossier development models	

Summary and explanation of **changes** made to table above since last month:

- TAS3 in Lao PDR complete

**Bangladesh**

**Highlights:**

- DIP survey data collection was completed in December 2021 and a final report from FAA recipient CIPRB is anticipated in early January 2022.
- Dr. Ramaiah Kapa continues to work with Act | East local consultant and MOHFW to fill in final data gaps in the draft LF elimination dossier. Bangladesh aims to submit their dossier to WHO in February/March 2022.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- Planning for MOHFW hosted World NTD Day activity, with support and participation from Act | East.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

- WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/searo/country/bd>
- National: [করোনা ভাইরাস ইনফো ২০১৯ - Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Information Bangladesh | corona.gov.bd](#)

## Lao PDR

### Highlights:

- TAS3 completed with no positives.
- WHO Country Office will meet with CPME and DCDC to complete data gaps in the draft LF elimination dossier and discuss the concept for PVS developed by Act | East.

## Viet Nam

### Highlights:

- Act | East is working with VNEH and FHF to update the current draft of the trachoma elimination dossier ahead of the National Workshop for Data Review and Dossier Development. This workshop will be conducted virtually in late February/early March and will include representatives from all endemic districts.

### COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/wpro/country/vn>

National: [BAN CHỈ ĐẠO QUỐC GIA PHÒNG CHỐNG DỊCH BỆNH COVID 19 \(vnpt.vn\)](#)



December 2021

TANZANIA

Act | East Partner: RTI International

COP: Shabbir Lalji

RTI HQ Team: Katie Crowley, Amy Veinoglou, Erin Gullikson, Erica Shoemaker, Wangeci Thuo, Upendo Mwingira

Total population: 57.6 million (2021)

Districts: 184

Endemic diseases: LF (119), TRA (71), OV (28), SCH (184), STH (184)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF	OV	SCH	STH	Trachoma
<b>Mapping</b>	N/A	OV Elimination mapping: 0/4 districts OV Exclusion mapping: 0/2 districts	N/A	N/A	Desk review: 0/6 districts
<b>MDA</b>	0/4 districts	Round 1: 0/9 districts Round 2: 0/28 districts	0/35 districts	0/41 districts	0/6 districts (0/7 EUs)
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	Re-Pre-TAS: 0/1 district TAS1: 0/1 EU TAS3: 0/24 EUs iTAS: 7/7 EUs	Pre-stop MDA survey (epi): 0/1 district Stop-MDA survey (epi & ent): 0/3 districts iTAS: 7/7 EUs	0/4 districts	N/A	TIS: 0/6 EUs TSS: 2/2 EUs

<b>MERLA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 9 districts: 4/4 LF, 4/4 OV, 0/1 TRA</li> <li>Trachoma DSA outcome investigation in 0/6 districts</li> <li>Trachoma MDA microplanning in 0/6 districts</li> </ul>
<b>HSS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop M&amp;E plan for the sustainability activities in the NTD Master Plan</li> <li>Launch NTD Master Plan and Sustainability Plan</li> <li>Support TZNTDCP integration into the health sector planning SWAp TWG</li> <li>Support Comprehensive Council Health Plan (CCHP) development</li> <li>Strengthen federal and district capacity for planning, budgeting, and resource mobilization</li> <li>Advocacy Strategy Implementation: 1 high-level national and 1 regional/district level meeting</li> <li>GESI iDARE/behavior change activity in 5 districts (4 TRA, 1 OV)</li> </ul>

Summary and explanation of **changes** made to table above since last month:

- Following a TSS failure (TF= 5.8%), one additional district (Kalambo DC) will conduct a DSA outcome investigation, microplanning, and MDA for a total of 6 districts (7 EUs) planned for trachoma MDA in FY22.

Highlights:

- Act | East supported a series of disease-specific MDA review and planning meetings with the regions and districts from 8<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> December which included the following:
  - Trachoma review meetings were conducted in Arusha from 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 followed by FAAs planning and budgeting meetings from 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021 involving 5 districts (Longido DC, Monduli DC, Kiteto DC, Simanjiro DC and Mpwapwa DC).

- LF review meetings were conducted in Dar Es Salaam from 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 followed by FAAs planning and budgeting meetings from 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 involving four districts (Kilwa DC, Mtama DC, Mafia DC and Mtwara-Mikindani MC).
- Onchocerciasis review meetings were concurrently conducted from 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 in Morogoro and Mbeya involving 28 OV endemic districts (14 district from Mbeya, Songwe, Njombe and Ruvuma were in Mbeya center while the other 14 districts from Tanga, Morogoro and Iringa were in Morogoro center). FAA planning and budgeting meetings for OV were conducted from 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021 in Morogoro and Mbeya.

All review meetings involved Regional and District NTD Coordinators from both the health and education departments, pharmacists, and accountants for the planning and budgeting portion. The meetings provided an opportunity to review the latest data from MDA coverage reports, DSAs, CES, and DSA outcome investigations to inform strategies for each MDA in FY22, as well as to review and finalize all budget inputs for the FAA packages. In Arusha and Morogoro regions, the meetings were preceded by GESI trainings for the 4 trachoma-endemic district councils (Longido DC and Monduli DC from Arusha region and Kiteto DC and Simanjiro DC from Manyara region) endemic for trachoma from 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and 2 oncho-endemic district councils (Ulanga DC and Mlimba DC in Morogoro region) from 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

- Act | East completed data collection for trachoma surveillance surveys (TSS) in 2 EUs (Songwe DC and Kalambo DC) that were conducted November 24<sup>th</sup> – December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Songwe DC had a TF prevalence of <5% whereas Kalambo DC had a TF prevalence of 5.8% and requires one additional round of MDA in FY22.
- The NTDCP’s Pharmacist supported several procurements and shipments including:
  - The program was expecting to receive Zithromax tablets and Zithromax powder for oral suspension POS; however, this consignment was cancelled in coordination with ITI because the shipment included 483 Zithromax POS expiring in April 2022. The shipment is being re-packed and is now expected to ship in February.
  - Started the process of acquiring import permit for additional stock of FTS.
- Alongside the regional planning and review meetings, Act | East supported an orientation session on GESI for 6 councils from 2 regions: Longido and Monduli councils (Arusha region), Kiteto and Simanjiro councils (Manyara region), and Mlimba and Ulanga councils (Morogoro region). NTD teams were capacitated on key GESI concepts and were introduced to WI-HER’s quality improvement methodology, iDARE (Identify, Design, Assess, Record and Expand). This aimed to help them identify MDA related challenges that lead to low MDA coverages and refusals. Each council put up a plan for implementation pre-MDA and GESI activities were integrated into the councils’ plans of action.
- In December 2021, Act | East with the MOHCDGEC started preliminary preparations for the launch of the NTD Strategic Master Plan and the Sustainability Plan. The launch is planned occur during World NTD Day on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

**Note:** As of December 23<sup>rd</sup>, the USAID Mission in Tanzania has placed a pause on all in-person activities in Tanzania through the month of January. Activities initially planned in January will be rescheduled to February or later as discussions evolve.

- In preparation for the **MDA cascade trainings for February SCH/STH and OV MDAs**, an orientation of national trainers/facilitators was planned for the third week of January 2022. This orientation prepares facilitators for the subsequent regional and district ToT training to 13 regions and 52 districts conducting MDA.
- **Pre-MDA activities** including regional and district TOT training, training of FLHWs, teachers and CDDs, social mobilization, and drug transport were planned for January – February 2022. These activities are now on hold.
- Act | East planned to implement the **GESI behavior change activity** in 2 oncho-endemic councils alongside MDA from January – February 2022.
- **Trachoma DSA outcome investigation**, which includes qualitative data collection in Monduli DC, Mpwapwa DC and Kalambo DC, was scheduled for January 2022.
- NTDCP had planned to launch the NTD sustainability plan and master plan during an in-person **World NTD Day event** on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in which the Minister of Health was invited to attend. Act | East is in discussion with NTDCP to make alternate plans for the launch and understand what virtual activities the project may support for World NTD Day.
- **Pre-TAS** in Pangani DC and **TIS** in Ngorogoro DC are scheduled for February 2022.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

**WHO:** <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/tz>

**National:** <https://www.moh.go.tz/en/covid-19-info>

## December 2021

### UGANDA

**Act | East Partner:** RTI, The Carter Center, WI-HER, R4D, Save the Children **Total population:** 41,740,474 (2019)

**COP:** Benjamin Binagwa

**Districts:** 134

**RTI HQ Team:** Katie Crowley, Amy Veinoglou, Helena Molina, Elizabeth Plunkett, Richard Killian, Upendo Mwingira

**Endemic diseases:** LF (64), TRA (51), OV (32), SCH (92), STH (134)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22**

	LF	OV	SCH	STH	Trachoma
<b>MDA</b>	N/A	9/9 districts (R1) 0/11 districts (R2)	N/A	N/A	5/5 districts (Oct 2021) 0/2 districts (Sept 2022)
<b>DSAs (#EUs)</b>	TAS3: 0/17 EUs	N/A	N/A	N/A	TIS: 0/3 districts
<b>MERLA</b>	Trachoma coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 3 districts ( <b>completed</b> ) Data quality assessment in Moroto NTD data management training using DHIS2				
<b>HSS</b>	Develop national NTD program advocacy strategy (in progress) Targeted cost analysis National and district funds flow analysis Finalize and institutionalize GESI MDA training curriculum Develop national SBC packages for NTDs and GESI GESI behavior change activity in two districts SCH/STH partner mapping exercise				

**-Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:**

- Trachoma CES was completed in 3 districts in December 2021.

**Highlights:**

- Following completion of trachoma MDA in 5 districts, Act | East supported the retrieval and quantification of unused medicines. Medicines with a short shelf life were retained for utilization by the respective districts. Balances of Azithromycin tablets were retrieved from the districts and brought back to the VCD stores at the MOH to avoid misuse at the district level. These will be kept until the next round of MDA.
- CES was conducted in Buliisa, Nabilatuk, and Amudat districts to assess reported coverage of the trachoma MDA. In Amudat district, the CES involved an oversample of 10 additional clusters to ascertain coverage amongst mobile and nomadic populations especially those that were treated during targeted outreach in neighboring Kween and Bulambuli districts. Act | East, working closely with the MOH team, developed the survey protocol, provided logistical and technical support during training of survey teams, and participated in supervision of field work.

- The NTD Secretariat meeting that brings together partners and other stakeholders was held on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Among the agenda items were program specific updates and discussion of the draft NTD advocacy strategy.
- With financial support from Sightsavers, MoH held a two-day retreat from December 7-8<sup>th</sup> to review the implementation status of Uganda’s NTD Master Plan; a process that is expected to lead to the update of the new NTD Master Plan in line with the current NTD elimination trajectory in Uganda and the WHO 2030 roadmap.
- R4D presented the findings of the assessment of NTD financial and programmatic records and NTD stakeholder mapping at the NTD Master Plan review retreat on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The timing of this activity aligned well with the ongoing review of the NTD Master Plan, and it was agreed that some of the findings of this assessment would be included.
- Save the Children worked with district NTD focal persons and health educators to conduct two radio talk shows in Moroto (Ateker FM) and Nakapiripit (Heritage FM) districts. The purpose of these talk shows was to inform community members including the nomadic populations about the ongoing trachoma F&E component of the broader SAFE strategy and other SBCC interventions to be implemented by Save the Children in FY22.
- Save the Children conducted inception meetings in the four trachoma-endemic districts of Karamoja region (Amudat, Moroto, Nabilatuk, and Nakapiripit). The aim was to inform the district leadership about Save’s FY22 activities planned through Act | East. The meetings were conducted at departmental level through paying courtesy visits to both technical and political leadership of the district local governments.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID-19 protocols:**

**RTI**

- **Data Quality Assessment:** Act | East will support Ministry of Health to conduct DQA in Moroto District. VHTs will be interviewed to assess their ability to complete the registers and summarize the data on a tally sheet. This activity is scheduled to begin in the last week of January 2022.
- **Training of TAS Team Members:** Act | East will support Ministry of Health to train TAS survey teams prior to implementing the surveys. This will help to strengthen the quality of filariasis test strip (FTS) administration, emphasize TAS best practices, and electronic data capture (EDC). This will be conducted from 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022.
- **TAS3 in 7 EUs.** Act | East will support Ministry of Health to conduct community based TAS 3 in seven EUs (Iganga, Luuka, Bugweri, Bugabula, Buzaaya, Buyende and Kaliro). The activity is scheduled to take place from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022
- **World NTD Day:** Act | East plans to support the MOH to commemorate World NTD Day. NTD celebration week has been scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022, and a breakfast meeting is being organized as part of the World NTD Day activities (tentatively scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup>). Participants will include Senior MoH management, country leads of NTD IPs and members of the Health Committee of Parliament. The main objective of the meeting is to advocate for domestic resource mobilization for NTD activities as part of the sustainability agenda.

#### R4D

- **Training on NTD Financing:** 24 MOH and district-level staff will be trained on processing, analyzing, and packaging NTD financial data. This data will be used for advocacy as well as budgeting for NTD program activities at both national and district level. This is expected to take place in January 2022.

#### Save the Children

- **Community consultations on SBCC materials:** Consultations on SAFE SBCC materials and pre-testing will be carried out starting January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in Amudat, Moroto, Nabilatuk and Nakapiripit districts. Pre-testing of the materials will target community members including the nomadic populations with a purpose of refining the materials to suit the needs of the beneficiaries. The materials will be used during community sensitization with the aim of increasing uptake of trachoma prevention interventions.
- **Airing of radio SAFE SBCC spot messages** targeting nomadic populations in Moroto, Nabilatuk, Nakapiripit, and Amudat districts will be conducted on radio stations in Nakapiripit, Amudat and Moroto districts starting early January 2022. The messages will be aimed at making communities understand the importance of F&E as part of the trachoma elimination strategy. In addition, 2 radio talk shows will be aired on 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January as part of the broader sensitization activities on trachoma prevention. Panelists will be members of the DHT.

#### WI-HER

- **GESI MDA Materials Finalization Meeting** is scheduled for January 20-21, 2022.
- A **meeting with Moroto behavior changes teams** will be held between 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The purpose of the meeting will be to review progress, get feedback from MDA, discuss and plan ways to provide ongoing coaching to the teams, ahead of FY22 MDA.

#### COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/ug>

National: [Home - COVID-19 | Ministry of Health](#)