

Act to End NTDs | East

FY22 Q2 Monthly Updates

January 1, 2022–March 31, 2022

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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; Light for the World; Results for Development (R4D); Save the Children; Sightsavers; and Women Influencing Health, Education, and Rule of Law (WI-HER).

January 2022

ETHIOPIA

Act East Partner: RTI, Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF), Light for the World (LFTW)	Total population: 109,654,569
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 870
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: LF (75), TRA (699), OV (222), SCH (424), STH (546)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF	OV	STH	Trachoma
MDA	0/1 district + 0/1 camp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG (0/1 camp) • Oromia-FHF (0/1 district) 	0/83 districts + 0/5 refugee camps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG (0/16 districts) • BG (0/5 camps) • Oromia-LFTW (0/67 districts) 	0/1 district	0/52 districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gambella (0/6 districts) • Oromia-FHF (0/46 districts)
DSAs (#EUs)	Pre-TAS: 0/10 districts + 0/1 camp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG (0/5 districts) • BG (0/1 refugee camp) • Oromia-LFTW (0/5 districts) TAS1: 0/20 districts + 0/3 camps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG (0/9 districts) • BG (0/3 camps) • Oromia-LFTW (0/11 districts) 			TIS: 14/122 districts + 0/7 refugee camps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG (0/2 districts) • Gambella (0/3 districts) • Gambella (0/7 camps) • Oromia-FHF (14/88 districts) • Oromia-LFTW (0/29 districts) TSS: 0/54 districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG (0/6 districts) • Gambella (0/4 districts) • Oromia-FHF (0/13 districts) • Oromia-LFTW (0/31 districts)
MERLA	Sub-district level MDA and SCT data (Partners): RTI and partners met and reflected on analyzed data. CES (FHF): Data collector recruitment is ongoing. Gambella region-DQA (RTI)- MDA registers being verified by Gambella RHB team based on provided feedback.			
HSS	NTD Sustainability Plan & Third National NTD Strategic Plan-Launched together by MOH in the presence of national and international stakeholders. Rapid GESI Assessment (RTI-Gambella) - Data analysis is underway. Rapid GESI Assessment (FHF-Oromia) - Data review and analysis is underway.			

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

- Updates to the MERLA and HSS activities.
- Updated number of TIS completed by FHF in Oromia region during January 2022.

Highlights:

- Act | East partners participated in World NTD Day commemoration events held in Sidama region.
- Act | East participated on the Third National NTD Strategic Plan launching events held in Addis Ababa on January 27th. The Strategic Plan was launched together with the NTD Sustainability Plan, aligned with World NTD Day. Participants included the Minister of Health, WHO country

representative, and the USAID Mission Deputy Director made remarks on progress and future directions of the NTD program.

- RTI participated in the second NTDs National MEL Technical Working Group (TWG) and was selected to serve as secretariat for the TWG, which meets on a quarterly basis and is chaired by the MOH.
- RTI participated in the LF/Podo TWG meeting. Topics discussed include MDA/DSA updates, dossier preparation, LF remapping/confirmatory methodology and the review of revised LF/Podo working group ToR. The TWG has also agreed to review the RHB remapping request and use the confirmatory mapping protocol for any upcoming requests.
- The Act | East Supply Chain Management Technical Advisor facilitated the distribution of TEO for the upcoming TIS in Gambella and Oromia regions.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- **TIS in Gambella Camps:** RTI will undertake preparatory activities to implement TIS in the seven refugee camps of Gambella region in February 2022.
- **Regional MDA Review Meeting:** FHF will conduct an FY21 MDA review and FY22 MDA planning meeting in Adama Town, Oromia in February 2022.
- **TT algorithm study:** RTI will support implementation of the TT algorithm study in five districts of Jimma zone, Oromia region, in February/March 2022.
- **Graders TOT training:** FHF will conduct trachoma grader ToT training in February 2022 and continue the field works in the remaining districts of the region in March 2022.
- **TIS/TSS in Gambella:** RTI will undertake preparatory activities to implement 3 TIS and 4 TSS in Gambella region in March 2022.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

National: [ከሺድ-19 – ስለ ከሺድ-19 \(ephi.gov.et\)](https://ephi.gov.et)

January 2022

HAITI

Act East Partners: RTI, WI-HER	Total population: 11.7 million (2020 est.)
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 140 communes
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: LF (140) STH (140)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF	STH
MDA	0/7 communes	0/7 communes
DSAs (#EUs)	TAS3 in 0/1 EU	

MERLA	National LF Pause and Reflect Meeting (completed December 2021) Pre-MDA census in 2 communes Coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 2 communes MDA real-time data collection in 7 communes
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Summary and explanation of **changes** made to table above since last month:

In consultation with USAID, Act | East has revised the FY22 TAS plan. Only one school based TAS3 will be conducted in FY22 in Caracol. The other surveys originally planned for FY22 – TAS2 in 2 EUs and TAS3 in 3 EUs – have been postponed to FY23 Q1 when schools are back in session.

Security and fuel crisis update:

The situation in Haiti remains precarious but the month of January went by without major difficulties: no massive protests or fuel stock shortages. However, kidnappings, murders and other abuses continue to grow particularly in the metropolitan area. February 7th marks the date of transfer of power in Haiti and the end of former President Moise's mandate. The political negotiations continue without really knowing whether the current Prime Minister will remain in power or whether, on the contrary, Haiti will proceed install a new Transitional President and a Prime Minister newly elected by the opposition under the "Montana Accord". The situation remains uncertain but Act | East is continuing field activities in Arcahaie and Cabaret.

Highlights:

- Following the LF P&R meeting, an action plan was prepared in coordination with MSPP departmental and communal level staff. This action plan was shared with USAID for feedback.
- Act | East supported the MSPP to commemorate World NTD Day which began with a press conference on January 27th.

- Act | East selected two field coordinators to assist the MERLA team in implementation of the pre-MDA census in Arcahaie and Cabaret. The MERLA team and field coordinators completed training for surveyors and supervisors for the pre-MDA census in February 2022.
- Act | East in coordination with MSPP selected the final candidates for the social mobilization consultancy. The consulting agreements have been signed, and the team held an initial scoping meeting with the team of two consultants.
- Act | East Haiti COP met with Dr Jean Frantz Lemoine, the new Leader of the MOH/UCMIT (*Unité de controle des maladies infectieuses*), who is a former national LF coordinator. He promised a fruitful and frank collaboration.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- After completion of the pre-MDA census in February 2022, Act | East will conduct microplanning meetings with community leaders and promotor, local authorities and youth representatives in the North, Northwest and West departments. Proper COVID-19 protocols will be followed, including meeting in different rooms to accommodate 20 people at a time.

Other upcoming activities:

- Act | East will meet with the LF National Coordinator [Redacted] to discuss the FY21 community TAS that did not reach the sample size. The results should be sent to PAHO for review and recommendations.
- Act | East will work with the social mobilization consultants on the revised social mobilization plan and IEC materials.
- Act | East will facilitate data collection and cleaning for the Pre-MDA census and preparatory activities for upcoming MDA.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

January 2022

INDONESIA

Act East Partner: RTI	Total population: 274,859,094
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 514
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	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 : 3/6 EUs Mini-TAS : 0/1 EUs

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

- Updated number of surveys completed.

Highlights:

- A **TAS2** was implemented in collaboration with the MOH in the district of Karawang using FTS from January 17 to 27, 2022. A total of 1717 school children were tests, all with negative results.
- An **M&E Coordination Meeting** with participants from the 10 regional laboratories and the MOH was organized on January 12 and 13, 2022 in Jakarta. Results from all DSAs implemented in 2021 were confirmed, plans for all DSAs to be implemented in 2022 were synchronized and finalized; and tentative plans for all DSAs required in 2023 were identified.
- An **LF Diagnostics Training** was organized together with the MOH. The training was held at the University of Indonesia for 20 participants from regional laboratories and local health service staff from January 18 to 20 in Jakarta.
- A **TAS Supervisor Training** was also implemented in collaboration with the MOH in Jakarta for 20 participants from regional laboratories and local health services from January 25 to 27.
- World NTD Day** was promoted through a series of weekly comics throughout the month of January, as well as with a short, whimsical dance video on TikTok and a longer, more substantive video highlighting NTD activities on Facebook, You Tube and Twitter – all shared widely through personal social media accounts.
- A **Pause and Reflect Session on Pre-TAS Never Treated Data** was organized virtually on January 14, 2022 to discuss the process, results and utilization of never treated data collected during 14 Pre-TAS in Indonesia. Data is currently collected and analyzed by survey in Indonesia. Act | East is working on templates to compile and analyze data at higher levels and the Indonesia team will feed into this process.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- **Provincial Program Review and Planning Meetings** will be organized in the province of West Papua on February 3 and 4, and in the province of Papua on February 9 and 10, 2022 with participants from the MOH, the provincial health services and all endemic districts in each province in order to strengthen the planning and implementation of the 2022 LF MDAs.
- Two sessions of the **TAS Training** will be organized in Jakarta on February 15-17 and February 22-24 for 20 participants each from those districts that will be implementing TAS for the first time in 2022.
- A **TAS1** will be implemented in collaboration with the MOH in the district of Kuningan beginning on February 14. This survey will be school based and utilize FTS.
- A **TAS3** will be implemented in collaboration with the MOH in the district of Subang beginning on February 21. This survey will also be school based and utilize FTS.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

January 2022

MOZAMBIQUE

Act East Partner: RTI	Total population: 30,881,854
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 161
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: LF (113), OV (5), SCH (159), STH (151), Trachoma (65)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	Trachoma
MDA	0/8 districts
DSAs (#EUs)	TIS: 0/6 EUs
MERLA	The Act East data officer is regularly working with MISAU and ARISE 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:

- Mozambique World NTD Day celebrations on January 31st included:
 - A ceremony with the Deputy Minister of Health, the Deputy Director of Public Health, the Country Director of Crown Agents, MISAU representatives and the Act | East COP attending in person. An additional 140 attendees from provincial and district health management teams joined the event via Zoom.
 - Before and during the event, TV and radio spots broadcasting NTD content ran at the central and provincial level.
- The Act | East COP is continuing to work with the NTD Coordinator and RTI Trachoma Advisor on the Trachoma Expert Committee recommendations for persistent and recrudescing districts to identify districts requiring additional rounds of treatment in fiscal year 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 March 2022. Originally planned in January but delayed while awaiting final IRB approval.
- **NTD National Steering Committee Meeting:** NTD partners and government stakeholders will meet in Ponta de Ouro, Maputo Province to discuss key technical issues. Scheduled for March 2-4, 2022.
- **Conflict Planning Meeting:** Act | East and MISAU staff will travel to Cabo Delgado to meet with local authorities in March 2022.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

January 2022

NEPAL

Act East Partner: RTI	Total population: 30,201,100
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 77
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	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 ; surveys ongoing TAS1 : 2/7 districts TAS2 : 16/16 districts 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 and ongoing surveys.

Highlights:

- The starting date of the FY22 LF MDA date was pushed back due to a COVID surge in Nepal in January 2022. MoHP has set the new MDA start date from 12th March 2022.
- School based TAS2 in sixteen districts (Terhathum, Sunsari, Lalitpur Rural, Myagdi, Surketh, Jajarkot, Bhojpur, Udayapur, Dailekh, Accham, Bajura, Doti, Dadeldhura, Baitadi, Bajhang and Darchula) was completed. Results have been shared for 6 districts (Terhathum, Sunsari, Lalitpur Rural, Myagdi, Surketh, Jajarkot) all of which passed with one or no positive cases detected. Results from the remaining districts will be finalized and shared in February.
- Data collection for school based TAS 1 in two districts (Dhankuta and Bardiya) was also completed. Results will be finalized and shared in February.
- Field work of Re Pre TAS began in five districts (Morang, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke and Kailali) in January and is planned to be completed by the end of February 2022. The surveys were interrupted by a COVID surge in Nepal in early January 2022.
- Act| East Nepal staff provided technical support for LF MDA strategic planning meeting of provinces organized by MoHP/EDCD with support from WHO Nepal. Directors and officials from Provincial Health Ministries, Provincial Health Directorates and District Health Offices of 10 LF MDA districts (Jhapa, Morang, Bara, Lamjung, Parbat, Baglung, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke and Kailali) along with other national stakeholders participated in the meeting. Implementation of IDA was discussed in this meeting. Act | East coordinated closely with WHO Country Office on this meeting.

- Act | East contributed to and participated in the MoHP celebration of World NTD Day in the ministry's meeting hall. The event included government representatives, WHO, and partners, with many joining virtually due to COVID-19. The meeting was chaired by [Redacted] from the MoHP and attended by the state Minister for Health and Population [Redacted]. During the meeting, the government expressed their commitment for control and elimination of NTDs.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- **Re-Pre-TAS** in five districts (Morang, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke and Kailali) will be completed in February 2022.
- **LF MDA** planning, preparation, and supervision in 10 districts (Jhapa, Morang, Bara, Lamjung, Parbat, Baglung, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke and Kailali) in Feb-March 2022.
- Act | East staff will support implementation and supervision of **LF MDA central level advocacy and social mobilization activities** in Feb-March 2022.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

January 2022

NIGERIA

Act East Partner: RTI, The Carter Center	Total population: 207.8 million
COP: [Redacted]	Districts (LGAs): 774
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: LF (553), OV (449), SCH (691), STH (415), Trachoma (143)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

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

HSS	Cross River State health financing assessment- in progress
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Summary and explanation of **changes** made to table above since last month:

- R4D is leading a health financing assessment in Cross River State, beginning with the recruitment of a consultant to organize, supervise and analyze data collection for the assessment.

Highlights:

- World NTD Day: Act | East provided financial and technical support to the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) and the Cross River State Government to mark World NTD Day. The Act | East Nigeria team actively participated in the day's events; Act | East COP acted in the capacity of the NGDO Coalition Chair during FMOH national rally, Ministerial Press Briefing and Television (NTA) and Radio (Hot FM) discussion sessions.
 - The Carter Center supported 8 States to mark the World NTD Day celebration holding a press conference, NTD awareness walk, and TV and radio talks.
- Act | East has proposed to shift from Onchocerciasis MDA to Onchocerciasis epidemiological and entomological surveys in Cross River State following exciting negative results of the OV-16 monitoring and evaluation surveys. Given the negative results the Nigeria Onchocerciasis Elimination Committee (NOEC) has recommended that we shift to entomological and epidemiological surveys.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- Additional FY22 MDA round, LF re-MDA for Yala LGA of CRS, in March 2022. TCC MDA training of health staff and CDDs in Edo, Delta and Imo States in February and March 2022.
- TCC to conduct a planning meeting in February 2022 for LF Pre-TAS in 39 LGAs in 6 Act | East supported states. Timing for Pre-TAS will be determined during this meeting.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

January 2022

PHILIPPINES

Act East Partner: RTI	Total population: 112,919,769
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	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	28/28 provinces	82 provinces
DSAs (#EUs)	TAS1 : 1/2 TAS2 : 0/6 TAS3 : 0/7		

Activities supported by USAID in FY21

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

Highlights:

- World NTD Day was celebrated virtually, due to increasing COVID cases, at the weekly Department of Health Flag Ceremony. The celebration solicited and recorded the commitment of the leaders and decision makers for the NTD response in the Philippines. Act | East liaised with DOH teams, WHO Country Office and USAID Mission Philippines to coordinate pre-recorded or live comments from representatives including:
 - [Redacted]
 DOH speakers acknowledged the support of WHO and USAID over the years and committed to including NTDs in policies and responses being developed as part of current DOH restructuring.

Upcoming activities:

- Act | East will continue to support DOH and CHED staff as they prepare to launch the Integrated NTD Pre-Service Curriculum in health education universities across the country. This is expected to kick off as soon as COVID rates decline. **COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

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

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

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

January 2022

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: [Redacted]	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
DSAs (#EUs)	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)

MERLA	Learning activity on dossier development models
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Summary and explanation of **changes** made to table above since last month: None

Bangladesh

Highlights:

- DIP data analysis and final report finalization is underway with CIPRB. Act | East will work with the MOHFW to disseminate findings of the DIP.
- 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 March 2022.
- An MOHFW-hosted World NTD Day event was canceled due to an increase in COVID cases in January.

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:

- 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.
- Dr. Ramaiah Kapa continues to work with Act | East Regional Advisor Jim Johnson to finalize Lao's dossier. The country aims to submit their dossier to WHO by the end of March 2022.

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 March and will include representatives from all endemic districts.
- VNEH celebrated World NTD Day virtually due to an increase in COVID cases in the country. An article on Viet Nam's progress toward trachoma elimination was posted on the hospital's website homepage, and a standing banner announcing Viet Nam's support of World NTD Day was placed in the lobby of the hospital.

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 \(vnpt.vn\)](#)

January 2022

TANZANIA

Act East Partner: RTI International	Total population: 57.6 million (2021)
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 184
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: LF (119), TRA (71), OV (28), SCH (184), STH (184)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF	OV	SCH	STH	Trachoma
Mapping	N/A	OV Elimination mapping: 0/4 districts OV Exclusion mapping: 0/2 districts	N/A	N/A	Desk review: 0/6 districts
MDA	0/4 districts	Round 1: 0/9 districts Round 2: 0/28 districts	0/35 districts	0/41 districts	0/9 districts (0/10 EUs)
DSAs (#EUs)	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: 0/1 EU TSS: 2/2 EUs

MERLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 9 districts: 4/4 LF, 4/4 OV, 0/1 TRA Trachoma DSA outcome investigation in 0/6 districts Trachoma MDA microplanning in 0/10 EUs
HSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (4 TRA, 2 OV)

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

- The number of EUs conducting trachoma MDA and microplanning increased from 6 to 10. Three additional EUs (Ngorongoro DC, Chamwino DC South, and Kongwa DC North) will conduct MDA in FY22 based on new guidance from the Trachoma Expert Committee (TEC) for persistent and recrudescing districts. However, the MDA planned for Ngorongoro DC is pending TIS results which will be available in February 2022.
- Per the above, MDA will now replace the previously planned TIS in Kongwa DC North and Chamwino DC South EUs. Only one TIS is now planned for FY22, in Ngorongoro DC.

Highlights:

- Act | East supported the NTDCP to prepare an application to the TEC for modified trachoma MDA strategies in persistent and recrudescing districts. Act | East participated in a meeting with NTDCP, ITI TEC and USAID whereby participants agreed to move forward with additional rounds of MDA for the 8 qualifying districts plus Ngorogoro DC which will undergo its second TIS this month. The TEC subsequently gave its approval of the proposal and USAID has confirmed funding support for these additional MDAs. ITI has updated the 2022 Zithromax shipment to include the 3 additional districts for trachoma MDA.
- The NTDCP's Pharmacist supported several procurements and shipments including:
 - Supported clearance of the OV16 running buffer through GPSA. Once the buffer is received, all OV laboratory commodities will be shipped to NIMR Tanga laboratory.
 - Obtained the import permit for the FTS shipment.
- Act | East supported NTDCP to prepare for the commemoration of World NTD Day and the Launch of the NTD Sustainability Plan together with the Master Plan. [Redacted], the Deputy Minister for Health was the guest of honor representing the Minister of Health. The event was attended by Act | East and other partners including Sightsavers, WHO, Helen Keller International, and Crown Agents. The USAID Tanzania Mission Director and Act | East Chief of Party gave speeches virtually. The NTD Master Plan and Sustainability Plan were launched successfully by the Deputy Minister for Health.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- In preparation for the MDA cascade trainings for February SCH/STH and OV MDAs, an orientation of national trainers/facilitators is planned for February 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 frontline health workers (FLHWs), teachers, and CDDs, social mobilization, and drug transport are planned for February/March 2022.
- Act | East is planning to implement the GESI behavior change activity in 2 oncho-endemic councils (Ulanga DC and Mlimba DC) alongside MDA from February 2022 with support from WI-HER. Preparations for this GESI activity are ongoing.
- Qualitative data collection for the trachoma DSA outcome investigation in Monduli DC, Mpwapwa DC and Kalambo DC is scheduled for February 2022. The activity will commence with a virtual orientation of the national team in the second week of February. This will be followed by training of field data collectors, transcribers, and translators in Arusha in the third week of February. Data collection will wrap up by early March 2022.
- Re-Pre-TAS in Pangani DC is scheduled for February 2022.
- TIS in Ngorogoro DC is planned in 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>

January 2022

UGANDA

Act East Partner: RTI, The Carter Center, WI-HER, R4D, Save the Children	Total population: 41,740,474 (2019)
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 134
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: LF (64), TRA (51), OV (32), SCH (92), STH (134)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF	OV	SCH	STH	Trachoma
MDA	N/A	9/9 districts (R1) 0/11 districts (R2)	N/A	N/A	5/5 districts (Oct 2021) 0/2 districts (Sept 2022)
DSAs (#EUs)	TAS3: 0/17 EUs	N/A	N/A	N/A	TIS: 0/3 districts

MERLA	Trachoma coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 3 districts (completed) Data quality assessment in Moroto NTD data management training using DHIS2
HSS	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: None

Highlights:

- **World NTD Day:** Act | East provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Health to prepare and publish a press release and newspaper pull-out as part of the commemoration of the World NTD Day. These two products were published in the two major national newspapers – the government owned New Vision and privately owned Daily Monitor –on January 31st, 2022.
- **Cross border collaboration with Kenya on Trachoma MDA:** Act | East, with permission from the NTD program team at the Ministry of Health, reached out to the trachoma program lead at the Kenya Ministry of Health to plan and hold a cross border MDA review meeting following the successful joint MDA in October 2021. The purpose of the meeting, which is planned for mid-February, is to review performance on both sides of the border, draw lessons for future cross border MDA, and discuss the implications of the new TEC recommendations on the Uganda/Kenya collaboration for trachoma elimination.

Save the Children (StC)

- **SCH/STH Partner mapping:** StC completed work on the SCH/STH partner mapping to strengthen multisectoral collaboration. A draft report on the mapping exercise was shared and reviewed by both StC and RTI and will be finalized during the month of February.
- **Radio talk shows and spot messages:** StC worked with District Health Team members (District NTD focal person, District Health Educator, GESI trainer & Health facility In-charge) of Amudat, Moroto, and Nakapiripirit districts to develop two hour-long radio talk shows and messages, which began airing on two radio stations in January. The purpose of the talk show and messages are to sensitize communities in these districts on trachoma and the SAFE strategy, particularly facial cleanliness and environmental hygiene as prevention measures. These radio programs will continue through the end of FY22.
- **Community dialogue:** StC worked with community development officers, health assistants, NTD focal persons, health workers and local leaders, to conduct 18 community dialogues in 18 villages in Moroto and Nabilatuk districts reaching a total of 921 community members (550 females and 371 males). The dialogues aimed at engaging community members on trachoma disease, barriers to control and elimination of trachoma in their communities, and community measures that should be adopted to accelerate progress towards trachoma control and elimination.

WI-HER

- **GESI behavior change activity in Moroto:** A draft report of the GESI activities carried out prior to the trachoma MDA in Moroto has been finalized. Additional content on learnings from these activities will be incorporated after the meetings with District GESI Team and Behavior Change Teams in February 2022. Preliminary findings indicate that 100% of the cohort members received treatment during the MDA. Selected cohort members interviewed acknowledged engagement with behavior change team members.

TCC

- **Semi-annual River Blindness Program Review Meeting:** Ministry of Health with support from TCC organized OV program review meeting to discuss MDA coverage in the districts in Nyamugasani (Kasese) and Madi mid North (Moyo, Adjumani, Amuru, Nwoya, Oyam, Lira, Omoro, Gulu, Pader, Kitgum and Lamwo) foci. Participants included District OV Coordinators, District Health Officers and Ministry of Health Officials. Key recommendations to improve district performance included enhanced supervision of MDA, verification of data before submission to the Ministry of Health, and quantification of registers needed by districts before registration of communities.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID-19 protocols:

RTI

- **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 8th – 9th February 2022.
- **TAS3 in 7 EUs.** Act | East will support Ministry of Health to conduct community based TAS3 in seven EUs (Iganga, Luuka, Bugweri, Bugabula, Buzaaya, Buyende and Kaliro). The activity is scheduled to take place from 10th – 23rd February 2022
- **World NTD Day:** Act | East plans to support the MOH to commemorate World NTD Day. Act | East supported a newspaper pull-out celebrating Uganda's NTD achievements to date. In addition, a breakfast meeting is being organized as part of the World NTD Day activities on February 9th, 2022, in Kampala, and February 25th will mark the NTD national celebration in Lira district, northern Uganda. These events were postponed at the request of the Minister of Health, who will preside over both activities. 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 rescheduled training will take place in February 2022.

StC

- **Community dialogues & consultations on SBCC materials:** StC will conduct community dialogues in Nakapiripirit and Amudat districts starting 14th February, 2022. The dialogues aim to ensure communities are engaged in finding solutions to their challenges related to trachoma control. Adherence to COVID protocols will be observed through ensuring communities gather in open spaces where they can keep adequate social distance, wear face masks, and sanitize their hands. In addition, radio talk shows will continue in February.
- **Identifying VHTs, parish-based supervisors, parish chiefs, and parish social workers:** In consultation with the district focal persons and RTI, StC will select 240 VHTs from 120 villages in the updated district database from Nabilatuk, Nakapiripirit, Amudat and Moroto. The selected community resource persons will be mobilized and trained on a Clean Household approach to be rolled out in 120 villages. Throughout the exercise, StC staff will ensure to observe COVID-19 protocols.

WI-HER

- Travel to Moroto in February to meet with behavior change teams and district GESI team and collate learning, adaptations, and plans for scale-up; additional plans for scale-up to Nabilatuk and potentially Amudat districts underway
- GESI MDA Materials Finalization Meeting is scheduled for mid-to-late February; final date dependent upon confirmation by MOH.

Other upcoming activities:

StC

- **Broadcasting SAFE SBCC spot messages:** Two local stations will broadcast radio spot messages that promote the uptake of key WASH behaviors (facial washing & environmental improvement) as cue reminders throughout February. These messages will be broadcast daily on two local stations in Moroto and Nakapiripirit districts.
- **Dissemination of mapping report:** StC will disseminate the final report on STH/SCH partner mapping to key stakeholders both at national and sub national level in February. The research consultant will make a presentation of findings to the national expert committee at national level, and at sub national level, presentation will be made to local governments and partners in Karamoja.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

February 2022

ETHIOPIA

Act East Partner: RTI, Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF), Light for the World (LFTW)	Total population: 109,654,569
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 870
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: LF (75), TRA (699), OV (222), SCH (424), STH (546)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF	OV	STH	Trachoma
MDA	0/1 district + 0/1 camp • BG (0/1 camp) • Oromia-FHF (0/1 district)	0/83 districts + 0/5 refugee camps • BG (0/16 districts) • BG (0/5 camps) • Oromia-LFTW (0/67 districts)	0/1 district	0/34 districts • Gambella (0/6 districts) • Oromia-FHF (0/28 districts)
DSAs (#EUs)	Pre-TAS: 0/10 districts + 0/1 camp • BG (0/5 districts) • BG (0/1 refugee camp) • Oromia-LFTW (0/5 districts) TAS1: 0/20 districts + 2/3 camps • BG (0/9 districts) • BG (2/3 camps) • Oromia-LFTW (0/11 districts)			TIS: 14/135 districts + 0/7 refugee camps • BG (0/2 districts) • Gambella (0/3 districts) • Gambella (0/7 camps) • Oromia-FHF (14/101 districts) • Oromia-LFTW (0/29 districts) TSS: 0/89 districts • BG (0/6 districts) • Gambella (0/4 districts) • Oromia-FHF (0/48 districts) • Oromia-LFTW (0/31 districts)

MERLA	Sub-district level MDA and SCT data (Partners): RTI finalized data analysis and plan to share feedback with partners CES (FHF): No updates. Gambella region-DQA (RTI)- MDA registers being verified by Gambella RHB team. DSA Field Investigation (FHF): Protocol development and data collection tools are being finalized.
HSS	NTD Sustainability Plan - Printing process initiated. Rapid GESI Assessment (RTI-Gambella) - Data analysis is underway Rapid GESI Assessment (FHF-Oromia) - Data review and analysis are underway GESI Behavior Change: Preparatory activities for GESI behavior change training is underway.

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

- Updated number of TAS1 completed by RTI in BG during February 2022.
- Updated Trachoma MDA (reduced by 18) and survey targets (increased TIS by 13, TSS by 35).
- Updates to the MERLA and HSS activities.

Highlights:

- Survey targets have been revised according to progress of MDA activities, shifts in donor funding for survey activities, and additional budget availability. Trachoma survey and MDA targets are likely to change again as MDA flexibility plans are finalized in Ethiopia.
- FHF conducted a ToT on Tropical Data (TD) training from 7-11 Feb 2022 where seven grader candidates participated in the training. Three candidates were certified as grader trainers, two as graders only and the remaining two failed to qualify for either. Following the ToT, FHF organized one basic TD training from 14-18 Feb 2022. Six out of the 10 candidates (60%) qualified to work as a grader and 18 out of the 22 (82%) qualified to work as a recorder.
- RTI provided technical support to the BG Regional Health Bureau to finalize LF TAS1 field work in two refugee camps.
- SCM Technical Advisor facilitated the distribution of 4,000 tubes of TEO to Gambella and Oromia regions as part of the planned RTI-supported impact surveys. The SCM TA also facilitated the distribution of 41 million Ivermectin tablets for 130 woredas in Oromia region and 6 districts of BG, with Albendazole included for three districts.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- **DSA investigation:** FHF will conduct a rapid DSA failure field investigation in Sebeta Hawas district of Oromia region in March 2022.
- **Oromia Annual Review and Planning Meeting:** FHF will organize the regional performance review and planning meeting in Adama town, Oromia in March 2022.
- **TIS/TSS trainings:**
 - RTI will organize a graders and recorders training in March 2022 in Gambella region.
 - FHF will organize additional basic Tropical Data trainings to maximize the data collectors' pool as the result of huge needs to finish the planned districts in the region in April 2022.
 - LFTW will organize basic Tropical Data training and the field work in April/May 2022. Field work is dependent on the status of ongoing security challenges in the targeted woredas.
- **TIS/TSS in Gambella:**
 - RTI will implement three TIS and four TSS in Gambella region districts in March/April 2022.
 - RTI will implement TIS in the seven refugee camps of Gambella region in April 2022.
- **OV MDA in BG:** RTI will support OV MDA in nine districts of Assosa zone in April/May 2022.
- **Trachoma MDA in Gambella:** RTI will support Trachoma MDA in six districts of Gambella region in March and April/May 2022.
- **IMDA training + OV MDA:** LFTW will organize Integrated MDA trainings (IMDA) at the zonal and district levels (dependent on FAA approval) following with OV MDA implementation in 67 districts in April/May 2022.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

February 2022

HAITI

Act East Partners: RTI, WI-HER	Total population: 11.7 million (2020 est.)
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 140 communes
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: LF (140) STH (140)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF	STH
MDA	0/7 communes	0/7 communes
DSAs (#EUs)	TAS3 in 0/1 EU	

MERLA	National LF Pause and Reflect Meeting (completed December 2021) Pre-MDA census in 2 communes (ongoing) Coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 2 communes MDA real-time data collection in 7 communes
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Summary and explanation of **changes** made to table above since last month: None

Security update: February went by without major difficulties. The country remained relatively calm after the February 7th date which marked the transfer of power for the national government. Failing to reach a political agreement, the interim government still holds the reins of power although the opposition has elected its own government. The socio-political environment is worsening. Murders, kidnappings, and robberies punctuate Haitian society daily, to the point of getting lost in the "Various Facts" section of the newspaper.

Highlights:

- The Act | East Haiti MERLA team streamlined the list of investigators and supervisors for the pre-MDA census and organized the training of these actors on the ground. Following the training, investigators were deployed to Arahaie and Cabaret with support of the local MSPP (municipal and departmental nurses).
- Act | East Haiti COP presented the program objectives and annual country work plan to the USAID Mission.
- The team finalized amendments to the FY22 budget to incorporate MDA strengthening activities in line with recommendations from the national LF Pause and Reflect meeting and to add focal MDA in Chansolme commune in 4 enumeration areas where TAS positives were clustered. USAID subsequently lifted the hold on MDA activities for FY22.
- Social mobilization consultants designed and discussed the IEC materials with Act | East Haiti's Technical Advisor. Revised IEC materials were submitted to CADME (MSPP); in parallel, the

consultants initiated the pre-test of these materials in the field. A draft of the social mobilization plan has been submitted to the Act | East Haiti team for review.

- Act | East team drafted a concept note and budget to pilot a virtual Directly Observed Treatment activity in Milot during the upcoming LF MDA.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- Act | East will hold microplanning sessions with leaders, promoters, local authorities and youth representatives in North, Northwest and West Department in March.
- Act | East will convene a TAS planning meeting in Caracol to collect the list of schools in the commune in March.

Other upcoming activities:

- Act | East, together with MSPP, will prepare the agenda for the MDA safety workshop planned in April.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

February 2022

INDONESIA

Act East Partner: RTI	Total population: 274,859,094
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 514
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	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 TAS1 : 1/1 EU TAS2 : 2/17 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 February 2022.

Highlights:

- TAS1** was implemented in collaboration with the MOH in the district of Kuningan from February 14 to 25, 2022 using FTS. A total of 1598 school children from 38 schools were tested; no positive results were reported.
- TAS3** was implemented in collaboration with the MOH in the district of Subang which began on February 21, 2022. To date a total of 1190 school children from 24 schools have been tested with FTS, with no positive results.
- Act | East organized **Provincial Program Review and Planning Meetings** in the province of West Papua on February 3 and 4, and in the province of Papua on February 9 and 10, 2022 with participants from the MOH, the provincial health services and LF program and drugs and logistics staff from all endemic districts in each province in order to strengthen the planning and implementation of the 2022 LF MDAs and DSAs. Special emphasis was given to the sharing of best practices by successful districts and the identification of practical strategies to increase MDA coverage in low performing districts. Meetings also covered issues of access, security and other challenges and focused in on districts that will implement IDA MDA. Meeting participants returned to their home provinces to begin detailed planning with counterparts from the health centers.
- Two sessions of **TAS Training** were organized in Jakarta on February 15-17 with 19 participants, and February 22-24 with 21 participants from those districts that will be implementing TAS for the first time in 2022. Participants were mostly LF program managers from DHOs ready to implement TAS1 in 2022.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- TAS2** will be implemented in collaboration with the MOH in the district of Karawang (EU2), as well as two **TAS3** in the districts of Mappi and Supiori, all beginning on March 14, 2022. These surveys will be school-based and utilize FTS.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

February 2022

MOZAMBIQUE

Act East Partner: RTI	Total population: 30,881,854
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 161
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: LF (113), OV (5), SCH (159), STH (151), Trachoma (65)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	Trachoma
MDA	0/8 districts
DSAs (#EUs)	TIS: 0/6 EUs
MERLA	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 has begun interviewing organizations with health programming in Cabo Delgado to learn how they are operating in the province given the ongoing security challenges. As a next step, Act | East will travel to Pemba, the capital of Cabo Delgado, to meet with provincial health staff and NGOs to assess feasibility for possible impact survey implementation in accessible districts.
- Act | East met virtually with ITI, and USAID Washington to discuss the TEC guidance on MDA flexibility, biannual MDA, and collection of serology and conjunctival swabs during impact surveys (TIS+). Act | East plans to implement the following with USAID and RTI funding, and is awaiting USAID approval before officially changing targets:
 - Conduct two additional rounds of MDA (FY22, FY23) in two districts rather than TIS in FY22.
 - Conduct TIS+ in four EUs.
 - Conduct biannual MDA in FY23 in seven districts.
- Zithromax is expected to arrive in country March 2022. Discussion between ITI and CMAM (Central de Medicamentos e Artigos Médicos (Center for Drugs and Medical Supplies)) is ongoing.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- Conflict Planning Meeting:** Act | East and MISAU staff will travel to Cabo Delgado to meet with local authorities in March 2022.
- NTD National Steering Committee Meeting:** NTD partners and government stakeholders will meet in Ponta de Ouro, Maputo Province to discuss key technical issues. Scheduled for March 2022.
- 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 April 2022. RTI is working to address IRB feedback.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

February 2022

NEPAL

Act East Partner: RTI	Total population: 30,201,100
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 77
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: # ever endemic districts: LF (63), Trachoma (20) & STH (77)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF
DSAs (#EUs)	Re-Pre-TAS : 5/10 districts TAS1 : 2/7 districts TAS2 : 16/16 districts 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 and ongoing surveys.

Highlights:

- School based TAS2 in sixteen districts (Terhathum, Sunsari, Lalitpur Rural, Myagdi, Surketh, Jajarkot, Bhojpur, Udayapur, Dailekh, Accham, Bajura, Doti, Dadeldhura, Baitadi, Bajhang and Darchula) was completed. Results have been shared for all 16 districts. All districts were successful.
- School based TAS 1 in two districts (Dhankuta and Bardiya) was also completed. Both districts were successful in TAS1 and LF MDA has been stopped.
- Field work of Re Pre TAS in five districts (Morang, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke and Kailali) is completed. Preliminary results shows that all districts were unsuccessful in Re-Pre-TAS.
- Act | East Nepal staff provided technical support for district level LF MDA planning meetings of 10 LF MDA districts (Jhapa, Morang, Bara, Lamjung, Parbat, Baglung, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke and Kailali) organized by provincial health directorates. Directors and officials from Provincial Health Ministries, Provincial Health Directorates and District Health Offices along with EDCC and WHO facilitated the meeting. There was strong engagement from provincial authorities, as well as from mayors/deputy mayors, Chief Administrative Officers and health section chiefs of each municipality/rural municipality.
- Act | East and R4D recruited a consultant to develop a case study on domestic resource mobilization (DRM) for NTDs with a focus on Nepal's newly federalized health system.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- **LF MDA scheduled to begin March 12th.** Planning, preparation, and supervision in 10 districts (Jhapa, Morang, Bara, Lamjung, Parbat, Baglung, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke and Kailali) will take place starting in early March 2022.
- Act | East staff will support implementation and supervision of **LF MDA central level advocacy and social mobilization activities, including central level journalist interaction and central level health professionals' interaction meetings** in March 2022.
- Act | East will kick off research and interviews for the **DRM and decentralization (federalized) case study**.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

February 2022

NIGERIA

Act East Partner: RTI, The Carter Center	Total population: 207.8 million
COP: [Redacted]	Districts (LGAs): 774
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: LF (553), OV (449), SCH (691), STH (415), Trachoma (143)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

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

HSS	Cross River State health financing assessment- A consultant is in place and organizing an inception meeting in CRS
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Summary and explanation of **changes** made to table above since last month:

- R4D selected a consultant who will organize, supervise, and analyze data collection for the CRS health financing assessment.

Highlights:

- Act | East has used findings from the Pre-TAS failure investigation to finalize a response strategy to strengthen upcoming Re-MDA in Yala, Cross Rivers.
- Act | East conducted a training in early February, 2022 of State Integrated Health Teams and LGA NTD Coordinators in preparation for MDA in Edo State.
- Act | East held a strategic work plan meeting in Edo State on February 9th and 10th, 2022 in Benin City to review recent work and begin discussions to inform FY23 workplanning.
- Act | East held a LF Pre-TAS planning meeting for 2022 with FMOH, NTD State Coordinators and State Data Managers of Imo, Abia, Enugu, Ebonyi, Delta and Edo States between February 16th and 17th 2022 in Nasarawa State.
- MDA in Ohaji Egbemma LGA of Imo State began on February 16th and will conclude in March.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- Strategic planning meetings in Plateau and Nasarawa states in March 2022.
- OV MDA in Plateau, Nasarawa, Ebonyi and Enugu States in March and April 2022.

- TAS trainings for Cross River State LF TAS-2 in 7 LGAs in April 2022.
- LF Pre-TAS in 39 LGAs of Imo, Abia, Ebonyi, Enugu, Edo and Delta States in April 2022.
- Community mobilization, sensitization, and training of CDDs planned for April and May 2022 in all the 8 USAID supported states ahead of LV/OV MDA.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

February 2022

PHILIPPINES

Act East Partner: RTI	Total population: 112,919,769
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Districts/Provinces: 82
	Endemic diseases: # ever endemic districts. LF (47) SCH (29) STH (82)

TABLE: Activities supported by Philippines DOH in 2022

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

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY21

HSS	NTD costing analysis and province/municipality TA
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Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month: None

Highlights:

- The Act | East and R4D team met with the new leadership of the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau to discuss findings from their policy brief on mobilizing domestic resources for NTDs. The brief and findings were well-received and DPCB leadership found the framing helpful as they continue to design guidelines for primary health, known as the Omnibus Guidelines on Primary Health. The next phase of financial analysis will take place at the sub-national level to understand how NTD activities present in local budgets. This activity is on hold while COVID vaccination campaigns are prioritized by regional and provincial health offices.
- The DOH and Commission on Higher Education agreed that the NTD pre-practice curricula will be integrated into in person teaching in the relevant courses starting in June 2022. The operationalization of the curricula had been delayed due to COVID-related school closures.
- Act | East consulted with field partners in the two provinces that continue to be LF endemic. Three high-prevalence municipalities in Sultan Kudarat will implement the first round of IDA MDA in July while Zamboanga del Norte will conduct re-pre-TAS and if successful, re-TAS 1 in July. Act | East will provide coordination and planning support for both provinces.

Upcoming activities:

- Ongoing coordination and support to DPCB through DOH restructuring.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

February 2022

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: [Redacted]	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
DSAs (#EUs)	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)

MERLA	Learning activity on dossier development models
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Summary and explanation of **changes** made to table above since last month: None

Bangladesh

Highlights:

- CIPRB, Act | East HQ, and the Act | East technical consultant in Bangladesh continue to work together to refine and finalize the DIP data set and final report.
- Bangladesh dossier submission timeline is delayed until Q4 FY22. Changes in the MOHFW leadership as well as difficulty accessing paper files housed in a former MOHFW building (to confirm data included in the soft copy dossier file) are the main reasons of the delay. As COVID restrictions in the country ease, access to the stored files will become easier.

Upcoming activities:

- Act | East's in country consultant will coordinate closely with regional dossier development consultant to access hard copy data to cross check and update data in the current draft of the LF dossier.

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:

- Act | East regional dossier consultant, [Redacted], continues to work with Act | East Regional Advisor [Redacted] and WHO Lao PDR to finalize Lao's dossier. The country aims to submit their dossier to WHO Geneva by the end of March 2022.

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 was originally scheduled to take place in March with regional officials participating virtually and a limited number of Hanoi based government officials from VNEH and MOH joining in person, but the date for this meeting has not been set because of the ongoing COVID-19 surge.

Upcoming activities:

- Hybrid dossier elimination workshop in March, date TBD.

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 \(vnpt.vn\)](https://banchi-daoc-quoc-gia-phong-chong-dich-benh-covid-19.vnpt.vn)

February 2022

TANZANIA

Act East Partner: RTI International	Total population: 57.6 million (2022)
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 184
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: LF (119), TRA (71), OV (28), SCH (184), STH (184)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF	OV	SCH	STH	Trachoma
Mapping		OV Elimination mapping: 0/4 districts OV Exclusion mapping: 0/2 districts			Desk review: 0/6 districts
MDA	0/4 districts	Round 1: 0/9 districts Round 2: 0/28 districts	0/35 districts	0/41 districts	0/9 districts (0/10 EUs)
DSAs (#EUs)	Re-Pre-TAS: 1/1 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		TIS: 1/1 EU TSS: 2/2 EUs

MERLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 9 districts: 4/4 LF, 4/4 OV, 0/1 TRA Trachoma DSA outcome investigation in 3/6 districts Trachoma MDA microplanning in 0/10 EUs
HSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (4 TRA, 2 OV)

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

- Act | East supported the NTDCP to complete trachoma DSA outcome investigations in 3/6 planned districts (Monduli DC, Kalambo DC and Mpwapwa DC), TIS in 1 district (Ngorogoro) and re-pre-TAS in 1 district (Pangani).

Highlights:

- Act East and NTDCP conducted a mini review and planning meeting with regional and district NTD coordinators, pharmacists and NTD accountants in Kalambo DC (Rukwa region), Chamwino DC, Kongwa DC (Dodoma region) and Ngorogoro DC (Arusha region) where Act | East plans to support the additional trachoma MDAs that were approved by the TEC and USAID in January. The purpose of

the meeting was to solidify activity timelines and FAA budgets for trachoma MDA activities in these districts.

- The USAID-funded NTDCP pharmacist supported several procurements and shipments including:
 - Transportation of OV16 laboratory rapid test kits and dried blood spots to Tanga NIMR laboratory;
 - Clearance processes for FTS that have arrived in country;
 - Inventory and verification of existing FTS kits, which were confirmed to have a March 2022 expiration date rather than February 2022 as indicated on the outside of the packaging;
 - Submission of all documents to the Tanzania Medicines & Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) to obtain the import permit for the 2022 Zithromax shipment;
 - Liaising with TMDA to import laboratory reagent for OV ELISA.
- Qualitative data collection for the trachoma DSA outcome investigation was conducted in Monduli DC, Mpwapwa DC, and Kalambo DC. The activity commenced with a virtual orientation of the national team in the second week of February. It was followed by training of field data collectors, transcribers, and translators in Arusha from February 17–18 and pre-testing of tools on February 19. Data collection was completed from February 20–March 2.
- Act | East supported training of research assistants and lab technicians on February 23 for the re-pre-TAS in Pangani district and data collection was completed from February 24 –March 2. Data analysis and report writing are ongoing.
- Act | East and NTDCP conducted TIS in Ngorongoro DC. Refresher training of graders and recorders took place from February 14–15, and data collection was completed from February 16–20. The team is compiling the report, and preliminary data indicate additional rounds of MDA are required.
- In collaboration with WI-HER, Act | East implemented the planned GESI behavior change activity in two OV endemic councils (Ulanga DC and Mlimba DC in Morogoro region). The regional health management team (RHMT) and council health management teams (CHMTs) were oriented on the GESI activity and iDARE model (Identify, Design, Apply and assess, Record, Expand) in a cascade fashion. iDARE teams were then formed at village level, comprising of FLHWs, CDDs, CHWs and village and hamlet leaders. A total of 6 iDARE teams were formulated, 4 teams in Mlimba DC and 2 in Ulanga DC. These teams were oriented on iDARE methodology and guided to conduct a root cause analysis of community members who missed the last MDA to identified barriers to MDA uptake and develop GESI action plans toward addressing those barriers in the upcoming OV MDA campaign. A total of 240 community members (160 in Mlimba DC and 80 in Ulanga DC) who missed MDA in the last round were reached through this activity. iDARE teams captured community members' intent to take MDA and will follow up after the campaign to assess how many actually participated in MDA.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- Pre-MDA activities including regional and district TOT training, training of FLHWs, teachers, and CDDs, social mobilization, and drug transport are planned in 9 districts for OV MDA. MDA is expected to be completed by end of March.

- TAS3 is planned in 9 EUs of Babati TC, Igunga DC, Kaliua DC, Nzega DC, Nzega TC, Sikonge DC, Tabora MC, Urambo DC and Uyui DC. Survey activities will commence with pre-visits to each EU from March 7–22, followed by survey team training from March 11–12 and field data collection from March 13–26.
- Act | East team retreat is planned from March 8 – 11 in Arusha to discuss progress implementing FY22 activities to date and promote team building.
- Following GESI behavior change activity implemented in Ulanga and Mlimba, Act | East will conduct follow-up coaching visits in April and May to continue building local capacity of the 6 iDARE teams formulated at community level. During the coaching visits, teams will reflect on successes and challenges implementing their GESI action plans and beginning planning for round 2 OV MDA in August.
- Act | East is planning to support CCHP assessment of the 15 councils that were capacitated to plan and budget for NTDs in FY22 Q1. This assessment will be led by national level MOH and PORALG during a meeting planned for March 16–31st.
- In preparation of NTDCP integration into SWAP platform, Act | East will support a 1-day preliminary workshop in March to help NTDCP prepare their activities for integration into the respective SWAP technical working group.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

February 2022

UGANDA

Act East Partner: RTI, The Carter Center, WI-HER, R4D, Save the Children	Total population: 41,740,474 (2019)
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 134
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: LF (64), TRA (51), OV (32), SCH (92), STH (134)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF	OV	SCH	STH	Trachoma
MDA		9/9 districts (R1) 0/11 districts (R2)			5/5 districts (Oct 2021) 0/2 districts (Sept 2022)
DSAs (#EUs)	TAS3: 5/17 EUs				

MERLA	Trachoma coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 3 districts (completed) Data quality assessment in Moroto NTD data management training using DHIS2
HSS	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:

- Data collection for LF TAS3 was completed in 5 of 7 targeted EUs (Buzaaya, Bugabula, Iganga, Bugweri and Kaliro districts)

Highlights:

- Advocacy Breakfast Meeting:** RTI facilitated a high level NTD advocacy breakfast meeting on Wednesday, February 9th, attended by members of parliament on the health sector committee, representatives from NTD program partners, WHO, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, Senior MOH staff led by the Director Clinical Services. The Minister of Health, [Redacted], presided and emphasized her continued support for the NTD program in Uganda. R4D's consultant presented NTD cost estimation results for 2021-2025 and the Minister called for a separate budget line for NTDs. She committed to working with the team at the MOH and the Finance Ministry to make that happen. Members of the parliamentary committee on health also expressed their commitment.

- **Training on processing, analyzing, and packaging NTD financial data:** RTI and R4D held a training in Kampala, February 17-18, 2022, for 35 participants from the NTDCP/MOH, 12 districts (district health officer and chief financial officer), and implementing partners. R4D shared findings from the mapping exercise and financing analytics produced in FY21, including cost estimates for 2021-2025. The training provided participants with insights on feasible actions to improve data generation, reporting, visibility of NTD programs during the budget cycle, and evidence generation to inform national and subnational advocacy for NTD program financing.
- **Trachoma Cross Border MDA Review Meeting:** Act | East conducted a virtual cross border MDA review meeting between the Uganda NTD program team Ministry of Health, Kenya NTD program on February 18, 2022. The team will prepare a joint implementation plan for the MDA to be conducted in Q3.
- **LF TAS3 results:** Act | East supported the Ministry of Health to conduct community based TAS3 in five EUs (Iganga, Bugweri, Bugabula, Buzaaya and Kaliro) from February 13th to March 1, 2022. All 5 EUs passed. EU specific reports are prepared and will be shared with the technical team at HQ for review.
- **GESI Behavior Change Activity Scale Up:** RTI, WI-HER and staff from MOH conducted a field trip to Moroto, Nabilatuk and Amudat to meet with behavior change teams and the Moroto district GESI team to discuss, compile learnings and possible adaptations from the previous GESI activities in the district. The team developed a plan to scale-up the GESI behavior change approach to Nabilatuk and Amudat districts. Then the team proceeded to Nabilatuk and Amudat where they conducted inception meetings with relevant district stakeholders to secure their approval and support for the behavior change work to be scaled up in these 2 districts ahead of the FY22 MDA.
- **GESI MDA Materials Finalization Workshop:** WI-HER and RTI held a 2-day workshop in Kampala on February 14-15 attended by MOH staff from both divisions of VB&NTDs and Health Promotion and Education and other NTD stakeholders. A review of and feedback on additional inputs/edits to GESI content was done. Integration of the new GESI content will be finalized in March 2022.

Save the Children (StC)

- **Airing of radio spot messages:** StC contracted two local radio stations in Moroto and Nakapiripirit districts to broadcast radio spot messages on trachoma prevention and control, with a focus on facial cleanliness and environmental improvement. Throughout February a total of 45 spot messages were broadcast in the local language.

The Carter Center (TCC)

- Bwindi focus completed 3 years of post-treatment surveillance in January 2022. OV16 blood samples are collected to affirm the status. A total of 3090 OV16 blood samples were collected from Bwindi and analysis is ongoing.
- TCC trained community supervisors on MDA supervision in the 10 districts of Moyo, Adjumani, Amuru, Nwoya, Gulu, Omoro, Lira, Kitgum, Oyam and Lamwo. While in the district of Pader, report compilation is ongoing.
- TCC also trained Local Council I leaders on how to offer support during community mobilization for health education and CDD selection.
- TCC completed health education and CDD selection in Kasese districts (Lhubiriha focus) ahead of OV MDA planned for April 2022. The same activity is still ongoing in 10 other districts; Adjumani has not begun.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID-19 protocols:

RTI

- **Data Quality Assessment:** Act | East will support the MOH to conduct a 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 take place late March through mid-April.
- **TAS3 in 2 EUs.** Act | East will support Ministry of Health to conduct community based TAS 3 in two remaining EUs (Luuka and Buyende) to complete seven targeted EUs in FY22. The activity is scheduled to take place from in the third week of March 2022
- **Quarterly Trachoma Review Meeting** Act | East will support the MOH to conduct quarterly trachoma review meeting with NTDCP staff, district level staff, TEP partners and consultants. The purpose of the meeting is review progress towards trachoma elimination, discuss MDA performance and reports and also the new TEC recommendations. The meeting is scheduled to take place in the first week of April 2022.
- **Cross border strategy Meeting.** As an outcome of the cross-border review meeting Act | East will provide financial and technical support to a cross border planning meeting which will be hosted by Kenya MOH. This meeting will focus on a review the region's trachoma situation and the new Trachoma Expert Committee (TEC) in planning for the next cross border MDA. A plan will be developed for synchronized MDA that identifies clear strategies and logistics for reaching mobile and migratory pastoralists on both sides of the border. The meeting will take place in April 2022.
- **Training for scaling up GESI behavior change activity and Behavior change activities:** District level training and orientation on GESI concepts and BCC approach will take place on March 9th and 10th in Nabilatuk and 14th and 15th in Amudat. During the training, feedback on the previous MDA will be shared to enable the right targeting of the BCC activities. Thereafter, training with and engagement of facility-based 'root agents' to identify cohorts of missing or refusing groups; interviews with cohorts; recruitment and training of influencers as behavior change teams; and ongoing coaching and support to behavior change teams to implement action plans will follow.
- **National multisectoral coordination meeting:** The NTDCP, with funding from Act | East, will convene the 2nd quarter NTD Secretariat meeting to review program performance against disease-specific objectives and implementation of Sustainability Plan strategies and activities. This meeting will be tentatively planned for April.

Save the Children

- **Conducting radio talk shows.** Save the Children will work with local radio stations in Moroto and Nakapiripirit districts to broadcast two radio talk shows on 15th and 22nd March 2022. To ensure observance of COVID protocols, facilitators and the moderator will wear face masks, use hand sanitizers, and keep a distance of at least two meters away from each other.
- **Community dialogues:** Save the Children will conduct a total of 20 community dialogues in Moroto and Amudat districts starting March 7, 2022. The dialogues aim to ensure communities are engaged in finding solutions to their challenges related to trachoma control.

- **Training of VHTs and Parish-based peer supervisors**

Save the Children will conduct a 2-day training of 240 VHTs and 40 parish-based supervisors on SBCC, F&E and SAFE strategy on March 7, 2022.

The Carter Center

- Training of community drug distributors.
- OV MDA to begin in April 2022.

Other upcoming activities:

Save the Children

- **Printing of SAFE SBCC materials.** Save the Children will print Ministry of Health approved SAFE SBCC materials which have been translated into local dialects (Pokot and Ngakarimojong) and pre-tested. These materials will be disseminated to and used by VHTs and local health workers to deliver SAFE strategy messages to their communities.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

March 2022

ETHIOPIA

Act East Partner: RTI, Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF), Light for the World (LFTW)	Total population: 109,654,569
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 870
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: LF (75), TRA (699), OV (222), SCH (424), STH (546)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF	OV	STH	Trachoma
MDA	0/1 district + 0/1 camp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BG (0/1 camp) Oromia-FHF (0/1 district) 	0/83 districts + 0/5 refugee camps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BG (0/16 districts) BG (0/5 camps) Oromia-LFTW (0/67 districts) 	0/1 district	0/34 districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gambella (0/6 districts) Oromia-FHF (0/28 districts)
DSAs (#EUs)	Pre-TAS: 0/10 districts + 0/1 camp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BG (0/5 districts) BG (0/1 refugee camp) Oromia-LFTW (0/5 districts) TAS1: 0/20 districts + 2/3 camps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BG (0/9 districts) BG (2/3 camps) Oromia-LFTW (0/11 districts) 			TIS: 26/135 districts + 0/7 refugee camps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BG (0/2 districts) Gambella (0/3 districts) Gambella (0/7 camps) Oromia-FHF (26/101 districts) Oromia-LFTW (0/29 districts) TSS: 5/89 districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BG (0/6 districts) Gambella (0/4 districts) Oromia-FHF (5/48 districts) Oromia-LFTW (0/31 districts)

MERLA	Sub-district level MDA & SCT data (Partners): Data analysis underway for BG, Gambella using FY21 MDA data CES (FHF): No updates Gambella region-DQA (RTI)- MDA registers being verified by Gambella RHB team DSA Field Investigation (FHF): Protocol finalized and data collection to be initiated in April 2022
HSS	NTD Sustainability Plan - Printing process initiated Rapid GESI Assessment (RTI-Gambella) - Data analysis underway Rapid GESI Assessment (FHF-Oromia) - Data analysis underway GESI Behavior Change: Preparatory activities for GESI behavior change training is underway

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

- Updated number of completed Trachoma surveys in Oromia.
- Updates to the MERLA activities.

Highlights:

- FHF has completed trachoma surveys in 31 districts (26 TIS and 5 TSS) in seven zones of Oromia. For the 18 TIS districts with final results, 4 achieved the criteria to stop MDA. The remaining 14 did not fall below the 5% TF threshold. Nine are re-enrolled for one additional round of MDA, and 5 are re-enrolled for three rounds of MDA.
- RTI attended the NTD drug quantification workshop in Adama, Oromia region. Main points of discussion included population discrepancies, left over medicine reporting, and reverse logistics. RHBs updated population figures for endemic districts and planned the PC NTD drug needed for FY23.
- RTI team attended the bi-annual NTD Program Review meeting organized by MOH. Main points of discussion included child MDA draft guidelines and MDA flexibility plan, TAP, DHIS2 reporting and admin report discrepancies, and WASH NTD collaboration.
- RTI has finalized draft TIS and TSS survey protocols (Gambella region) and shared with in-country Tropical Data representative for feedback.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- **DSA investigation:** FHF will conduct a rapid DSA failure field investigation in Sebeta Hawas district of Oromia region in April 2022.
- **Oromia Annual Review and Planning Meeting:** FHF will organize the regional performance review and planning meeting in Adama town, Oromia in April/May 2022.
- **TIS/TSS trainings:**
 - RTI will organize a graders and recorders orientation/training in April 2022 in Gambella region.
- FHF will organize additional basic Tropical Data trainings from April to June 2022 to maximize the data collectors' pool in order to meet the human resource needs for all planned districts in the region.
- **TIS/TSS in Gambella:**
 - RTI will implement three TIS and four TSS in Gambella region districts in April/May 2022.
 - RTI will implement TIS in the seven refugee camps of Gambella region in May 2022.
- **OV MDA in BG:** RTI will support OV MDA in nine districts of Assosa zone in May 2022. Timing is dependent on USAID FAA approval.
- **Trachoma MDA in Gambella:** RTI will support Trachoma MDA in six districts of Gambella region in May 2022. Timing is dependent on USAID FAA approval.
- **IMDA training + OV MDA:** LFTW will organize Integrated MDA trainings (IMDA) at the zonal and district levels following with OV MDA implementation in 67 districts in May 2022.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

March 2022

HAITI

Act East Partners: RTI, WI-HER	Total population: 11.7 million (2020 est.)
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 140 communes
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: LF (140) STH (140)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF	STH
MDA	0/8 communes	0/8 communes
DSAs (#EUs)	TAS3 in 0/1 EU	

MERLA	National LF Pause and Reflect Meeting (completed December 2021) Pre-MDA census in 2 communes (completed) Coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 2 communes MDA real-time data collection in 7 communes
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Summary and explanation of **changes** made to table above since last month:

- Act | East is planning to support focal MDA in 4 enumeration areas of Chansolme that had clustered positives in the latest TAS survey, bringing the total number of communes targeted for LF MDA from 7 to 8.
- Act | East completed the pre-MDA census in Cabaret and Arcahaie communes with support of the local MSPP (municipal and departmental nurses).

Highlights:

- The revised IEC materials submitted to CADME (MSPP) were approved and radio spots began in the North department in preparation for MDA. Revised IEC materials are now being printed in anticipation of MDA.
- Act | East Haiti reviewed the revised MDA social mobilization plan. As a part of this plan, which kicked off during the microplanning meetings in each commune, community leaders (CLs) and promoters (CPs) prepare a social mobilization action plan specific to their commune. These plans will be collected and monitoring by social mobilization supervisors recruited by Act | East.
- Act | East supported microplanning meetings in all 7 communes planned for MDA. The meetings used pre-MDA census data to plot out locations for posts and professional distribution booths at key points of interest. The meetings also convened CLs, CPs, local authorities, and youth representatives to begin launching social mobilization activities ahead of MDA in line with recommendations from the national LF Pause and Reflect meeting. 140 albums of LF images were printed and distributed to support community meetings.

- Act | East recruited four nurses who will manage an MDA hotline and 3 short-term logistics assistants who will support transport of materials for the upcoming MDA in 7 communes.
- Act | East supported MSPP to prepare for an MDA safety workshop scheduled in early April.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- Act | East, together with MSPP set up the agenda, the logistics, and issued invitation for an MDA safety workshop planned April 4-6th.
- Act | East will convene a TAS planning meeting in Caracol in April in preparation for the TAS in June.
- MDA will commence in the North Department on April 29th.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

March 2022

INDONESIA

Act East Partner: RTI	Total population: 274,859,094
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 514
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	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 TAS1 : 1/0 EU TAS2 : 3/17 EUs TAS3 : 4/6 EUs Mini-TAS : 0/1 EUs

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

- Updated number of surveys completed during March 2022.

Highlights:

- Act | East implemented a **TAS2** in collaboration with the MOH in the district of Karawang (EU2) from March 14 to 24, 2022 using FTS. A total of 1703 school children from 34 schools were tested; no positive results were reported.
- Act | East also implemented a **TAS3** in collaboration with the MOH in the district of Mappi from March 14 to 25, 2022, with only 2 positive FTS results from a total of 1588 school children tested in 36 schools.
- Act | East also implemented a **TAS3** in collaboration with the MOH in the district of Supiori from March 15 to 24, 2022, with 2 positive results from a total of 794 school children tested from 30 schools.

Upcoming activities:

- No field activities are planned during Ramadan in April 2022. Act | East staff will use this opportunity to complete survey reporting and data analysis.
- The University of Indonesia School of Medicine Laboratory will complete the validation of the new Brugia Rapid Tests produced by Reszonics early in April 2022 and submit their official report to WHO immediately for review.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

March 2022

MOZAMBIQUE

Act East Partner: RTI	Total population: 30,881,854
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 161
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: LF (113), OV (5), SCH (159), STH (151), Trachoma (65)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	Trachoma
MDA	0/10 districts
DSAs (#EUs)	TIS: 0/4 EUs
MERLA	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:

- Updates to Trachoma MDA (increased by 2) and survey targets (decreased TIS by 2).

Highlights:

- The Act | East COP participated in the ITI Trachoma Expert Committee meeting in London (March 31-April 01). The objectives were to: (i) review the Mozambique application for Zithromax® for program year 2022 in areas categorized as persistent or recrudescent, and (ii) determine the best way to manage future requests for these districts. The MDA flexibility plan and drug request was approved by USAID and ITI, and Act | East trachoma targets have been updated accordingly:
 - Conduct two additional rounds of MDA (FY22, FY23) in two districts of Zambezia province (Pebane and Chinde) rather than TIS in FY22.
 - Conduct TIS+ in four districts: Mossuril, Ilha Mozambique, Nacala-A-Velha (Nampula province), and Inhassunge (Zambezia province) with RTI's discretionary Strategic Investment Fund (dSIF).
- ITI is awaiting the green light of CMAM (Central de Medicamentos e Artigos Médicos (Center for Drugs and Medical Supplies)) to ship Zithromax. Discussion between ITI, Act | East and CMAM is ongoing. The Zithromax for the recently approved Zambezia MDAs will be shipped separately, later this quarter.
- In FY22, Act | East planned to procure Tetracycline Eye Ointment (TEO) locally in Mozambique but has faced difficulties in finding sufficient stock from USAID-approved manufacturers in-country. The Act | East HQ Procurement Lead is working with the Act | East Mozambique team to identify alternative solutions to procure TEO for the MDA. Act | East has sufficient TEO stock to support planned TIS.
- A team composed by Act | East, Sightsavers and Crown Agents, in collaboration with MISAU, visited Pemba (capital of Cabo Delgado) from 20 to 23 March 2022 for series of meetings with organizations providing health services in Cabo Delgado. The team met with local authorities from the Provincial

Health Directorate and Provincial Health Service, as well as partners (UNOPS, MSF, United Nations Health Cluster, IOM, and Progreso) to (i) collect information on security challenges and strategies being used by partners implementing activities in the province, and (ii) to explore the possibility of resuming Act | East activities in the province. The province has three different zones that indicate security status: green zones in the southern part of the province are where partners have been able to enter and work safely (6 districts), yellow zones are where access is difficult (4 districts), and red zones that are inaccessible and where conflict is ongoing (5 districts). Of the 12 districts that have been eligible for surveys since 2020, four are in the green zone: Balama, Montepuez, Metuge and Mecufi. Act | East, with support from RTI's Senior Governance Specialist, will work with USAID Washington and USAID Mozambique to see to what extent activities can resume in the southern Cabo Delgado area.

- Act | East, Sightsavers and Save the Children supported the NTD steering committee meeting in the Nampula provincial capital. Forty-one people attending the meeting including provincial focal points, Nampula district and provincial health management teams, the heads of public works, the representatives of national education, the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, and implementing partners. The presentations focused on the progress of the NTD program, the need for a multisectoral approach to NTD control and elimination, importance of data quality, and challenges with the drug importation process.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- **Trachoma Dossier Meeting:** Act | East and MISAU staff will travel to Maputo province (Ponta de Ouro) to update the narrative and data file in April 2022. The Ministry of Water and Sanitation, WHO, Light for the World, and Sightsavers are also expected to attend.
- **LF Dossier Meeting:** Act | East will support MISAU to hold a refresher session on the LF Dossier, update the narrative and data file in April 2022. Crown Agents is also expected to attend.
- **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 April 2022. RTI is working to address IRB feedback.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

March 2022

NEPAL

Act East Partner: RTI	Total population: 30,201,100
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 77
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: # ever endemic districts: LF (63), Trachoma (20) & STH (77)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF
DSAs (#EUs)	Re-Pre-TAS: 5/10 districts TAS1 : 2/7 districts TAS2 : 16/16 districts TAS3 : 0/13 districts
HSS	Domestic Resource Mobilization Case Study: February- June 2022 GESI Behavior Change Activity: December 2021- April 2022

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

- Updated timeline for HSS activities.

Highlights:

- The Second National NTDs Steering Committee Meeting took place on March 31st, 2022. High level officials from MoHP including chief specialist participated in the meetings. Act| East provided logistics support for the meeting. The following topics were discussed during the meeting:
 - Updates on ongoing FY22 LF MDA from EDCD director.
 - Updates on recently completed TAS2, TAS1, and Re Pre TAS.
 - Commencement of NTD Domestic Resource Mobilization assessment.
- FY22 LF MDA kicked off from 12th March 2022 in 10 districts with DEC and Albendazole (DA) in 5 districts (Jhapa, Bara, Lamjung, Parbat, Baglung) and with DEC, Albendazole and Ivermectin (IDA) in 5 districts (Morang, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke and Kailali). Early observations from Act | East supervision noted that government engagement during MDA was strong.
- Act | East supported an LF MDA central level journalist interaction ahead of LF MDA. MoHP/DoHS Director General, EDCD Director and EDCD/NTD VBD Section Chief facilitated the meeting with technical and logistic support of Act | East. During this meeting, journalists representing national news media interacted with MoHP/DoHS/EDCD officials with their queries regarding the planning, preparation, and scheduling of the LF MDA.
- Act | East also supported a LF MDA central level health professional's interaction ahead of LF MDA. This event was facilitated by EDCD Director and EDCD/NTD VBD Section Chief with logistic support of Act | East.
- Act | East partner WI-HER facilitated a dissemination of findings from GESI assessment in Banke during LF MDA district level planning meeting.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- Continued engagement with NTD domestic resource mobilization case study at EDCD and MOHP.
- TAS 3 in 13 districts (Okhaldhunga, Saptari, Siraha, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur Urban, Kathmandu, Kaski, Argakhachi, Pyuthan, Rolpa, Rukum East, Rukum West, Salyan) in June-July 2022.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

March 2022

NIGERIA

Act East Partner: RTI, The Carter Center	Total population: 207.8 million
COP: [Redacted]	Districts (LGAs): 774
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: LF (553), OV (449), SCH (691), STH (415), Trachoma (143)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF	OV	SCH	STH
MDA	0/40 districts (0/39 TCC, 0/1 RTI)	0/98 districts (0/83 TCC, 0/15 RTI)	0/90 districts (TCC)	0/120 districts (TCC)
DSAs (#EUs)	Pre-TAS : 0/36 (TCC 0/35, RTI 0/1) TAS 1 : 0/39 (TCC 0/37, RTI 0/1)			

HSS	Cross River State health financing assessment- Data collector recruitment is underway
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Summary and explanation of **changes** made to table above since last month:

- R4D and Act East consultant are recruiting data collectors to collect data during the key informant interviews.
- Updated Pre-TAS targets for FY22. Three of the originally planned surveys in 38 TCC LGAs are being postponed as they have not yet had five effective-coverage treatment rounds; their initial inclusion in the work plan was due to a discrepancy between TCC and FMOH data that has been corrected.

Highlights:

- Act | East participated in the National Trachoma Task Force (NTTF) meeting held in Jos on March 15-16, 2022. The meeting deliberated on the remaining Trachoma intervention gaps in Nigeria including TT cases in Izza-North, the unmapped LGAs in Borno State, and compilation of Trachoma dossier for the country. The NTTF noted the challenges in medicine supply across the country, including the quantities of Zithromax (11m) tablets which expired in March 2022 and the need to ensure expedited distribution among benefitting states.
- Act | East COP joined the NGDO Coalition meeting held in Jos March 17-18, 2022. Key outcomes of the meeting include coordination of support to FMOH for 2022 activities, harmonization of line support for activities by respective partners and key items to be addressed with FMOH-NC/NTD to enhance government/partner relationship.

- Act | East facilitated the composition of a joint sensitization and mobilization advocacy team for re-MDA in Yala LGA of CRS, comprising staff from Act | East, State NTD Program, SPHCDA, and Yala LGA NTD team. This team conducted an advocacy visit to Yala Eastern Traditional Chiefs on Monday March 21, 2022, and to Yala LGA Council Authority on Tuesday March 22, 2022. The advocacy sessions helped to secure commitment of the LGA Authority and Traditional Chiefs towards a robust community mobilization for a successful re-MDA in Yala.
- Act | East country team facilitated a stakeholder engagement and planning meeting for funding flow analysis activity on March 24, 2022, with thirteen directors and officers representing Ministries of Health, Finance, Budget Office, and SPHCDA. The meeting introduced the R4D consultant to NTD stakeholders while identifying relevant respondents, pending list of literature for desk review on financing, and their accessibility in the state. The meeting also concluded a joint review of the study design and activity timeline.
- State level planning meetings were conducted for TAS-1 in Afikpo, Ebonyi, Ikwo and Ohaozara LGAs and for Pre-TAS in Izzi and Ohaukwu LGAs of Ebonyi State to update school enrollment data preparatory to the conduct of the assessments.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- LGA-level advocacy meetings in Ebonyi State in April 2022.
- OV MDA in Plateau, Nasarawa, Ebonyi and Enugu States continues in April 2022. MDA continues in Ohaji Egbemma LGA of Imo State in April 2022.
- LF Pre-TAS in 35 TCC LGAs of Imo, Abia, Ebonyi, Enugu, Edo, and Delta States in April 2022.
- Stakeholders' strategic planning meeting for Plateau, Ebonyi, Imo and Abia States-April/May 2022
- State-level advocacy and community level mobilization (Abia, Imo, Enugu, Plateau, Nasarawa, Edo and Delta States) in April/May 2022.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

March 2022

PHILIPPINES

Act East Partner: RTI	Total population: 112,919,769
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	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	28/28 provinces	82 provinces
DSAs (#EUs)	TAS1 : 1/2 TAS2 : 0/6 TAS3 : 0/7		

Activities supported by USAID in FY21

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

Highlights:

- A new DPCB management structure was created with the appointment of new middle management leaders: [Redacted]. In remarks to the new DPCB team, [Redacted] made a commitment to prioritize the Integrated Strategy for the Elimination of Diseases over the next six years with focus on malaria, lymphatic filariasis and rabies.
- Act | East participated in an external partners consultation on the development of the Omnibus Guidelines for Universal Health Care on March 22nd. This was an opportunity for external technical partners, including USAID Philippines, WHO, Global Fund, and Act | East to receive information on the new processes for coordinating technical support to the integrated DPCB strategy.

Upcoming activities:

- Act | East will continue to consult and provide technical advice on where NTDs fit within the DOH “One” DPCB strategy and the Omnibus Guidelines for Primary Health.
- DOH representatives, including previous LF Program Manager [Redacted], will participate in a multi-country Act | East domestic resource mobilization webinar on April 28th.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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

March 2022

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: [Redacted]	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
DSAs (#EUs)	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)

MERLA	Learning activity on dossier development models
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Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month: None

Bangladesh

Highlights:

- CIPRB, Act | East HQ, and the Act | East technical consultant in Bangladesh continue to refine the DIP data set and final report. This report will be shared with MOHFW to discuss and comment on recommendations and next steps.
- Act | East staff, with local and regional consultants, coordinated a call with WHO SEARO and WHO Bangladesh to determine next steps for the dossier development and review process. It was decided that WHO Bangladesh would host a workshop for central and sub-national level officials to review the draft dossier and identify and fill gaps with information from sub-national level. This workshop will be scheduled in consultation with the MOHFW. Ahead of the workshop, Act | East regional dossier development consultant, [Redacted] will spend one week in country with MOHFW officials filling in current data gaps from data archived with the MOHFW.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- Act | East regional dossier consultant, [Redacted], will travel to Bangladesh in May to work with the MOHFW on the dossier draft and attend the WHO workshop, which is tentatively planned for May 8th.

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:

- Act | East shared the completed draft LF dossier with WHO Lao PDR. This was reviewed and shared with CMPE and DCDC, but most of the relevant staff conducting a large malaria campaign through the end of April. WHO anticipates further communication with Ministry officials about the draft dossier in May 2022.

Viet Nam

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- VNEH, FHF and Act | East are coordinating the hybrid dossier workshop for April 2022. Ahead of the workshop, VNEH is planning to complete the TSS in the villages in Lung Ho that were either missed or incomplete in the previous survey, with FHF support.

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://vnpt.vn)

March 2022

TANZANIA

Act East Partner: RTI International	Total population: 57.6 million (2022)
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 184
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: LF (119), TRA (71), OV (28), SCH (184), STH (184)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF	OV	SCH	STH	Trachoma
Mapping		OV Elimination mapping: 0/4 districts OV Exclusion mapping: 0/2 districts			Desk review: 0/6 districts
MDA	0/6 districts	Round 1: 0/9 districts Round 2: 0/28 districts	0/35 districts	0/41 districts	0/9 districts (0/10 EUs)
DSAs (#EUs)	Re-Pre-TAS : 1/1 district TAS1 : 0/1 EU TAS3 : 9/24 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		TIS: 1/1 EU TSS: 2/2 EUs

MERLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 9 districts: 4/4 LF, 4/4 OV, 0/1 TRA Trachoma DSA outcome investigation in 3/6 districts Trachoma MDA microplanning in 0/10 EUs
HSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (4 TRA, 2 OV)

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

- TAS3 was completed in 9 EUs.
- Act | East is planning to support LF MDA in 2 additional districts in FY22. This includes Pangani DC, which requires two additional rounds of MDA following recent re-pre-TAS failure, and focal MDA in 11 endemic wards of Lindi MC that were administratively shifted from Mtama DC.

Highlights:

- In collaboration with NTDCP, Act | East conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) for regional and district NTD teams for Tanga and Morogoro in preparation for the OV community MDA and SCH/STH school-based MDA. The training involved participants from 20 district councils (9 from Morogoro and 11 from Tanga) and was conducted from 3rd – 4th March 2022 in Morogoro region.

- Act | East and NTDCP conducted a preparatory meeting for IEC/BCC needs assessment activity that aimed at determining the needs for IEC/BCC material and messages development. The meeting was conducted from 29th – 31st March 2022 in Dar es Salaam and involved participants from NTDCP, Act | East, Health Promotion Section (HPS) of the Ministry of Health and partners including Hellen Keller International.
- Act | East and NTDCP conducted a second virtual planning meeting to discuss efforts on synchronizing cross border trachoma MDA between Tanzania and Kenya along the endemic bordering districts. The meeting was conducted on 24th March 2022 with the aim of harmonizing trachoma elimination in the bordering districts in relation to mobile and migratory communities.
- Act East supported the NTDCP to conduct TAS3 in 9 EUs of Babati TC, Igunga DC, Kaliua DC, Nzega DC, Nzega TC, Sikonge DC, Tabora MC, Urambo DC and Uyui DC. This included team training that was conducted from 11 – 12th March 2022 in Dodoma, followed by field data collection from 13 – 26th March 2022. Data analysis and report writing is ongoing.
- Act | East Tanzania and HQ teams supported virtual planning meetings with the NTDCP for microplanning in 10 trachoma evaluation units from March 25 – 30th. Act | East will support NTDCP to implement the new WHO microplanning manual in select wards and is developing printable GIS maps in advance of the microplanning sessions.
- On 28th March in Morogoro, Act | East supported NTDCP to prepare a list of priority interventions and activities from the NTD master plan and the sustainability plan, to be integrated into the health sector planning sector wide approach (SWAp) Technical Working Group 6 (Service delivery).
- Act | East provided support to the national review of comprehensive council health plans (CCHPs) led by the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Governance (PORALG) and MOH, which started on 17th March 2022. This activity is a continuation of support Act | East provided to 15 councils in Nov-Dec 2021 to integrate NTDs into their CCHPs. The 15 councils were selected based on their disease burden and progress towards disease elimination trajectories with the aim of capacitating them to plan and budget for NTDs.
- The Tanzania Act | East team held a staff retreat from 8th to 11th March 2022. The activity was conducted in Arusha region and involved team building activities that were led by an external facilitator.
- Act | East facilitated importation and clearance of supply chain commodities in the country. This included obtaining the TMDA import permit for shipment of ELISA materials, supporting clearance of FTS, and beginning the clearance process for the recent Zithromax shipment that arrived in country.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- The Joint Application Package (JAP) review meeting is planned in Dodoma region from 4th – 6th April 2022, following by the quarterly program review meeting in Dodoma on 8th April 2022.
- Act East and NTDCP will conduct supportive supervision for IVM MDA in 9 district councils of Morogoro and Tanga regions. The supervision will cover pre-MDA activities, MDA activities and post MDA activities and will start few days prior to MDA. Act | East is also planning to increase the

number of national supervisors to enhance MDA supervision by deploying four additional supervision teams (two per region).

- Trachoma microplanning for 9 districts (10 evaluation units) is planned to start on 19th April 2022 with an orientation of the national team. Microplanning meetings will take place from 25th April – 6th May. Each field team will be comprised of 2 national facilitators and one district participant.
- Act | East will conduct training of trainers for regional and district NTD coordinators in the 9 districts implementing trachoma MDA on April 23rd.
- Act | East will support NTDCP to review IEC/BCC materials and messages during a series of technical meetings from 25th April – 6th May. The meetings will involve Act | East, the MOH health promotion section, government communication unit and representatives from regions and districts.
- GESI behavior change council level implementation in Arusha (Monduli and Longido councils) is planned starting 19th April 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>

March 2022

UGANDA

Act East Partner: RTI, The Carter Center, WI-HER, R4D, Save the Children	Total population: 41,740,474 (2019)
COP: [Redacted]	Districts: 134
RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]	Endemic diseases: LF (64), TRA (51), OV (32), SCH (92), STH (134)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY22

	LF	OV	SCH	STH	Trachoma
MDA		9/9 districts (R1) 0/11 districts (R2)			5/5 districts (Oct 2021) 0/2 districts (Sept 2022)
DSAs (#EUs)	TAS3: 5/16 EUs				

MERLA	Trachoma coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 3 districts (completed) Data quality assessment in Moroto NTD data management training using DHIS2.
HSS	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: None

Highlights:

- **Training for scaling up GESI behavior change activity:** Act | East provided financial and technical support to expand the GESI behavior change activity to Amudat and Nabilatuk. During the training, feedback on the previous MDA was shared with district officials to help them identify the right target group for the behavior change activity and develop GESI Action Plans to guide behavior change activity set-up.

Save the Children

- **Community dialogues:** With financial support from Act | East, Save the Children International provided technical support to the District NTD focal person and local leaders to conduct 5 community dialogue sessions in Amudat district reaching a total of 216 community members (M=92, F=124). The dialogues brought together community members to discuss barriers to trachoma

control and come up with measures to accelerate progress towards trachoma control and elimination.

- **Radio talk shows:** Save the Children, in collaboration with political leadership at Sub County level and NTD focal persons for Moroto and Nabilatuk districts, conducted two radio talk shows on Heritage FM and Ateker FM radio stations, respectively. The talk shows aimed at sensitizing communities within the catchment areas on facial cleanliness and environmental hygiene as measures for prevention of trachoma.
- **Airing of radio spot messages:** Save the Children contracted two local radio stations (Ateker FM and Heritage FM) in Moroto and Nakapiripirit districts to broadcast radio spot messages on trachoma prevention and control with a focus on facial cleanliness and environmental improvement. Throughout the month, a total of 73 spot messages were broadcasted in Ngakarimojong language (five messages per week including additional bonus spot messages) targeting both nomadic and non-nomadic communities in three districts (Nabilatuk, Moroto and Nakapiripirit).
- **VHT trainings:** Save the Children trained a total of 210 VHTs (111 females and 99 males) out of the targeted 240 VHTs in collaboration with District Health Teams and Health facility In-charges to conduct active case finding for trachoma and disseminate key SAFE strategy messages to households within the villages they support. The VHTs were identified from the 120 villages with high trachoma prevalence across the 04 districts (Moroto, Amudat, Nabilatuk & Nakapiripirit). Additionally, 10 parish-based supervisors were trained from parishes that make up the target villages. During the training, VHTs drafted action plans which will guide the next course of action.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID-19 protocols:

- **TAS3 in 2 EUs:** Act | East will support Ministry of Health to conduct community based TAS 3 in two EUs of Luuka and Buyende. This activity is ongoing and will be completed on the 13th of April 2022.
- **Cross border strategy meeting:** Act | East will support MoH to attend a cross border strategic planning meeting that will be hosted by MoH Kenya in Eldoret from 11th – 12th April 2022.
- **Develop National SBC packages for NTDs and GESI:** Act| East (WI-HER and RTI) will provide financial and technical support to the Health Promotion, Education and Strategic Communication Department (HPESCD and NTDCP to lead a three-day workshop in April 2022 for approximately 35 participants to review learnings to develop an NTD-focused behavior change package, which will be included in the national SBC standards that are being developed with support from the USAID/Uganda-funded Social and Behavior Change Activity. This initiative will aim to support the MOH to expand the packages to include NTDs, using learning and reflection from the Moroto behavior change activity conducted in FY21.
- **Data Quality Assessment:** Act | East will support the Ministry of Health to conduct a DQA in Moroto District in the last week of April 2022. VHTs will be interviewed to assess their ability to complete the registers and summarize the data on a tally sheet.
- **Workshops for coaching and strengthening local capacity for planning, budgeting, and resource mobilization efforts:** R4D has recruited a new in country consultant to conduct this activity and the activity will be implemented in early May. This activity will include 2 workshops for 5 districts.

- **National multisectoral coordination meeting:** The NTDCP, with funding from Act | East, will convene the 2nd quarter NTD Secretariat meeting in April to review program performance against disease-specific objectives and implementation of Sustainability Plan strategies and activities.
- **Targeted advocacy sessions:** Using the advocacy strategy and reports from the financing and programmatic activities, NTDCP and the NTD advocacy subcommittee will continue to conduct high- and subnational-level advocacy and engagement activities with senior management of relevant ministries and six targeted local governments (Nebbi, Buliisa, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Nabilatuk, and Amudat) from April through to August 2022.
- **Address the multi-sectoral coordination agenda in extended District Health Management Team meetings:** Act | East support NTDCP to meet the costs of one (out of four) extended District Health Management Team meeting in each of the six districts (Nebbi, Buliisa, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Nabilatuk, and Amudat) for 15 participants per district. These meetings are anticipated to take place in May and June based on the district programs for the same. The meetings will be used to update the stakeholders and district leaders on NTD progress and engage them to increase their support for activities in the Uganda NTD Sustainability Plan, meant to control and eliminate NTDs in their respective districts.

Save the Children

- **Conducting radio talk shows:** Save the Children will work with local radio stations in Moroto and Nakapiripirit districts to broadcast two radio talk shows on 10th and 15th April 2022.
- **Community dialogues:** A total of 35 community dialogues will be conducted in Nakapiripirit, Nabilatuk, Moroto and Amudat districts starting 4th April, 2022. The dialogues aim to ensure communities are engaged in finding solutions to their challenges related to trachoma control.
- **VHT support supervision and follow-ups:** Save the Children Program Officers with support from local leaders will conduct community follow-ups and support supervision visits to villages to determine how VHTs have been conducting active case finding for trachoma as well as dissemination of key messages on SAFE strategy. This activity is scheduled to start from 11th April 2022. This will also be used as an opportunity to conduct on-job mentorship to all the VHTs.
- **Broadcasting SAFE SBCC spot messages:** Radio spot messages targeting community members within and near trachoma endemic catchment areas will be broadcasted on local stations in Moroto, Amudat and Nakapiripirit districts. The messages will be promoting the uptake of key WASH behaviors (facial washing and environmental improvement).
- **Production and pre-testing of new spot messages:** In collaboration with RTI and Ministry of Health, Save the Children will work on new spot messages focusing on sensitizing the communities to participate in the forthcoming MDA in June 2022. The drafted spot messages will be translated to local dialects (Pokot & Ngakarimojong) and pre-tested to ensure contextual appropriateness. Once the final messages are approved, they will be broadcasted on local stations to sensitize communities about MDA to ensure uptake and increased MDA coverage in June 2022.
- **Clean Household Approach (CHA):** Following the approval of CHA activities, Save the Children, working with the Sub County leadership and NTD focal persons for Moroto and Nabilatuk districts,

will identify and engage 240 VHTs and 40 natural leaders. These selected community resource persons will be responsible for implementation of home improvement activities which will include but might not be limited to facial cleanliness, and availability of sanitation facilities at household level. APOLU coverage areas for their CLTS program will be considered for inclusion to leverage their gains, especially regarding supporting access to clean water and sanitation facilities.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

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