

# Act to End NTDs | East

## FY23 Q2 Monthly Updates

January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023

Cooperative Agreement No. 7200AA18CA00040

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

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



## **Act to End NTDs | East Program Overview**

The U.S. Agency for International Development Act to End Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) | East Program supports national NTD programs in reaching World Health Organization goals for NTD control and elimination through proven, cost-effective public health interventions. The Act to End NTDs | East (Act | East) Program also provides critical support to countries on their journey to self-reliance, helping them create sustainable programming for NTD control within robust and resilient health systems. The Act | East Program is being implemented by RTI International with a consortium of partners, led by RTI International and including includes The Carter Center; Fred Hollows Foundation; Light for the World; Results for Development (R4D); Save the Children; Sightsavers; and Women Influencing Health, Education, and Rule of Law (WI-HER).

January 2023

ETHIOPIA

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

Total population: 113,930,631

COP: [Redacted]

Districts: 872

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Endemic diseases: LF (85), TRA (700), OV (222), SCH (426), STH (547)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23

|                    | LF  | OV   | STH                                | Trachoma  |
|--------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Mapping</b>     | 2 districts   |  |                                    | Desk review of unmapped districts.  |
| <b>MDA</b>         | <b>0/1 camp</b><br>• BG (0/1 camp)  | <b>0/85 districts + 0/5 camps</b><br>• BG (0/17 districts)<br>• BG (0/5 camps)<br>• Oromia-LFTW (0/68 districts) | <b>0/1 camp</b><br>• BG (0/1 camp) | <b>1/70 districts</b><br>• Gambella (0/8 districts)<br>• Oromia-FHF (1/62 districts)  |
| <b>DSAs (#EUs)</b> | <b>Pre-TAS: 1/5 EUs</b><br>• BG (0/4 EUs)<br>• Oromia (1/1 EUs)<br><br><b>TAS1: 0/5 EUs</b><br>• BG (0/4 EUs)<br>• Oromia (0/1 EUs) |  |                                    | <b>TIS: 23/81 EUs</b><br>• BG (0/2 EUs)<br>• Gambella (0/9 EUs)<br>• Oromia-FHF (23/41 EUs)<br>• Oromia-LFTW (0/29 EUs)<br><br><b>TSS: 3/40 EUs</b><br>• BG (0/6 EUs)<br>• Oromia-FHF (3/3 EUs)<br>• Oromia-LFTW (0/31 EUs) |

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>MERLA</b> | Trachoma DSA Outcome Investigations in 50 districts. <b>Desk review completed for 41 districts of Oromia (FHF), 2 districts and 6 refugee camps of Gambella (RTI).</b><br>Data Quality Assessment During Supervision (DQA-S) in 2 districts of Gambella (RTI).<br>Pre-MDA census in 8 districts of Gambella <b>and 10 districts and 3 camps of BG (RTI): Completed in 5 districts of Gambella, and all in BG.</b><br>Coverage Evaluation Survey (CES) in 1 district of Oromia (LFTW).<br>Data Quality Assessment (DQA) in 3 districts of Oromia (FHF). |
| <b>HSS</b>   | GESI Behavior Change activity in 2 woredas: <b>Activity conducted at Sebeta Hawas district of Oromia region.</b><br>NTD Financial Roadmap Development (RTI, R4D).<br>NTD Financial Assessment in 5 districts (RTI, R4D): <b>Result analysis and continued assessment targeting ORHB and MOH stakeholders is ongoing.</b>   |

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

- Pre-TAS completed in Kofele district of West Arsi zone.

- FHF completed TIS in 2 EUs of East Bale zone.
- Updates to MERLA and HSS activities.

**Highlights:**

- RTI conducted MDA planning and implementation activities in Beneshangul Gumuz (BG):
  - MDA planning meeting: Regional level MDA challenges, intervention strategies, ways of collaborating and intended objectives on OV/LF MDA approach were the major discussion points.
  - RTI conducted regional OV/LF MDA TOT and the woreda level cascade trainings in Assosa zone, BG. RTI conducted DHIS2 and NTD database training for 25 Health Information Technology Officers and NTD focal persons in BG. Data entry, analysis and reporting were the main topics covered. In addition to this, major gaps and way forward on NTD data and program ownership were discussed.
  - RTI conducted OV/LF MDA supportive supervision in 10 woredas and 3 refugee camps in BG. The team monitored the coverage progress and provided onsite feedback to RHB and woreda staff.
  - RTI facilitated a field visit of the BG OV MDA by experts from Authority for Civil Society Organizations (ACSO); the field visit was an opportunity for ACSO experts to observe Act | East activities in order to enhance partnership.
- Act | East partners participated in the three-day World NTD Day celebration held at Jimma Town in Jimma zone of Oromia region. A comprehensive update on the Act | East World NTD Day celebrations has been shared via the Communications team.
- Act | East partners participated in the second Ethiopian Trachoma Advisory Group (ETAG) meeting held in Addis Ababa; implementation of MOH's Child MDA initiative, Zithromax prioritization ideas, and national and regional program updates were discussed.
  - RTI's Technical Advisor at the Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Supply Agency is supporting the MOH on the development of the Zithromax distribution prioritization criteria initiated due to Zithromax drug supply shortage. Act | East continues to advocate for prioritization of MDAs in our supported areas.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- RTI plans to conduct NTDs MDA planning meeting at Gambella region in February 2023.
- RTI and FHF plan to conduct DSA field investigations in Gambella and Oromia in February 2023.
- RTI TA at EPSA plans to conduct supportive supervision at BG region on reverse logistics system in February 2023.
- RTI plans to conduct DHIS2 and NTDs database training in Gambella region in February 2023.
- LFTW plans to conduct the district level DHIS2 cascade training for participants who did not participate in the first session due to security challenges at Kellem and West Wellega zones in February 2023.
- LFTW plans to conduct OV MDA at targeted districts in February 2023.
- LFTW plans to conduct trachoma surveys training in February/March 2023.
- RTI plans to conduct trachoma MDA TOT and woreda level cascade training at Gambella region in March 2023.



**Act | East Country Updates for USAID**  
**January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023**

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

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

National: <https://covid19.ephi.gov.et/>

January 2023

HAITI

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

COP: [Redacted]

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Total population: 11.9 million (2023 est.)

Districts: 140 communes

Endemic diseases: LF (140) STH (140)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23

|             | LF  | STH          |
|-------------|---|--------------|
| MDA         | 0/5 communes  | 0/5 communes |
| DSAs (#EUs) | Re-Pre-TAS in 0/2 communes (0/4 EUs)<br>TAS3 in 0/6 Eus | N/A          |

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| MERLA | Microplanning in 0/2 communes<br>Refresher microplanning in 0/3 communes<br>Coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 0/2 communes<br>MDA real-time data collection in 0/5 communes<br>Training on WHO NTD Integrated Database<br>Dossier development data compilation |
| HSS   | Funds flow analysis (R4D)  |

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

MDA in two communes (Arcahaie and Cabaret) has been cancelled in FY23 given the worsening security situation in the West Department, reducing the total number of communes planned for MDA from 7 to 5. The number of planned TAS3 has been similarly reduced from 8 to 6 EUs, removing the 2 EUs in Nippes Department.

Security Update:

The socio-political situation remains precarious with a worsening of cases of murders and kidnappings particularly in the Port-au-Prince metro area. On January 26, following the killing of several police officers by criminal gang members on January 25, protesting police officers attempted to storm the airport, while another group of demonstrators attacked acting Prime [Redacted]'s residence. Protests occurred across the city the days following. The RTI office in Port-au-Prince remains closed.

Highlights:

- Act | East MERLA staff participated in weekly dossier data review meetings with the MSPP and partners. The compiled dossier file is now with TCC to fill in remaining missing data before being shared for review.
- Two Act | East MERLA staff participated in the NIS regional training in Indonesia.

- Act | East supported the MSPP to plan activities for World NTD Day in coordination with the US Mission and partners. A press conference was scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup> but had to be postponed due to the sudden spike of violence in the metropolitan area and other departments. World NTD Day will now be held on February 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Act | East Haiti team translated the FY23 work plan into French and presented it to the MSPP.
- A proposed virtual directly observed therapy (VDOT) intervention was selected for funding through RTI's Rapid Idea Testing Fund. The funds would enable the Haiti team to implement VDOT in 2 enumeration areas of Milot commune during the FY23 MDA to demonstrate its effectiveness.
- Act | East Haiti prepared and submitted a proposal to rent a regional storage space that would serve as a base of operations for MDA and TAS activities in the North. This proposal has since been approved by USAID.
- The RTI team collaborated with WI-HER to begin planning for the MDA training curriculum workshop, including collecting an inventory of existing curricula and other training materials. The team is planning a call with MSPP to set a date for the virtual workshop.
- WI-HER's social mobilization and GESI consultant completed desk-based work including:
  - Support the development of a child-friendly MDA.
  - Developed training content for social mobilization advisors who are new to the MDA campaign network of community actors.
  - Adapted tools for implementing the iDARE behavior change activity. The tools are ready for implementation once fieldwork can commence.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- Training for pre-TAS in 2 districts (4 EUs) is planned for mid-February.
- Act | East will continue preparations for the virtual training curriculum workshop and partners meeting, including finalizing the CES analysis.
- Act | East will begin searching for a suitable storage space in North Department.
- Celebration of World NTD Day will take place on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/amro/country/ht>

MSPP: [https://mspp.gouv.ht/site/downloads/Sitrep%20COVID-19\\_24-07-2021.pdf](https://mspp.gouv.ht/site/downloads/Sitrep%20COVID-19_24-07-2021.pdf)

January 2023

INDONESIA

Act | East Partner: RTI

COP: [Redacted]

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Total population: 274,859,094

Districts: 514

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

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23

|             | LF   |
|-------------|--|
| DSAs (#EUs) | Pre-TAS : 1/4 EUs<br>TAS : 1/4 EUs<br>BIS : 2/11 EUs |

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| MERLA | Act   East staff NIS database testing and training |
|-------|--|

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

- Updated number of surveys completed during the month of January 2023.

Highlights:

- Act | East Indonesia hosted a Mf Microscopy Study Tour for four participants from Act | East Nepal from January 16 – 18, including a one-day session at the Laboratory of the Medical Faculty of the University of Indonesia.
- Act | East Indonesia also assisted with the arrangements for the NIS Regional Training Workshop in Jakarta from January 9 – 13, 2023 with participants from Haiti, Nepal and Indonesia. Two staff from Act | East Indonesia attended.
- Act | East Indonesia, with the MOH, supported the implementation of a Brugia Impact Survey (BIS) in Gunung Mas District from January 15 – 28, 2023. A total of 946 night-blood mf samples were collected, with results pending laboratory analysis.
- Act | East Indonesia and the MOH also supported the implementation of Pre TAS in Tambraw District, from January 23 – 27, 2023, using FTS. A total of 614 samples were collected.
- Act | East Indonesia participated in World NTD Day on January 30, 2023. A comprehensive update on the Act | East World NTD Day celebrations has been shared via the Communications team.

Upcoming activities:

- Act | East Indonesia in collaboration with the MOH will organize two sessions of LF Microscopy Training from February 7 – 9 and February 14 – 16, 2023 for twenty participants each from regional and provincial laboratories who will support LF surveys during 2023. The training will be provided by LF experts from the Medical Faculty of the University of Indonesia.
- Implementation of TAS1 surveys for Helmahera Tengah District, in collaboration with the MOH, are scheduled to begin on February 12; Kepulauan Sula District to begin on February 26; and Aceh Timur District also to begin on February 26, 2023.



- The MOH will organize a special national event to commemorate World NTD Day on February 21, 2023, including recognition of 107 districts that have achieved elimination of NTDs during 2022. Act | East Indonesia will contribute to the event and help promote it through our social media channels and networks.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

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

January 2023

MOZAMBIQUE

Act | East Partner: RTI

COP: [Redacted]

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Total population: 32,419,747

Districts: 161

Endemic diseases: LF (114), OV (5), SCH (161),  
STH (153), Trachoma (65)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23

|             | LF             | Trachoma                      |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| MDA         | 0/34 districts | 1/9 districts                 |
| DSAs (#EUs) |                | TIS: 4/9 EUs<br>TSS: 0/15 EUs |

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| MERLA | Trachoma DSA Outcome Investigation in 3 districts<br>LF pre-TAS Outcome Investigation in 34 districts<br>Trachoma Coverage Evaluation Survey (CES) in 1 district<br>LF CES in 4 districts |
|-------|---|

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

- USAID Washington approved the Act | East Mozambique FY23 Workplan Addendum. Activities include LF MDA in 34 districts, and LF CES in 4 districts.

Highlights:

- The **Annual NTD Activities Implementation Planning Meeting** in Maputo city was held January 26-27 with the participation of the NTD department staff, WHO, and implementing partners RTI International, MSF, Sightsavers and Counterpart International. The NTD Program heard from attendees on proposed implementation timelines for 2023 activities to ensure synchronization.
- MISAU confirmed the national warehouse (CMAM) will pay the Ivermectin importation fees. With this official confirmation, the Mectizan Donation Program confirmed they will ship Ivermectin to Mozambique in the next 4 to 6 weeks.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

- World NTD Day celebration was delayed to February 2, 2023 to accommodate the Minister of Health’s availability.
- LF pre-TAS outcome investigation in February 2023.
- Trachoma Dossier elimination meeting in March 2023.
- LF Dossier elimination meeting in March 2023.



**Act | East Country Updates for USAID**  
**January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023**

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

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

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

January 2023

NEPAL

Act | East Partner: RTI

COP: [Redacted]

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Total population: 29,847,607

Districts: 77

Endemic diseases: LF (63) TRA (20) STH (77)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23

|             | LF  |
|-------------|---|
| Mapping     | 4 districts   |
| DSAs (#EUs) | Pre-TAS: 4/4 districts (VBDRTC), 1/1 district (MPPHL)<br>TAS2: 3 districts (VBDRTC)<br>TAS3: 8/9 districts (VBDRTC)                   |
| MERLA       | Act   East staff NIS database testing and training  |
| HSS         | GESI behavior change activity in Banke district (WI-HER)<br>Dissemination of domestic resource mobilization case study for NTDs (R4D) |

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

Highlights:

- Two Act | East Nepal M&E staff attended a NIS training in Indonesia from 9 to 13 January 2023.
- Four Act| East Nepal staff participated in a microfilariae (mf) study tour in Indonesia from 16 to 19 January 2023. From this tour the team learned about Act| East Indonesia’s support activities, including TAS and Pre TAS, where mf microscopic examination is a major diagnostic tool to confirm prevalence of LF. The team also learned about the requirements and procedures necessary to conduct mf surveys in community settings. During the tour, professors from the University of Indonesia facilitated the technique for preparing and reading mf slides. Act | East Nepal will use this learning to support the national program in Nepal to expand their microscopy use and abilities in coming years for districts where IDA is being implemented.
- Act | East Nepal completed FAA packages with VBDRTC to conduct TAS 3 in Sindhuli and TAS 2 in Ilam and Panchthar.
- LF MDA 2023 will kick off from 23 February 2023 in 15 districts (Jhapa, Morang, Dhanusha, Mohattari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara, Lamjung, Parbat, Baglung, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke, Kailali and Rasuwa). LF MDA district level planning meetings started in January in these 15 districts and will continue into February. After these meetings, municipalities will start other activities related to LF MDA including microplanning, social mobilization support and planning for MDA supervision.
  - A videographer will accompany the MDA supervision team to one district to obtain footage for a project-level communications activity.

- Act | East Nepal participated in World NTD Day on January 30, 2023. A comprehensive update on the Act | East World NTD Day celebrations has been shared via the Communications team.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- LF MDA activities in 15 districts (Jhapa, Morang, Dhanusha, Mohattari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara, Lamjung, Parbat, Baglung, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke, Kailali and Rasuwa) in Jan-March 2023, including planning meetings, social mobilization support, MDA supervision, and GESI behavior change activity.
- Videography of LF MDA in Baglung district in February 2023.
- TAS 2 in Ilam and Panchthar districts in February-March 2023.
- TAS 3 in Sindhuli district in February-March 2023.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

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

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

January 2023

NIGERIA

Act | East Partner: RTI, The Carter Center

COP: [Redacted]

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Total population: 207.8 million

Districts (LGAs): 774

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

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY2023

|             | LF  | OV   | SCH                      | STH                      | Trachoma                        |
|-------------|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| MDA         | 0/36 districts<br>(RTI/TCC)   | 0/36 districts<br>(RTI/TCC)<br>0/55 districts<br>(TCC) | 0/135 districts<br>(TCC) | 0/135 districts<br>(TCC) |                                 |
| DSAs (#EUs) | Pre-TAS : 1/1<br>(RTI)<br><br>TAS 1 : 0/54<br>(TCC)<br>TAS 2 : 0/7<br>(RTI) | Epi/Ento surveys:<br>(RTI 0/15)                        |                          |                          | TT-only<br>survey: 1/1<br>(RTI) |

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| HSS | Costing Analysis of NTD Targeted Interventions in Cross River State |
|-----|---|

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

Highlights:

RTI

- Act | East provided financial and technical support to FMOH and Cross River State’s SMOH to conduct Pre-TAS in Yala LGA. The official FMOH preliminary report was sent, and results have been updated in the TAS tracker.
- From January 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, Act | East provided technical support to FMOH to develop their 2023 Annual Workplan. The three-day meeting enabled the FMOH to harmonize their implementation activities with partner workplans, specific to Act | East.
- Act | East Nigeria participated in World NTD Day on January 30, 2023. A comprehensive update on the Act | East World NTD Day celebrations has been shared via the Communications team.

TCC

- Finalization of treatment data validation and entry in all the 8 supported states.
- Oncho post-elimination radio jingles were aired in Plateau and Nasarawa states.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

**RTI**

- OV River Prospection in CRS in February.
- LF TAS- 1 planning meeting for Yala LGA in February.
- LF TAS-2 survey in 7 LGAs in CRS in March.
- OV Epidemiological and Entomological Assessment in 15 LGAs in CRS in March.

**TCC**

- Strategic planning meetings in Edo, Delta, Plateau, Nasarawa and Ebonyi states in February.
- Training of SIHTs and LIHTs in the 8 supported states.

**Other upcoming activities:**

**TCC**

- Collation of primary school classes 1 and 2 enrolment data in preparation for LF TAS 1.
- Joint meeting with FMOH to prepare for integrated LF TAS1/Schisto-STH impact assessments.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

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

National: <https://covid19.ncdc.gov.ng/>



Act | East Country Updates for USAID  
January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023

January 2023

PHILIPPINES

Act | East Partner: RTI

Total population: 114,861,989

Districts: 82

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Endemic diseases: LF (47) SCH (29) STH (82)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23

|     | LF  |
|-----|---|
| HSS | Health financing technical support for LF planning and budgeting at national and provincial level (R4D) |

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

Highlights:

- Act | East HQ interviewed strong candidates for the Sr. Technical Advisor role that will replace the Program Technical Support Manager positions, but ultimately did not fill the job vacancy. The position will be re-posted, and recruitment will continue until a suitable candidate is found.
- A World NTD Day event was postponed indefinitely due to staffing changes from a January 2023 DOH reorganization that impacted the internal clearances that were needed for the planned event.

Other upcoming activities:

- Act | East will provide technical and logistical support to a Multi-Disease Elimination Plan (MDEP) writeshop planned to begin March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in Baguio City.

COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

WHO: <https://www.who.int/philippines/>

National:

<https://www.bing.com/search?q=covid+tracker+philippines&cvid=b368868aa4584b8498713f2be9385525&aqs=edge..69i57j0.3720j0j1&pqlt=547&FORM=ANSAB1&PC=DCTS>  
<https://doh.gov.ph/covid-19/case-tracker>



January 2023

Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Viet Nam

Act | East Partner: RTI, FHF in Viet Nam

**Total population:** Bangladesh (175,599,695); Lao PDR (7,320,249); Viet Nam (96,844,240)

**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 supported by USAID in FY23

|                   | Trachoma                                   |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>DSA (#EUs)</b> | Viet Nam TSS: 2/2<br>Viet Nam TT-only: 0/4 |

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>MERLA</b> | Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Viet Nam: Learning activity on dossier development models |
|--------------|--|

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

**Bangladesh**

- The MOHFW received Regional Dossier Review Group (RDRG) comments on their LF elimination dossier on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Through local and regional STTA, Act | East is supporting the MOHFW to respond to all RDRG comments. The revised dossier will go through MOHFW review and signoff in February 2023 and should be resubmitted to WHO SEARO and the RDRG in March 2023.
- Act | East will coordinate with USAID Bangladesh on planning to celebrate LF validation, to potentially include production of a short “legacy video” that highlights the achievements of the national program.

**Lao PDR**

- With Act | East and WHO technical support, CMPE resubmitted their LF elimination dossier to WHO WPRO on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The RDRG is reviewing the revisions and comment responses.

**Viet Nam**

- Following the Tet holiday season in Viet Nam, Act | East and FHF will identify next steps and advocacy opportunities to secure the extension of the Act | East project in the country and the implementation of four TT-only surveys that are necessary for the finalization of the country’s trachoma dossier.

Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols: None

January 2023

TANZANIA

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

COP: [Redacted]

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Total population: 59.4 million (2022)

Districts: 184

Endemic diseases: LF (119), TRA (69), OV (29), SCH (184), STH (184)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23

|             | LF   | OV   | SCH                                  | STH                               | Trachoma   |
|-------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Mapping     | N/A  | OEM: 0/4 districts                                       | N/A                                  | N/A                               | 11/11 districts (10/10 EUs)                      |
| MDA         | 0/4 districts  | Round 1: 0/14 districts<br>Round 2: 0/29 districts       | 35/35 districts (FY22 carry over)    | 41/41 districts (FY22 carry-over) | Round 1: 0/2 districts<br>Round 2: 0/9 districts |
| DSAs (#EUs) | Re-Pre-TAS: 0/5 districts<br>TAS1: 0/13 EUs<br>TAS2: 0/4 EUs<br>TAS3: 0/11 EUs | Pre-stop MDA survey: 1 focus<br>Stop MDA survey: 1 focus | SCH impact assessment: 0/5 districts | N/A                               | N/A  |

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| MERLA | <p>LF DSA outcome investigation in 2/2 districts</p> <p>LF follow-up surveillance survey in 0/2 districts</p> <p>Microplanning for TRA (0/6 districts), OV (0/3 districts), and LF (0/2 districts)</p> <p>TRA CES in 4/6 districts</p> <p>TRA DQA in 0/1 district</p> <p>Improve district capacity in data management using the country specific NTD database</p>  |
| HSS   | <p>Strengthen CCHP budget development</p> <p>Develop and pilot training module on NTD planning and budgeting</p> <p>Strengthen TZNTDCP engagement in SWAp</p> <p>Meetings to facilitate bilateral agreement between USAID and Gov of Tanzania</p> <p>Develop NTD financial strategy</p> <p>Support TZNTDCP to attend WATSAN technical committee</p> <p>Share NTD Sustainability Plan priorities with regions and districts</p> <p>Completion of NTD Master Plan M&amp;E Plan</p> |

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

Highlights:

- In January 2023, Act | East in collaboration with NTDCP supported GESI coaching in 2 OV councils (Mlimba and Ulanga) in Morogoro region. The national GESI trainers worked with councils' GESI implementation teams (established in FY22) to review iDARE action plans for the upcoming OV MDA. The teams verified MDA refusals from the CDD registers, establishing new refusal cohorts of 40 community members per village. A total of 6 villages (2 for Ulanga and 4 for Mlimba) and 24 hamlets (8 for Ulanga and 16 for Mlimba) were reached. As a lesson learnt from FY22, this activity had deeper

involvement with community leaders who were provided with health education related to OV transmission and prevention and common reasons cited by community members for refusing MDA. The 40 community members in each village were provided with focused health education by iDARE teams at village level supported by national GESI team.

- Act | East supported NTDCP and PO-RALG to hold the CCHP Pause and Reflect meeting in Morogoro from January 17-20<sup>th</sup>. The meeting convened the 15 councils Act | East supported in FY22, alongside officials from the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP), Directorate of Policy and Planning (DPP) of the MoH, Regional Authority Secretariat (RAS), Local Government Authority (LGA). The meeting aimed at collecting feedback from the 15 councils that were capacitated to plan and budget for NTDs in FY22. The P&R identified several challenges to integrating NTDs into CCHPs:
  - Limited NTD data in DHIS2 and the PlanRep system means NTDs are inherently given lower priority compared to other diseases;
  - NTDs are not explicitly included in the CCHP assessment process due to lack of assessment criteria in PlanRep;
  - Council NTD coordinators are not involved in the finalization of councils plans;
  - Council leaders are not involved in NTD planning and review meetings; and
  - There is a need to scale up capacity building to all other NTD endemic councils.

To address the above challenges, the following key next steps were agreed:

- MoH-NTDCP, in collaboration with PO-RALG and with support from Act | East, will develop a policy brief that will inform key decision makers about NTD sustainability challenges and advocate for more domestic resource financing at all levels.
- The NTD CCHP operational manual will be finalized to incorporate updates from the P&R and submitted to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for signature.
- MoH-NTDCP, PO-RALG, Act | East and USAID should discuss the best modalities for scaling up capacity building of CHMTs on planning NTD activities in CCHPs in a cost-effective means.
- MoH-NTDCP will join the upcoming DHIS2 meeting to ensure NTD indicators are included.
- Incorporate NTD specific data collection tools, indicators, and tables to capture all NTD data (beyond 5 PC-NTDs) into PlanRep and include NTD assessment criteria in the PlanRep tool.
- Advocate for NTDs to be a stand-alone priority area in the CCHP guideline next year, when the guideline will be revised.
- MoH and PO-RALG to add the relevant fund source “NTD USAID” in the PlanRep system.
- As a follow-on to the CCHP P&R, Act | East supported an activity to formulate key NTD indicators and assessment criteria in PlanRep. The technical meeting was led by PO-RALG and included DPP office and council health secretaries and NTD coordinators. Indicators to capture NTDs beyond 5 PC NTDs were proposed, alongside several others. A few examples are NTD performance indicators (most recent prevalence from national surveys, UHC indicator - % of NTD patients insured by any insurance scheme), MDA coverage, morbidity management (number of TT, hydrocele, lymphedema cases identified, number managed, and follow-ups), and resource availability (funds from domestic sources, equipment, human resources, donor funds).
- NTDCP participated in an MoH meeting to update indicators in DHSI2. In this meeting all NTD indicators already existing in DHSI2 were updated and new indicators were added such as NTDs that were missing which included Relapsing fever, Viral hemorrhagic fever, plague, and scabies.
- Following the CCHP P&R meeting, Act | East supported the MoH and PO-RALG to write up a policy brief that addresses the key challenge of low domestic funding for NTD activities and the lack of NTD indicators in DHIS2 and PlanRep. The plan is for MOH and PO-RALG to present this policy brief at the next DPP meeting in February.

- Act | East Tanzania participated in World NTD Day on January 30, 2023. A comprehensive update on the Act | East World NTD Day celebrations has been shared via the Communications team.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- In collaboration with NTDCP, Act | East is preparing for a meeting to validate the joint M&E plan for the Sustainability and Master Plans and development of an NTD financial strategy.
- Act | East will work with the NTDCP to begin preparations towards development of the national schistosomiasis strategy and action plan.
- Act | East will conduct supportive supervision for the OV community MDA in 14 councils in February 2023.
- In collaboration with NTDCP and PO-RALG, Act | East will conduct a trachoma Data Quality Assessment (DQA) in Kiteto DC in February 2023. Training of the DQA team will be conducted on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February followed by field work data collection from 12<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February.
- Act | East will support NTDCP to conduct planned TAS2/3 surveys beginning in February.

**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 2023

UGANDA

**Act | East Partner:** RTI, The Carter Center, WI-HER, R4D, Save the Children  
**COP:** [Redacted]  
**RTI HQ Team:** [Redacted]

**Total population:** 46,205,893 (2022)  
**Districts:** 136  
**Endemic diseases:** LF (66), TRA (41), OV (43), SCH (91), STH (136)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23**

|                    | LF                               | OV   | Trachoma  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>MDA</b>         | N/A                              | 3/11 districts (R1)<br>0/11 districts (R2) | 2/2 districts (Jan 2023)<br>0/5 districts (June 2023) |
| <b>DSAs (#EUs)</b> | TAS 2: 0/8 EUs<br>TAS 3: 0/3 EUs | N/A  | TSS+: 2 EUs<br>Confirmatory mapping: 2 districts      |

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>MERLA</b> | Targeted follow-up investigation in two districts of Nabilatuk and Buliisa<br>Data quality assessment (DQA) in Buliisa district  |
| <b>HSS</b>   | High-level meeting on mainstreaming NTD drugs<br>Building domestic resource mobilization capacity workshops<br>National advocacy meeting<br>Finalize and institutionalize GESI MDA training curriculum<br>Finalize integration of GESI into MOH-led social and behavior change packages<br>GESI behavior change activity scale up in two districts |

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

Completed bi-annual Trachoma MDA in Nabilatuk and Moroto districts.

**Highlights:**

**RTI**

- **Bi-annual Trachoma MDA Implementation:** The MOH, with technical and financial support from Act | East, conducted bi-annual trachoma MDA in Nabilatuk and Moroto districts in partnership with the government of Kenya’s Turkana County. The MDA included enhanced supervision by both MOH and RTI, use of the supervisor’s coverage tool, microplanning with districts and Kraals leaders, improved social mobilization with mobile vans and speakers announcing importance of MDA and details. Health workers, government offices, and markets were used in hard-to-reach areas and urban and peri-urban populations. In coordination with Turkana County in Moroto and Napak districts, we targeted the Turkana kraals that migrate into Uganda in search of water and pastures for their animals. Over 5000 Turkana pastoralists were treated for trachoma over the course of 5 days.

**WI-HER**

- Summarized and shared training content on integrating GESI in MDA and an accompanying facilitator’s guide on two practical exercises for use during the district and sub-county MDA supervisors’ training. Copies of the same were also shared with the sub-county supervisors in Moroto

and Nabilatuk Districts for use when training parish supervisors and when supervising VHT/CMD training.

- Trained district and sub-county supervisors' on GESI integration in MDA in Moroto and Nabilatuk districts. A total of 25 people took part in the Moroto training. Training participants were updated on Moroto and Nabilatuk specific barriers to MDA identified through the GESI behavior change activity in the two districts.
- Supervised treatment in Turkana and Karamajong kraals and watering points in support of MDA in Moroto in Nabilatuk districts. We also conducted training and supervised treatment in Nabwal Sub-County of Napak District where a large number of migrant farmers from Nabilatuk District spend a lot of time.
- Introduced the GESI behavior change activity in Nakapiripirit District to a total of 21 district stakeholders. Nakapiripirit's previous MDA data was reviewed and four villages from three sub-counties were selected for implementing the GESI behavior change activity. An action plan on how to proceed with the behavior change activity start-up tasks was agreed at the end of the meeting.
- Held check-in meetings with root agents and behavior change teams in seven sub-counties of Nabilatuk and Amudat districts. Monitored progress on testing solutions to MDA access and uptake barriers as well as face cleanliness and environmental improvements. A total of 103 people took part in these meetings.
- Continued coordination with Save the Children on the integration of key barriers to MDA uptake identified in WI-HER's behavior change work / root cause analysis into StC's community dialogues and also in MDA supervision in the three overlapping villages.

#### TCC

- **Training of health workers/subcounty focal persons:** Training of Health Workers/Sub County Focal Persons and Parish Supervisors was completed in all the 11 districts and 1 city.
- **Training of community supervisors:** The second level training of Community Supervisors and Local Council Chairpersons has been completed in Kitgum and Lira districts. The remaining 9 districts and Gulu City are still conducting second level training.

#### Save the Children

- **Community dialogues:** StC conducted 23 community dialogues from 10<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> January in Nabilatuk, Nakapiripirit, Amudat and Moroto districts. These meetings included district health workers, social workers from sub-counties and parish chiefs who discussed the barriers and challenges contributing to the low coverage reached through the last MDA in August 2022. A total of 1,252 participants attended these dialogues.
- **Building the Functionality of the Village Sanitation Committees (VSCs):** StC conducted 23 review meetings with VSCs from Moroto and Nabilatuk districts from 10<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> January. The meetings called for support from the committees to mobilize and participate in the MDAs taking place in these districts, and to check on progress of the agreed action plans made during previous engagements. A total 207 participants attended the VSC meetings.
- **Production of F&E Spot Messages:** Facial cleanliness and environmental improvements (F&E) spot messages were produced in Pokot and Swahili languages. The messages were pre-tested with local language experts to ensure clarity, correctness, completeness, and coherence.
- **Broadcasting Radio Spot Messages.** The program aired 161 radio spot messages between January 13-25 on Kalya FM, Ateker and Heritage radio stations. The spot messages aim was to increase awareness about the MDA exercise and to mobilize communities for increased acceptance and uptake of drugs in the districts of Moroto and Nabilatuk for the second round of MDA.

- **Radio Talk shows:** StC conducted 6 radio talk shows between 17<sup>th</sup>–25<sup>th</sup> January. This was achieved with support from the District Health Team members and political leadership.

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

**RTI**

- Reverse logistics of medicines at the end of February.
- Celebration of World NTD day on February 22.
- Confirmatory mapping in Kween and Bulambuli districts in March.

**TCC**

- In February we will continue with the training of community supervisors and LCI leaders.
- Health Education and CDD selection will occur in February.
- Training of CDDs will occur in March.

**StC**

- StC will provide support to the VSCs to conduct meetings at the village level.
- Broadcasting of spot messages and radio talk shows will continue into the month of February to sensitize and mobilize communities regarding the F&E component of the SAFE strategy.
- Community dialogues continue to be prioritized, targeting Kraal leaders, natural leaders, and household heads in Nabilatuk, Moroto, Amudat and Nakapiripirit districts in February.

**WI-HER**

- Conducting training on GESI and NTDs for Buliisa District stakeholders to trigger behavior change start up activities.
- Supporting Moroto and Nabilatuk District GESI teams to conduct check-in meetings with root agents and behavior change teams to evaluate MDA coverage among cohorts engaged in new villages.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

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

National: <https://www.health.go.ug/covid/>

February 2023

ETHIOPIA

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

Total population: 113,930,631

COP: [Redacted]

Districts: 872

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Endemic diseases: LF (85), TRA (700), OV (222), SCH (426), STH (547)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23

|             | LF  | OV   | STH                                | Trachoma  |
|-------------|---|--|------------------------------------|---|
| Mapping     | 2 districts   |  |                                    | Desk review of unmapped districts.  |
| MDA         | <b>1/1 camp</b><br>• BG (1/1 camp)  | <b>10/85 districts + 5/5 camps</b><br>• BG (10/17 districts)<br>• BG (5/5 camps)<br>• Oromia-LFTW (0/68 districts) | <b>1/1 camp</b><br>• BG (1/1 camp) | <b>1/70 districts</b><br>• Gambella (0/8 districts)<br>• Oromia-FHF (1/62 districts)  |
| DSAs (#EUs) | <b>Pre-TAS: 1/5 EUs</b><br>• BG (0/4 EUs)<br>• Oromia (1/1 EUs)<br><br><b>TAS1: 0/5 EUs</b><br>• BG (0/4 EUs)<br>• Oromia (0/1 EUs) |  |                                    | <b>TIS: 26/81 EUs</b><br>• BG (0/2 EUs)<br>• Gambella (0/9 EUs)<br>• Oromia-FHF (26/41 EUs)<br>• Oromia-LFTW (0/29 EUs)<br><br><b>TSS: 0/37 EUs</b><br>• BG (0/6 EUs)<br>• Oromia-LFTW (0/31 EUs) |

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| MERLA | Trachoma DSA Outcome Investigations in 50 districts. <b>Qualitative data collection completed in 2 districts of Gambella (RTI) region and the investigation findings are being compiled.</b><br>Data Quality Assessment During Supervision (DQA-S) in 2 districts of Gambella (RTI).<br>Pre-MDA census in 8 districts of Gambella and 10 districts and 3 camps of BG (RTI): Completed.<br>Coverage Evaluation Survey (CES) in 1 district of Oromia (LFTW).<br>Data Quality Assessment (DQA) in 3 districts of Oromia (FHF). |
| HSS   | GESI Behavior Change activity in 2 woredas: Activity conducted at Sebeta Hawas district of Oromia region.<br>NTD Financial Roadmap Development (RTI, R4D)<br>NTD Financial Assessment in 5 districts (RTI, R4D): Result analysis and continued assessment targeting ORHB and MOH stakeholders is ongoing.   |

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

- LF, OV and STH MDA completed in secure areas of Beneshangul-Gumuz.
- FHF completed TIS in 3 EUs.
- Updates to MERLA activity.



**Highlights:**

- RTI conducted reverse logistics supportive supervision at Beneshangul-Gumuz region jointly with RHB NTD team. Leftover medicines were collected, reported, and appropriately stored in some woredas while in others poor storage conditions and poor stock record keeping were observed. Orientation/coaching and feedback was provided to RHB, woreda health office, and regional EPSS to strengthen the reverse logistics after MDA.
- RTI conducted the MDA planning meeting at Gambella. Regional level trachoma MDA Challenges, intervention strategies, ways of collaboration and intended objectives on planned trachoma MDA approach were the major discussion points in the meeting. Participants from health, water, education, women and social affairs, youth, and sport sectors attended the meeting, along with woreda administrators and RHB deputy head.
- LFTW conducted regional level multi-sectoral collaboration and Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) & disability inclusion MDA sensitization and advocacy meeting in collaboration with ORHB. The meeting was aiming to promote multisectoral activities integration and collaboration on WASH-NTDs program, sensitize political leaders, sectors, and other stake holders to mainstream GESI and disability inclusion concepts in their respective policies and programs.
- LFTW conducted zonal level MDA planning meeting and integrated MDA trainings at 5 zones of Western Oromia region. The district level cascade MDA trainings were also conducted at all project supported districts.
- LFTW started to implement OV MDA in 45 out of the 68 targeted districts of Oromia and based on the daily MDA updates the coverage was good for majority of districts and not satisfactory at few districts due to the security situation. Supervisors are using the standard supervisory checklist alongside the GESI-SCT.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- RTI plans to conduct regional Trachoma MDA TOT and district level cascade trainings, pre-MDA census, supportive supervision activities and Trachoma MDA campaign at 8 districts of Gambella region in March 2023.
- RTI plans to organize GESI assessment result dissemination workshop and GESI mainstreaming TOT training at Gambella region in March 2023.
- RTI plans to conduct DHIS2 and NTD database training for HITs and NTD focal persons at Gambella region in March 2023.
- RTI plans to conduct re-pre TAS in 2 districts of Beneshangul-Gumuz in March 2023.
- FHF plans to conduct DSA field investigation at 2 districts of Oromia in March 2023.
- LFTW plans to start OV MDA at the remaining 23 districts of West Wellega zone and complete at all targeted districts in March 2023.
- LFTW plans to conduct region, zone, and district level post OV MDA review meetings in March 2023.
- LFTW plans to conduct Trachoma survey trainings and actual surveys in March 2023, if the security situation allows.
- LFTW plans to conduct district level DHIS2 cascade training at Kellem and West Wellega zones in April 2023.



**Act | East Country Updates for USAID**  
**January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023**

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

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

National: <https://covid19.ephi.gov.et/>

**February 2023**

**HAITI**

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

**COP:** [Redacted]

**RTI HQ Team:** [Redacted]

**Total population:** 11.9 million (2023 est.)

**Districts:** 140 communes

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

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23**

|                    | LF  | STH          |
|--------------------|---|--------------|
| <b>MDA</b>         | 0/5 communes  | 0/5 communes |
| <b>DSAs (#EUs)</b> | Re-Pre-TAS in 0/2 communes (0/4 EUs)<br>TAS3 in 0/6 EUs | N/A          |

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>MERLA</b> | Microplanning in 0/2 communes<br>Refresher microplanning in 0/3 communes<br>Coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 0/2 communes<br>MDA real-time data collection in 0/5 communes<br>Training on WHO NTD Integrated Database<br>Dossier development data compilation |
| <b>HSS</b>   | Funds flow analysis (R4D)  |

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

**Security Update:**

The socio-political situation in Haiti remains dire with widespread gang violence and kidnappings continuing, mostly in the metropolitan area and Artibonite valley, forcing major hospitals to close doors. RTI’s office in Port-au-Prince remains closed. However, the North Department displays a more stable situation, hence Act | East plans to resume activities in the North beginning with the pre-TAS in Acul-du-Nord and Port-de-Paix.

**Highlights:**

- Act | East supported the MSPP to hold a virtual partner’s meeting on February 27 and 28<sup>th</sup> whereby partners shared accomplishments from the previous year and perspectives for the current fiscal year. The meeting brought to light the need to ensure availability of Ivermectin in country and reiterated the need for better management of SAEs during MDA.
- All preparations were completed for the upcoming pre-TAS in March and training of surveyors is scheduled for the week of March 6<sup>th</sup> in the North.
- World NTD Day events were held in the North and Artibonite departments but to accommodate MOH VIP participation, the event planned in Port-au-Prince had to be postponed. The new date is yet to be announced by MSPP.
- Act | East Haiti is visiting storage space in the North (Cap Haitian) that will serve as a base of operations and storage for MDA and TAS activities.

- Act | East, alongside MSPP and partners, began planning for the upcoming MDA training curriculum workshop which will be held fully virtually on March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The workshop will take stock of existing MDA training materials and gaps to guide development of new training materials that can be used by all partners.
- WI-HER's social mobilization and GESI consultant supported the development of a training package for social mobilization advisors, a new cadre of social mobilization workers that will support MDA efforts this year. In addition, the consultant coordinated with the departmental GESI team to plan implementation of the iDARE GESI behavior change activity in Plaine du Nord and Cap-Haitien.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- Pre-TAS in 2 communes is scheduled for March.
- Act | East will support the virtual MDA training curriculum workshop March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Act | East will meet with community leaders to initiate school- based data collection for upcoming TAS3.
- Celebration of World NTD Day in Port au Prince will take place in March.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/amro/country/ht>

MSPP: [https://mspp.gouv.ht/site/downloads/Sitrep%20COVID-19\\_24-07-2021.pdf](https://mspp.gouv.ht/site/downloads/Sitrep%20COVID-19_24-07-2021.pdf)

**February 2023**

**INDONESIA**

Act | East Partner: RTI

COP: [Redacted]

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Total population: 274,859,094

Districts: 514

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

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23**

|             | LF   |
|-------------|--|
| DSAs (#EUs) | Pre-TAS : 1/4 EUs<br>TAS : 2/4 EUs<br>BIS : 2/11 EUs |

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| MERLA | Act   East staff NIS database testing and training |
|-------|--|

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

- Updated TAS completed during the month of February 2023.

**Highlights:**

- Act | East Indonesia in collaboration with the MOH organized two sessions of LF Microscopy Training from February 7 – 9 and February 14 – 16, for twenty participants each from regional and provincial laboratories who will support LF surveys during 2023. The training was provided by a team of LF experts from the Medical Faculty of the University of Indonesia.
- Act | East Indonesia in collaboration with the MOH supported the implementation of TAS1 survey for Helmahera Tengah District from February 13 to 25, 2023, during which 1331 samples were collected from children in 44 schools across the district.
- Act | East Indonesia in collaboration with the MOH also began the implementation of a TAS1 in Kepulauan Sula District and a TAS1 in Aceh Timur District on February 26, 2023. Both surveys are expected to take approximately two weeks to complete.
- The MOH organized a special national event in Jakarta to commemorate World NTD Day on February 21, 2023, including recognition of 107 districts that have achieved elimination goals of one or more NTDs during 2022. Act | East Indonesia contributed to the event and helped promote it through our social media channels and networks. Over 500 participants from across Indonesia attended.

**Upcoming activities:**

- Act | East Indonesia in collaboration with the MOH will continue to support the implementation of the TAS1 surveys in Kepulauan Sula and Aceh Timur that began in late February.
- Act | East Indonesia will also support the implementation of TAS1 surveys in the district of Bireuen to begin on March 5 and in the district of Yapan to begin on March 19; as well as a TAS3 survey in the district of Tasikmalaya to begin on March 13, 2023.
- Act | East will organize a M&E Coordination Meeting on March 29-31, 2023, with the NTD Work team.



**Act | East Country Updates for USAID**  
**January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023**

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

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

**February 2023**

**MOZAMBIQUE**

Act | East Partner: RTI

COP: [Redacted]

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Total population: 32,419,747

Districts: 161

Endemic diseases: LF (114), OV (5), SCH (161),  
STH (153), Trachoma (65)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23**

|             | LF             | Trachoma                      |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| MDA         | 0/34 districts | 1/10 districts                |
| DSAs (#EUs) |                | TIS: 4/9 EUs<br>TSS: 0/15 EUs |

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| MERLA | Trachoma DSA Outcome Investigation in 3 districts. <b>Preliminary desk review complete for one district.</b><br>LF pre-TAS Outcome Investigation in 34 districts: <b>Preliminary desk review complete.</b><br>Trachoma Coverage Evaluation Survey (CES) in 1 district<br>LF CES in 4 districts |
|-------|--|

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

- Mecufi district in Cabo Delgado was added to trachoma MDA plans.
- Updates to MERLA activities.

**Highlights:**

- Act | East Mozambique participated in World NTD Day on February 02, 2023. A comprehensive update on the Act | East World NTD Day celebrations has been shared via the Communications team.
- Act | East has gathered available LF data as part of the desk review for the LF pre-TAS Outcome Investigation. The survey team collected available LF and CES reports as well as all data models such as EPIRF, Portal WHO ESPEN. Finding comprehensive documentation of previous LF treatment and surveys has been challenging.
- Following news of the Zithromax production shortage affecting the global trachoma program, MISAU, in consultation with Act | East and ITI, decided to prioritize treating all planned districts once. With the de-prioritization of planned biannual MDA in three Manica Province districts (Guro, Macossa, Tambara) to the next financial year (FY24), there is enough drug available to treat all originally planned districts in addition to Mecufi district which failed TIS earlier this fiscal year.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- LF pre-TAS outcome investigation in March 2023.

- Trachoma Dossier elimination meeting in March 2023.
- LF Dossier elimination meeting in March 2023.
- National Steering committee meeting in March 2023.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

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

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



**February 2023**

**NEPAL**

Act | East Partner: RTI

COP: [Redacted]

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Total population: 29,847,607

Districts: 77

Endemic diseases: LF (63) TRA (20) STH (77)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
|                    | <b>LF</b>   |
| <b>Mapping</b>     | 4 districts   |
| <b>DSAs (#EUs)</b> | Pre-TAS: 4/4 districts (VBDRTC), 1/1 district (MPPHL)<br>TAS2: 3 districts (VBDRTC)<br>TAS3: 8/9 districts (VBDRTC)                   |
| <b>MERLA</b>       | Act   East staff NIS database testing and training  |
| <b>HSS</b>         | GESI behavior change activity in Banke district (WI-HER)<br>Dissemination of domestic resource mobilization case study for NTDs (R4D) |

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

**Highlights:**

- LF MDA 2023 kicked off from 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 in 15 districts (Jhapa, Morang, Dhanusha, Mohattari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara, Lamjung, Parbat, Baglung, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke, Kailali and Rasuwa) and will continue until mid-March 2023. Pre-MDA activities were completed in all 15 districts. Act| East Nepal provided support for central, provincial, district and municipal level LF MDA activities and supported WI-HER to conduct a behavior change activity around the MDA in Banke district.
  - Act | East staff made monitoring visits in some LF MDA districts to participate and observe implementation activities, noting that provinces, districts, and municipalities came forward with both leadership and ownership. At all levels, they were more active this year with public goals for high coverage and compliance.
- Act| East HQ communications team visited Nepal to capture video of LF MDA activities of Baglung district for the “More Than Medicine” video series being produced at the program level. The video will also serve as an advocacy tool with stakeholders.
- Act | East Nepal completed FAA packages with Vector Born Disease Research Training Center (VBDRTC) to conduct TAS 2 in Ilam and Panchthar and TAS 3 in Sindhuli. Field work for both surveys will begin in the first week of March 2023.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- TAS 2 in Ilam, Panchthar districts and TAS3 in Sindhuli district in March 2023.
- TAS 2 in Kanchanpur in April-May 2023, pending FAA agreement.

- LF confirmatory mapping surveys in Kalikot, Jumla, Mugu and Humla districts in April-May 2023, pending FAA agreement.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

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

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

February 2023

NIGERIA

Act | East Partner: RTI, The Carter Center

COP: [Redacted]

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY2023

|             | LF   | OV                              | SCH                          | STH                       | Trachoma                        |
|-------------|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| MDA         | 22/36 districts<br>(RTI/TCC)                         | 13/55 districts<br>(TCC)        | 10/127<br>districts<br>(TCC) | 22/135 districts<br>(TCC) |                                 |
| DSAs (#EUs) | Pre-TAS : 1/1<br>(RTI)<br><br>TAS 1 : 25/25<br>(TCC) | Epi/Ento surveys:<br>(RTI 0/15) |                              |                           | TT-only<br>survey: 1/1<br>(RTI) |

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| HSS | Costing Analysis of NTD Targeted Interventions in Cross River State |
|-----|---|

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

- TCC activities were updated to reflect the change in work plan activities already communicated with USAID

Highlights:

RTI

- LF TAS-1 Planning Meeting:** Act | East provided financial and technical support to the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) and Cross River State Ministry of Health (SMOH) to conduct a TAS 1 Planning meeting. The meeting was held on February 1 and 2, 2023 in Calabar, Cross River State. Participants included stakeholders from the FMOH, SMOH, State Ministry of Education (SMOE), State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) and the National Association of Proprietors of Private Schools (NAPPS). The stakeholders jointly reviewed the school calendar; identified contact details of the sampled 77 schools; developed a field itinerary and timeline; identified community gate-keepers and developed a social mobilization Plan. The TAS 1 survey will be combined with the TAS-2 survey (in 7 LGAs).
- OV River Prospection:** Act | East, through a consultant entomologist, conducted OV River Prospection to validate the viability of Blackfly (*Simulium*) breeding sites in 7 LGAs in Cross River State. The sites identified during the prospection will be included in the planned epidemiological and entomological survey to be conducted in April/May.

#### TCC

- NTDs medicine requisition and submission to FMOH for eight supported states
- Final verification and entry of 2022 treatment data in the eight supported States
- Carter Center Health Program Review data collation and presentation preparation

#### Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:

#### RTI

- LF TAS 1 & 2 Field work in 8 LGAs in Cross River State in April/May 2023.
- OV Epidemiological and Entomological Assessment in 15 LGAs in Cross River State in April/May.
- NOEC Meeting, May 17-19, 2023 in Cross River State.

#### TCC

- Planning for 2023 activities in the eight supported states.

#### Other upcoming activities:

#### TCC

- Carter Center Virtual Health Program Reviews

#### COVID-19 data monitoring sources:

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

National: <https://covid19.ncdc.gov.ng/>

**February 2023**

**PHILIPPINES**

Act | East Partner: RTI

Total population: 114,861,989

Districts: 82

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Endemic diseases: LF (47) SCH (29) STH (82)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23**

|     | LF  |
|-----|---|
| HSS | Health financing technical support for LF planning and budgeting at national and provincial level (R4D) |

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

**Highlights:**

- [Redacted] will join RTI as the Act | East Philippines Sr. Technical Advisor in late March 2023, transitioning from a position in the DOH.

**Other upcoming activities:**

- Act | East will provide technical and logistical support to the second Multi-Disease Elimination Plan (MDEP) writeshop March 7-9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in Tagaytay.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

WHO: <https://www.who.int/philippines/>

National:

<https://www.bing.com/search?q=covid+tracker+philippines&cvid=b368868aa4584b8498713f2be9385525&aqs=edge..69i57j0.3720j0j1&pglt=547&FORM=ANSAB1&PC=DCTS>

<https://doh.gov.ph/covid-19/case-tracker>

**February 2023**

**Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Viet Nam**

**Act | East Partner:** RTI, FHF in Viet Nam

**Total population:** Bangladesh (175,599,695); Lao PDR (7,320,249); Viet Nam (96,844,240)

**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 supported by USAID in FY23**

|                   | Trachoma                                   |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>DSA (#EUs)</b> | Viet Nam TSS: 2/2<br>Viet Nam TT-only: 0/4 |

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>MERLA</b> | Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Viet Nam: Learning activity on dossier development models |
|--------------|--|

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

**Bangladesh**

- Throughout February, Act | East HQ staff and consultants [Redacted] and [Redacted] supported the MOHFW to respond to Regional Dossier Review Group (RDRG) comments. The MOHFW is currently reviewing the revised dossier and plans to resubmit it to WHO SEARO and the RDRG in March 2023.
- Act | East and USAID Bangladesh have drafted a storyboard for a short video highlighting the achievement of LF validation. The video will be produced, largely from existing footage, in March and April.

**Lao PDR**

- With Act | East and WHO technical support, CMPE resubmitted their LF elimination dossier to WHO WPRO in January 2023. Act | East continues to follow up with WPRO and the national program for any update on the status of the dossier.

**Viet Nam**

- FHF and RTI teams have been working closely with three levels of WHO- Geneva, WPRO, Viet Nam- to advocate to the MOH for the extension of the Act | East project in the country, so that final trachoma activities can be implemented.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:** None

**February 2023**

**TANZANIA**

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

COP: [Redacted]

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Total population: 59.4 million (2022)

Districts: 184

Endemic diseases: LF (119), TRA (69), OV (29), SCH (184), STH (184)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23**

|                    | LF   | OV   | SCH                                  | STH                               | Trachoma   |
|--------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Mapping</b>     | N/A  | OEM: 0/4 districts   | N/A                                  | N/A                               | 11/11 districts (10/10 EUs)                      |
| <b>MDA</b>         | 0/4 districts  | Round 1: 0/14 districts<br>Round 2: 0/29 districts           | 35/35 districts (FY22 carry over)    | 41/41 districts (FY22 carry-over) | Round 1: 0/2 districts<br>Round 2: 0/9 districts |
| <b>DSAs (#EUs)</b> | Re-Pre-TAS: 0/5 districts<br>TAS1: 0/13 EUs<br>TAS2: 0/4 EUs<br>TAS3: 0/11 EUs | Pre-stop MDA survey: 0/1 focus<br>Stop MDA survey: 0/1 focus | SCH impact assessment: 0/5 districts | N/A                               | N/A  |

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>MERLA</b> | LF DSA outcome investigation in 2/2 districts<br>LF follow-up surveillance survey in 0/2 districts<br>Microplanning for TRA (0/6 districts), OV (0/3 districts), and LF (0/2 districts)<br>TRA CES in 4/6 districts<br>TRA DQA in 1/1 district<br>Improve district capacity in data management using the country specific NTD database  |
| <b>HSS</b>   | Strengthen CCHP budget development<br>Develop and pilot training module on NTD planning and budgeting<br>Strengthen TZNTDCP engagement in SWAp<br>Meetings to facilitate bilateral agreement between USAID and Gov of Tanzania<br>Develop NTD financial strategy<br>Support TZNTDCP to attend WATSAN technical committee<br>Share NTD Sustainability Plan priorities with regions and districts<br>Completion of NTD Master Plan M&E Plan |

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

- The planned trachoma data quality assessment (DQA) in Kiteto DC was completed.

**Highlights:**

- Act | East in collaboration with NTDCP and PORALG conducted trachoma DQA in Kiteto DC. The activity commenced with training of the DQA team in Morogoro from 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and field work in Kiteto DC from 12<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023.

- Act | East in collaboration with NTDCP and PORALG conducted enhanced supportive supervision for OV MDA in the 14 district councils that conduct MDA biannually.
- RTI and R4D supported the NTDCP to put together a policy brief advocating for more domestic funding for NTDs. This was a recommendation from the recent CCHP Pause and Reflect Meeting. It is expected that NTDCP will present the policy brief to high level MOH, MOF and PORALG staff at the next CMO meeting.
- In collaboration with NTDCP and WI-HER team, Act | East supported data analysis for 16 hamlets of Mlimba and 8 hamlets of Ulanga councils in all six GESI villages. MDA registers were used to collect information on uptake and refusals. Low uptake was still a problem especially in Mlimba council (50%). Following this analysis, GESI team agreed to continue with community sensitization, ensure they use correct data, and conduct a pre-MDA census.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- Act | East will support NTDCP to conduct TAS2 in 4 EUs and TAS3 in 3 EUs. Training will be conducted in Dar es Salaam on March 10-11<sup>th</sup> followed by fieldwork from March 12-25<sup>th</sup>.
- Act | East will support NTDCP to conduct re-pre-TAS in 2 district councils of Mtama DC and Mtwara-Mikindani MC. Training will be conducted in Lindi on March 10-11<sup>th</sup>, followed by fieldwork from March 12-17<sup>th</sup>.
- The NTDCP and Act | East technical teams will conduct a visit to the districts of Dar es Salaam City Council, Kinondoni City Council and Temeke MC to select sites for the planned re-pre-TAS in March.
- In collaboration with NTDCP, Act | East is planning to conduct the OV pre-stop MDA survey in Tanga focus in March.
- In collaboration with NTDCP, Act | East is planning to hold a trachoma MDA electronic data collection (EDC) training at national, regional, district and sub-district levels. The national level training will be conducted on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and remaining level's training will be conducted in Arusha, Longido DC and Ngorongoro DC the week of 27<sup>th</sup> March. Trachoma MDA will take place in early April.
- Trachoma MDA will take place starting the week of March 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Act | East will support NTDCP to finalize the M&E plan for the Master and Sustainability Plans through a validation workshop and will also support them to hold the SWAp stakeholders' collaboration workshop in March.
- R4D is supporting a draft concept note and timeline for the development of an NTD financial strategy.
- Act | East will work with the NTDCP to begin preparations towards development of the national schistosomiasis strategy and action plan.

**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 2023**

**UGANDA**

**Act | East Partner:** RTI, The Carter Center, WI-HER, R4D, Save the Children  
**COP:** [Redacted]  
**RTI HQ Team:** [Redacted]

**Total population:** 46,205,893 (2022)  
**Districts:** 136  
**Endemic diseases:** LF (66), TRA (41), OV (43), SCH (91), STH (136)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23**

|                    | LF                               | OV   | Trachoma  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>MDA</b>         | N/A                              | 3/11 districts (R1)<br>0/11 districts (R2) | 2/2 districts (Jan 2023)<br>0/5 districts (June 2023) |
| <b>DSAs (#EUs)</b> | TAS 2: 0/8 Eus<br>TAS 3: 0/3 EUs | N/A  | TSS+: 2 EUs<br>Confirmatory mapping: 2 districts      |

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>MERLA</b> | Targeted follow-up investigation in two districts of Nabilatuk and Buliisa<br>Data quality assessment (DQA) in Buliisa district   |
| <b>HSS</b>   | High-level meeting on mainstreaming NTD drugs<br>Building domestic resource mobilization capacity workshops<br>National advocacy meeting<br>Finalize and institutionalize GESI MDA training curriculum<br>Finalize integration of GESI into MOH-led social and behavior change packages<br>GESI behavior change activity scale up in two districts. |

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

**Highlights:**

**RTI**

- **Breakfast meeting to commemorate the World NTD Day and launch of the NTD Master Plan (2023-2027):** A breakfast meeting to commemorate the World NTD Day and launch the NTD Master Plan was held at Hotel Africana on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023. The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Health with support from partners. The meeting was presided over by the Minister of Health who lobbied for domestic resources from the Members of Parliament. She also launched the Master Plan having noted that it will guide implementation for the next 5 years.
- **FAA Meeting with District leaders:** Act | East staff including the CoP and the R4D consultant traveled to the district of Buliisa to discuss the FAA process with the district leadership. The district reiterated their willingness to support the FAA process and MDA implementation. They also noted that there are systems already in place to facilitate the FAA process.
- **MDA AAR:** RTI staff held an internal MDA AAR with MoH and the partners (WI-HER and StC) that were involved in the MDA process. The district FPs and DHOs were also invited. It was agreed that the MDA process was well planned and executed. The involvement of the Turkana county team ensured that the Turkana migratory population were treated. Key recommendations from the AAR were the need for continuous engagement of the Turkana county leadership to ensure that their population that have settled within Uganda are treated; to change the social mobilization strategy for multi media

campaigns to in-person meetings; involvement of One Health in current program implementation to ensure that more people are reached and for future sustainability of the gains made.

- **Confirmatory mapping in Kween and Bulambuli:** Teams traveled to the districts of Kween and Bulambuli for confirmatory mapping, which is ongoing. The exercise was preceded by training and certification of the teams conducted by [Redacted] and [Redacted].
- Candidates were selected for the HSS and HR position with both due to start early March.
- [Redacted] is the HSS specialist on the Uganda team from RTI HQ.

#### WI-HER

- Supported Moroto, Nabilatuk and Amudat district GESI teams to conduct check-in meetings with root agents and behavior change teams in 10 sub-counties. The purpose was to collect updates on the MDA coverage among the cohorts directly engaged by influencers as well as coverage in the villages where the influencers were operational. Solutions to barriers regarding face cleanliness and environmental improvements were also discussed. A total of 141 people took part in these meetings.
- Engaged Amudat district GESI team to review data on the FY22 MDA coverage to inform the selection of new villages to scale up GESI behavior change.
- Continued coordination with Save the Children on the integration of key barriers to face cleanliness and environmental improvements in WI-HER's behavior change work / root cause analysis into StC's community dialogues.
- Attended the MOH-organized World NTD commemoration and launch of the new NTD Master plan (2023-2027).

#### TCC

- Pre MDA activities are ongoing in some of the districts targeted for MDA in April:
  - Nine districts (Adjumani, Gulu, Omoro, Amuru, Pader, Lamwo, Oyam, Nwoya, and Moyo) plus 1 City (Gulu City) have completed Community Supervisors and Local leaders training
  - Health education and CDD selection have been completed in 404 communities (Lira 276, Gulu City 128)
  - Seven districts of Nwoya, Amuru, Gulu, Pader, Lamwo, Oyam, and Omoro; are still conducting pre-MDA activities. Others have not started yet.
- The Carter Center attended a breakfast meeting to commemorate World NTD day.

#### Save the Children

- **Community Dialogues:** Held 23 community dialogue sessions in Moroto, Nabilatuk, Amudat and Nakapiripirit districts. These meetings included district health teams, social workers and political leaders from sub-counties. The intent was to check progress related to the implementation of actions identified at previously and any issues regarding barriers to achieving the facial and environmental cleanliness aspects of the program. A total of 1,041 participants attended these dialogues.
- **Supporting Village Sanitation Committees:** Conducted 11 review meetings with the VSCs of Nabilatuk and Moroto districts. These meetings brought together 109 sanitation committee members. The POs guided members on how to develop simple, achievable actions to improve WASH challenges that do not require any additional resources from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). This approach can help to show tangible results within a short timeframe.
- **Broadcasting Radio Spot Messages:** The program aired 198 radio spot messages between February 7-26, 2023. The radio stations have listenership in Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Amudat and neighboring Kenyan communities. The messages aim to increase awareness about facial and environmental

cleanliness at the household level, to contribute towards the elimination of trachoma in target communities.

- **Coordination with District Stakeholders:** StC- participated in three coordination meetings to increase visibility of the project interventions, to advocate for issues identified through the different approaches, to encourage ownership from the different leaders of the districts, and to ensure coordination and leveraging of other projects in the intervention areas.

**Moroto District Health Sector Review Meeting:** The StC- Project Manager represented Act | East in the Moroto District Health Sector review meeting on February 14, 2023. The meeting brought together district leaders, health facility in-charges and implementing partners. The District Health Office (DHO) acknowledged support from the implementing partners and requests more as his office strengthens their supervision activities and engagement with health workers to reduce absenteeism and coordinate additional efforts to recruit more critical cadres, while strengthening health education and promotion through social behavioral change (SBC) approaches. The participants agreed to organize a meeting with all implementing partners in the district to harmonize workplans and minimize duplication – to take place in March 2023.

- **Amudat District Health Sector Review Meeting:** StC-Act | East represented Act | East in Amudat District’s Local Government Quarterly Review Meeting on February 21-22, 2023. This meeting brought together political and technical district leaders, implementing partners in health and WASH, and the in-charges of health facilities. Discussions focused on the quarter’s achievements against the targets, challenges, and work plans for the next quarter. Key achievements included: Increased water coverage due to repaired boreholes by the district and community members; Latrine construction in some communities in Karita and Lorro sub-counties; and coordination with sub-county and district engagements. The StC-Act | East PO used the opportunity to share the workplan for Quarter 3 (FY2022/23). The DHO requested SC-Act | East incorporate health education messages focused on early ANC attendance and encouraging men to accompany their wives for ANC services etc. within the Trachoma dialogues, to improve health seeking behaviors among men.

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

**RTI**

- Confirmatory mapping in Kween and Bulambuli districts continues through the month of March.
- Reverse logistics of medicines from Trachoma MDA will conclude in March.
- Trachoma Annual review and planning meeting will be conducted in March.
- LF TAS training and TAS in March and April.

**TCC**

- Health Education and selection of CDDs in Moyo and Adjumani in March.
- Training of CDDs in all the districts in March and April
- Commencement of fresh registration in March and April

**StC**

- StC will provide support to the VSCs to conduct meetings at the village level in Moroto and Nabilatuk districts in March
- Broadcasting spot messages will continue in March 2023 to sensitize and mobilize communities regarding F and E component of the SAFE strategy.

- Community dialogues will continue to be prioritized, targeting kraal leaders, natural leaders and household heads in Nabilatuk, Moroto, Amudat and Nakapiripirit districts in March 2023.
- Radio talk shows to increase awareness on the F and E component of the SAFE strategy to be conducted in March and April

**WI-HER**

- Conducting training on GESI and NTDs for Buliisa and Nakapiripirit district stakeholders to trigger behavior change start up activities.
- Review FY22 MDA data and select new villages for scaling up the GESI behavior change activity in Amudat District.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

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

National: <https://www.health.go.ug/covid/>

March 2023

ETHIOPIA

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

COP: [Redacted]

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Total population: 113,930,631

Districts: 872

Endemic diseases: LF (85), TRA (700), OV (222), SCH (426), STH (547)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23

|             | LF   | OV  | STH  | Trachoma   |
|-------------|--|---|--|--|
| Mapping     | 2 districts  |   |  | Desk review of unmapped districts.   |
| MDA         | <b>1/1 camp</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BG (1/1 camp)</li> </ul>   | <b>77/85 districts + 5/5 camps</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BG (10/17 districts)</li> <li>BG (5/5 camps)</li> <li>Oromia-LFTW (67/68 districts)</li> </ul> | <b>1/1 camp</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BG (1/1 camp)</li> </ul> | <b>9/70 districts</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gambella (8/8 districts)</li> <li>Oromia-FHF (1/62 districts)</li> </ul>   |
| DSAs (#EUs) | <b>Pre-TAS: 3/5 EUs</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BG (2/4 EUs)</li> <li>Oromia (1/1 EUs)</li> </ul> <b>TAS1: 0/5 EUs</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BG (0/4 EUs)</li> <li>Oromia (0/1 EUs)</li> </ul> |   |  | <b>TIS: 26/81 EUs</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BG (0/2 EUs)</li> <li>Gambella (0/9 EUs)</li> <li>Oromia-FHF (26/41 EUs)</li> <li>Oromia-LFTW (0/29 EUs)</li> </ul> <b>TSS: 0/37 EUs</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BG (0/6 EUs)</li> <li>Oromia-LFTW (0/31 EUs)</li> </ul> |

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| MERLA | Trachoma DSA Outcome Investigations in 50 districts. <b>Investigation findings compiled, and draft report shared. Major findings were adapted for during Gambella MDA training and distribution.</b> Data Quality Assessment During Supervision (DQA-S) in 2 districts of Gambella (RTI). <b>Ongoing</b> Pre-MDA census in 8 districts of Gambella and 10 districts and 3 camps of BG (RTI): Completed. Coverage Evaluation Survey (CES) in 1 district of Oromia (LFTW). Data Quality Assessment (DQA) in 3 districts of Oromia (FHF). |
| HSS   | GESI Behavior Change activity in 2 woredas: Activity conducted at Sebeta Hawas district of Oromia region.<br>NTD Financial Roadmap Development (RTI, R4D).<br>NTD Financial Assessment in 5 districts (RTI, R4D): Result analysis and continued assessment targeting ORHB and MOH stakeholders is ongoing.   |

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

- Trachoma MDA completed in Gambella and OV MDA completed in secure areas of Oromia.
- RTI completed pre-TAS in 2 EUs of Beneshangul-Gumuz.
- Updates to MERLA activities.

**Highlights:**

- RTI conducted Trachoma MDA in 8 districts of Gambella region and report preparation is ongoing.
  - Regional Trachoma MDA training of trainers followed by one day DQA-S (data quality assessment during supervision) training was conducted, district level cascade MDA trainings were also conducted at all 8 districts.
  - DHIS2 and NTD database training was provided for HITs and NTD focal persons working in these 8 districts.
  - GESI-SCT integrated tool was utilized in selected districts, in collaboration with WI-HER. MDA supervisors from 3 districts and RHB NTD team attended the training.
- RTI conducted district level Post MDA review meetings for OV MDA in 10 districts of Beneshangul-Gumuz region. Main strengths and challenges faced during MDA were discussed and main contributors for success and weakness faced were discussed for future.
- RTI provided TT algorithm application training for selected Health Extension Workers, and the TT algorithm application testing was conducted in conjunction with the pre-MDA census activity.
- LFTW completed OV MDA in 67 districts of Western Oromia and the MDA activity is ongoing in one district. The GESI-integrated Supervisors Coverage tool (SCT) was used by MDA supervisors during the MDA campaign. In displaced communities, treatment was given to IDPs and data was documented as per their home district. Ongoing insecurity in a few kebeles made supportive supervision challenging during MDA implementation. In these kebeles, a Telegram message group was created, and the supervision team were able to share information on daily basis.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- RTI plans to conduct DHIS2 and NTD database training for HITs and NTD focal persons at Kamashi zone of Beneshangul-Gumuz region in April 2023.
- RTI plans to conduct district level post MDA review meetings at 8 targeted districts of Gambella region in April 2023.
- RTI plans to finalize MDA drug reverse logistics and drug safety supportive supervision activity at Gambella region in the first week of April 2023.
- RTI plans to conduct Trachoma Impact survey at 2 districts and 1 refugee camp of Gambella region in April 2023.
- LFTW plans to finalize OV MDA at 1 district of West Wellega zone in April 2023.
- LFTW plans to conduct post MDA review meetings at all levels in April 2023.
- LFTW plans to conduct Trachoma survey trainings in May 2023 and actual surveys in May through July 2023, if the security situation allows.
- LFTW plans to conduct district level DHIS2 cascade training at Kellem and West Wellega zones in May 2023.
- FHF plans to conduct DSA filed investigation at 2 districts of Oromia in April 2023.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

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

National: <https://covid19.ephi.gov.et/>

March 2023

HAITI

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

COP: [Redacted]

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Total population: 11.9 million (2023 est.)

Districts: 140 communes

Endemic diseases: LF (140) STH (140)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23

|             | LF  | STH          |
|-------------|---|--------------|
| MDA         | 0/5 communes  | 0/5 communes |
| DSAs (#EUs) | Re-Pre-TAS in 2/2 communes (4/4 EUs)<br>TAS3 in 0/6 EUs | N/A          |

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| MERLA | Microplanning in 0/2 communes<br>Refresher microplanning in 0/3 communes<br>Coverage evaluation survey (CES) in 0/2 communes<br>MDA real-time data collection in 0/5 communes<br>Training on WHO NTD Integrated Database<br>Dossier development data compilation |
| HSS   | Funds flow analysis (R4D)  |

**Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:** Re-pre-TAS was completed in 4 EUs.

**Security Update:** Overall, there is no discernible improvement in the socio-political situation in Haiti. The West Department, specifically the metropolitan area, remains heavily infected by gangs perpetrating daily murders and kidnappings. RTI’s office in Port-au-Prince remains closed. However, the North Department displays a striking contrast of overall calmness. The Act | East team is busy touring the North Department to implement DSA, GESI, and MDA preparatory activities.

**Highlights:**

- Act | East supported MSPP to plan and facilitate a virtual MDA training curriculum workshop from March 9 -10th, 2023. The goal was to take stock of existing LF/STH MDA training materials from MSPP and implementing partners and identify training gaps and opportunities to incorporate lessons learned to date. The workshop examined existing trainings at all levels, including training of trainers, supervisors, CLs, CPs, and CDDs. At the end of the two-day workshop, the participants had developed a draft set of minimum standards for MDA training. A national MDA training curriculum taskforce comprised of the various implementation partners will next lead the development of the final MDA curriculum package based on these minimum standards.
- Act | East implemented the re-pre-TAS in Acul du Nord and Port de Paix (2 EUs/district) from March 6-23<sup>rd</sup>. Overall, results in the rural EUs of each district passed the pre-TAS and the urban

EUs failed. Act | East plans to support MDA in Acul du Nord Urban EU this fiscal year and will look to plan MDA in Port de Paix Urban EU later in FY24.

- Act | East held TAS planning meetings with local authorities and Influencers from the health and education sectors to enhance buy-in for upcoming TAS in the 6 EUs targeted. Act | East also collected data on the schools for sampling. The TAS will start in early April.
- Act | East Haiti in collaboration with WI-HER, organized refresher training for CLs and CPs ahead of the social mobilization period. This included a distinct two-day training dedicated to social mobilization advisors who will reinforce grassroots mobilization by supporting CLs and CPs through coaching and supervision.
- Throughout March, WI-HER with the support of RTI implemented the iDARE behavior change activity in the communes of Cap Haitian and Plaine du Nord. It began with a planning workshop convening departmental GESI team and community health nurses. Participants were reminded of the iDARE approach and a detailed planning of GESI iDARE activities was developed.
- Act | East Haiti prepared health messages for upcoming MDA.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- Support training of TAS surveyors and implement TAS in 6 communes in April.
- Microplanning with local stakeholders.
- Training of supervisors for upcoming MDA.
- Finalize selection of a warehouse space in North Department and prepare MDA drug and supply kits.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

WHO: <https://covid19.who.int/region/amro/country/ht>

MSPP: [https://mspp.gouv.ht/site/downloads/Sitrep%20COVID-19\\_24-07-2021.pdf](https://mspp.gouv.ht/site/downloads/Sitrep%20COVID-19_24-07-2021.pdf)



**March 2023**

**INDONESIA**

Act | East Partner: RTI

COP: [Redacted]

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Total population: 274,859,094

Districts: 514

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

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23**

|                    | LF   |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>DSAs (#EUs)</b> | Pre-TAS : 1/4 EUs<br>TAS : 7/4 EUs<br>BIS : 2/11 EUs |

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>MERLA</b> | Act   East staff NIS database testing and training |
|--------------|--|

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

- Updated TAS completed during the month of March 2023.

**Highlights:**

- Act | East Indonesia in collaboration with the MOH continued to support the implementation of the following surveys:
  - TAS1 in Kepulauan Sula, which began in late February and was completed on March 12 with 1,400 samples collected from children in 51 schools across the district.
  - TAS1 in Aceh Timur, which began in late February and was completed on March 11, with 1,564 samples collected from children in 36 schools across the district.
  - TAS1 in the district of Bireuen from March 5 to 17, with 1,603 samples from children in 36 schools.
  - TAS1 in the district of Yapan from March 19 to 31, which included the collection of 1,470 samples from 47 schools across the district.
  - TAS3 in the district of Tasikmalaya from March 13 to 21. In addition to the regular sample collection, the survey teams conducted additional testing in four schools where positive results below the critical cut off rate were found during the TAS1 and TAS2. This extra effort has helped to confirm that transmission across the district has been reduced to a safe level.
- Act | East in collaboration with the MOH organized a National M&E Coordination Meeting on March 29-31, 2023, which included three participants each from the 10 partner BBTCLs (regional laboratories) and well as the full NTD Work Team. All 10 labs officially agreed to continue to actively support surveys as part of the LF elimination program during 2023 and beyond. It was also decided to jointly request that funding for surveys planned for 2023, which had recently been cut due to financial efficiencies, be re-instated since these surveys would directly impact on the achievement of important health indicators for 2023.

**Upcoming activities:**

- Act | East Indonesia will provide support to complete the implementation of TAS1s in two EUs in Brebes district which had been started at the end of March with funding from the GOI. Due to

budget cuts, the DHO was forced to stop implementation before the surveys were completed. At the special request of the MOH and following a technical review of the original survey protocols, implementation will resume on April 10 with funding from Act | East.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

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

March 2023

MOZAMBIQUE

Act | East Partner: RTI

COP: [Redacted]

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Total population: 32,419,747

Districts: 161

Endemic diseases: LF (114), OV (5), SCH (161),  
STH (153), Trachoma (65)

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23

|             | LF             | Trachoma                      |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| MDA         | 0/34 districts | 1/10 districts                |
| DSAs (#EUs) |                | TIS: 4/9 EUs<br>TSS: 0/15 EUs |

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| MERLA | Trachoma DSA Outcome Investigation in 3 districts. Preliminary desk review complete for one district.<br>LF pre-TAS Outcome Investigation in 34 districts: Preliminary desk review complete.<br>Trachoma Coverage Evaluation Survey (CES) in 1 district<br>LF CES in 4 districts |
|-------|--|

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

Highlights:

- Act | East and MISAU visited Nampula province to work on the FAA budgets for the 20 districts targeted for LF MDA. All 20 districts are implementing re-MDA following a previous survey failure.
- The trachoma elimination dossier meeting was held in Maputo province March 29-31 with the participation of the MISAU NTD department, representative of the Water and Sanitation department, School Health department, Ministry of Public Works. Attendees reviewed the data in the narrative file and excel template.
- The Ivermectin for the upcoming LF MDA arrived in country on March 14. *Central de Medicamentos e Artigos Médicos* (Center for Drugs and Medical Supplies [CMAM]) is securing government funds to pay the import fees, so no external funding is required, following which the drugs will be released from storage and sorting prior to the campaign.
- TAURUS study (RTI funded) ocular swabs and dried blood spot samples collected as part of TIS in four districts in FY22 have been processed by CDC and the University of California San Francisco. The study team met to discuss preliminary results.
- Act | East Mozambique presented the conflict sensitivity framework and approach used in Cabo Delgado to the Act | East Ethiopia team. The session focused on defining conflict sensitivity for development projects, discussed the application in Cabo Delgado, reviewed Act | East work in Tigray, Ethiopia, and discussed next steps. Act | East Ethiopia is considering how to apply this approach to ongoing instability in the Tigray region.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- LF pre-TAS outcome investigation in April 2023.
- TIS in Nampula (EUs: Moma 1, Memba 2, Erati 1 and Erati 2), and Cabo Delgado province (EU: Meluco) in May 2023.
- TSS in Nampula Province (EUs: Memba 1, Moma 2, Monapo 1, Monapo 2, Larde, Muecate, Nacaroa), Tete Province (EUs: Cahora Bassa, Chiuta, Magoe, Zumbo), Sofala Province (EUs: Chemba and Maringue), Cabo Delgado Province (EUs: Palma and Nangade) in May 2023.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

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

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

**March 2023**

**NEPAL**

Act | East Partner: RTI

COP: [Redacted]

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Total population: 29,847,607

Districts: 77

Endemic diseases: LF (63) TRA (20) STH (77)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
|                    | <b>LF</b>   |
| <b>Mapping</b>     | 4 districts (VBDRTC)  |
| <b>DSAs (#EUs)</b> | Pre-TAS: 4/4 districts (VBDRTC), 1/1 district (MPPHL)<br>TAS2: 2/3 districts (VBDRTC)<br>TAS3: 9/9 districts (VBDRTC)                                   |
| <b>MERLA</b>       | Act   East staff NIS database testing and training  |
| <b>HSS</b>         | GESI behavior change activity in Banke district (WI-HER)- <b>completed</b><br>Dissemination of domestic resource mobilization case study for NTDs (R4D) |

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

- Surveys were completed in 3 districts in February 2023, a TAS3 in one district (Sindhuli) and TAS2 in two districts (Ilam and Panchthar).

**Highlights:**

- LF MDA 2023 in 15 districts (Jhapa, Morang, Dhanusha, Mohattari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara, Lamjung, Parbat, Baglung, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke, Kailali and Rasuwa) was completed in March. Mop-up activities in some clusters of low coverage municipalities will continue through mid- April 2023. Preliminary data shows most of the districts will achieve more than 75% epidemiological coverage.
- Vector Born Disease Research and Training Center (VBDRTC) completed data collection for TAS 3 in Sindhuli and TAS 2 in Ilam and Panchthar. Act| East Nepal staff provided supportive supervision and monitoring for survey enumerators during data collection and ensured quality of the field work.
- WI-HER completed the GESI behavior change activity in peri-urban Ward 3 of Nepalgunj, Banke district, in the lead up to and during MDA. 12 local female influencers were identified, trained and coached to share information about LF MDA in their local communities, and their work was well received in the community.

**Upcoming activities:**

- LF confirmatory mapping surveys in Kalikot, Jumla, Mugu and Humla districts in April-May 2023.
- TAS 2 in Kanchanpur in April-May 2023, pending FAA agreement.



Act | East Country Updates for USAID  
January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

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

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

March 2023

NIGERIA

Act | East Partner: RTI, The Carter Center

COP: [Redacted]

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Total population: 207.8 million

Districts (LGAs): 774

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

TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY2023

|             | LF   | OV                              | SCH                       | STH                       | Trachoma                        |
|-------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| MDA         | 22/36 districts<br>(RTI/TCC)                         | 13/55 districts<br>(TCC)        | 10/127 districts<br>(TCC) | 22/135 districts<br>(TCC) |                                 |
| DSAs (#EUs) | Pre-TAS : 1/1<br>(RTI)<br><br>TAS 1 : 25/25<br>(TCC) | Epi/Ento surveys:<br>(RTI 0/15) |                           |                           | TT-only<br>survey: 1/1<br>(RTI) |

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| HSS | Costing Analysis of NTD Targeted Interventions in Cross River State |
|-----|---|

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

Highlights:

RTI

- From March 13-16, 2023, Act | East participated in the Cross River State Ministry of Health’s (SMOH) SCH/STH stakeholders and microplanning meeting. The meeting harmonized activity timelines between partners to avoid schedule clashes and drew up a plan for movement of medicines to the various health facilities ahead of the MDA.
- On March 30<sup>th</sup>, Act | East provided both financial and technical support to the SMOH to conduct TAS2 social mobilization and sensitization in 4 EUs. The activity includes visiting all the LGAs participating in the surveys and ensuring all the school heads are aware of the upcoming survey, so they inform the parents and students.
- March 28-30, Act | East provided technical support to the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) to finalize the national LF MMDP guidelines. The FMOH shared the draft guidelines ahead of time for stakeholder input and then held the meeting to harmonize all comments. The FMOH will finalize the draft document and share with all partners.

TCC

- SIHTs/LIHTCs integrated planning meeting for Advocacy in Ebonyi and Enugu states.
- Monitoring and tracking of immigrants were carried out in Plateau and Nasarawa States.
- Training of SIHTs and LGAs NTD Coordinators took place in Edo State during this reporting month.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

**RTI**

- LF TAS 2 field work in 7 LGAs in Cross River State in May 2023.
- FY24 Workplan Development on May 15-16, 2023
- NOEC Meeting, May 17-19, 2023
- OV Epidemiological and Entomological Assessment in 15 LGAs in Cross River State in Q3/Q4

**TCC**

- State level training of SIHTs and LIHTCs in Plateau, Nasarawa and Ebonyi States.

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

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

National: <https://covid19.ncdc.gov.ng/>



**March 2023**

**PHILIPPINES**

Act | East Partner: RTI

Total population: 114,861,989

Districts: 82

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

Endemic diseases: LF (47) SCH (29) STH (82)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23**

|     | LF  |
|-----|---|
| HSS | Health financing technical support for LF planning and budgeting at national and provincial level (R4D) |

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

**Highlights:**

- [Redacted] joined the Act | East team on March 27, 2023. Her first weeks will be spent orienting to RTI and Act | East processes while she continues to provide support to the DOH.
- Act | East consultant and former Senior Technical Advisor (STA), [Redacted], completed his consultancy with Act | East. Final deliverables for his consultancy included providing basic orientation for the incoming STA.
- Act | East supported a Multi-Disease Elimination Plan (MDEP) writeshop on March 7- 9, 2023, in Tagaytay city. 46 people attended the writeshop, which focused on reviewing disease milestones and targets and tracking activities and strategies against the targets.
- At the end of March, Act | East provided technical support to the DCPB to investigate a suspected LF outbreak in a non-endemic region. The outbreak was determined to be unrelated to LF, but in investigating the issue, DCPB, WHO and Act | East identified areas where surveillance and supply chain of diagnostics and drugs could be improved. These discussions will continue through the MDEP.
- Act | East and WHO provided technical support to review the EPIREF, JRF and JRSM reports.

**Other upcoming activities:**

- In April, the STA will participate in coordination meetings with DOH and regional health officials to determine plans for an IDA Impact Survey (IIS) in Oriental Mindoro and plans for IDA MDA in Zamboanga del Norte.
- On April 11th, Act | East will attend a coordination meeting with Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. to discuss the next MDEP writeshop.



**Act | East Country Updates for USAID  
January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023**

**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

WHO: <https://www.who.int/philippines/>

National:

<https://www.bing.com/search?q=covid+tracker+philippines&cvid=b368868aa4584b8498713f2be9385525&aqs=edge..69i57j0.3720j0j1&pglt=547&FORM=ANSAB1&PC=DCTS>

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

**March 2023**

**Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Viet Nam**

Act | East Partner: RTI, FHF in Viet Nam

**Total population:** Bangladesh (175,599,695); Lao PDR (7,320,249); Viet Nam (96,844,240)

**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 supported by USAID in FY23**

|                   | Trachoma   |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>DSA (#EUs)</b> | Viet Nam TSS: 2/2<br>Viet Nam TT-only: 0/4                                     |
| <b>MERLA</b>      | Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Viet Nam: Learning activity on dossier development models |

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

**Bangladesh**

- Act | East and USAID Bangladesh continue to collaborate on producing a short video highlighting the achievement of LF validation.
- Act | East continues to work with our in-country consultant and WHO to monitor progress as the MOHFW reviews the revised dossier. The MOHFW plans to resubmit the dossier to WHO SEARO and the RDRG in April 2023.

**Lao PDR**

- With Act | East and WHO technical support, CMPE resubmitted their LF elimination dossier to WHO WPRO in January 2023. Act | East continues to follow up with WPRO and the national program for any update on the status of the dossier.

**Viet Nam**

- FHF, RTI, and WHO–Geneva, WPRO, Viet Nam–continue to advocate to the MOH for the extension of the Act | East project in the country, so that final trachoma activities can be implemented.

**Upcoming activities:**

- Act | East staff will have an introductory call with new WHO WPRO NTD focal point, [Redacted]. Act | East will follow up on progress on LF elimination validation for Lao PDR and trachoma elimination progress in Viet Nam, and will coordinate communications where possible.

**March 2023**

**TANZANIA**

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

COP: [Redacted]

RTI HQ Team: [Redacted]

**Total population:** 59.4 million (2022)

**Districts:** 184

**Endemic diseases:** LF (119), TRA (69), OV (29), SCH (184), STH (184)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23**

|                    | LF   | OV   | SCH                                  | STH                               | Trachoma   |
|--------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Mapping</b>     | N/A  | OEM: 0/4 districts   | N/A                                  | N/A                               | 11/11 districts (10/10 EUs)                      |
| <b>MDA</b>         | 0/4 districts  | Round 1: 14/14 districts<br>Round 2: 0/29 districts          | 35/35 districts (FY22 carry over)    | 41/41 districts (FY22 carry-over) | Round 1: 0/2 districts<br>Round 2: 0/9 districts |
| <b>DSAs (#EUs)</b> | Re-Pre-TAS: 2/5 districts<br>TAS1: 0/13 EUs<br>TAS2: 1/4 EUs<br>TAS3: 0/11 EUs | Pre-stop MDA survey: 1/1 focus<br>Stop MDA survey: 0/1 focus | SCH impact assessment: 0/5 districts | N/A                               | N/A  |

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>MERLA</b> | LF DSA outcome investigation in 2/2 districts<br>LF follow-up surveillance survey in 0/2 districts<br>Microplanning for TRA (0/6 districts), OV (0/3 districts), and LF (0/2 districts)<br>TRA CES in 4/6 districts<br>TRA DQA in 1/1 district<br>Improve district capacity in data management using the country specific NTD database  |
| <b>HSS</b>   | Strengthen CCHP budget development<br>Develop and pilot training module on NTD planning and budgeting<br>Strengthen TZNTDCP engagement in SWAp<br>Meetings to facilitate bilateral agreement between USAID and Gov of Tanzania<br>Develop NTD financial strategy<br>Support TZNTDCP to attend WATSAN technical committee<br>Share NTD Sustainability Plan priorities with regions and districts<br>Completion of NTD Master Plan M&E Plan |

**Summary and explanation of changes made to table above since last month:** The table reflects MDA and survey activities complete in April including: OV MDA in 14 districts, a pre-stop OV MDA survey in 1 focus, and TAS2 in 1 EU.

**Highlights:**

- In collaboration with NTDCP and PO-RALG, Act | East supported IVM MDA and supportive supervision in the 14 district councils that were scheduled for biannual (2 rounds) MDA this year.

- Act | East supported LF TAS2 in one EU (Korogwe DC). Field data collection was completed from March 12-25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and the EU passed TAS2. The remaining EUs planned for FY23 will implement TAS2 and TAS3 in May 2023.
- Act | East in collaboration with NTDCP and PO-RALG conducted LF re-Pre-TAS in Mtwara-Mikindani MC and Mtama DC of Mtwara and Lindi regions respectively. The activity commenced with training of the survey team in Lindi MC from 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and field work in respective district councils from 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Both districts failed re-Pre-TAS and Act | East will support re-MDA in these districts in August 2023.
- Act | East supported NTDCP and PO-RALG to conduct a training on electronic data capture (EDC) for trachoma MDA. National level training was conducted from 27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 followed by district level training for Ngorongoro DC and Longido from 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 to 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
- Act | East supported NTDCP to analyze 10,110 OV DBS samples with OV16 RDT from four (4) district councils which conducted iTAS in November 2021. The results showed all districts to have passed the survey. This analysis was done by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) - Tanga laboratory and marks the completion of analysis of iTAS samples (8,987 in November 2022, 10,110 in Feb/March 2023 for a total of 19,097 samples analyzed).
- Act | East in collaboration with NTDCP and PO-RALG conducted OV Pre-stop MDA Survey in Tanga focus involving 5 district councils (Muheza DC, Korogwe DC, Mkinga DC, Bumbuli DC and Lushoto DC) from 11<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023. A total of 25 villages were sampled in each council where samples from children aged 6 to 9 years were collected to determine the seroprevalence of OV transmission using OV-16 RDT.
- Act | East supported NTDCP and PO-RALG to develop a Policy Brief for increasing NTD resource funds, and an NTD pocket guide to support NTD District Coordinators in the planning and budgeting process at council level. Both documents were submitted to NTDCP to begin their review and validation processes.
- Act | East supported sector wide approach (SWAp) TWG6 meeting from 30<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and facilitated TWG6 members to identify areas of collaboration with NTDCP. MOH units/departments that participated in this meeting included WASH, Nutrition, Malaria, Epidemiology, Non-communicable diseases (NCD), Health promotion section, National TB and Leprosy Program (NTLP) and Health Quality Assurance Unit. Through a structured template, all units identified areas and ways of collaborating, including the collection of relevant information on activities, indicators to monitor collaboration, and timing of activities. An action plan was developed, and it was proposed to review progress against the action plan in upcoming TWG6 meetings, and to pursue an opportunity to include the identified activities in the “AFUA JUMUISHI” (“Collaborative Interventions”) document developed for all units under Directorate of Preventive Services.

**Upcoming activities requiring COVID protocols:**

- Act | East in collaboration with NTDCP will conduct post OV MDA GESI coaching to two councils (Mlimba DC and Ulanga DC) from 11<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
- Act | East, NTDCP and PORALG will hold the LF review and planning meeting with councils and regions implementing LF MDA this year from 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023. FAA budgets will be drafted during this meeting.
- Trachoma MDA and related supportive supervision is planned from 15<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023 for Ngorongoro DC and Longido DC.

- Re-pre-TAS in 3 district councils of Dar es salaam CC, Kinondoni MC and Temeke MC will be conducted from April 16-May 7, 2023.
- OV Stop MDA survey will take place in Tunduru focus from 17<sup>th</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, including entomological and entomological surveys, with fly catching proceeding for 4 months (from May to September 2023).
- Act | East will support microplanning trainings for LF, OV, and trachoma districts. This will be followed by LF, OV and trachoma microplanning field work to the respective councils from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
- Act | East in collaboration with NTDCP, will continue with preparations for JAP workshop that is expected to take place in Dodoma in April 2023.

**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 2023**

**UGANDA**

**Act | East Partner:** RTI, The Carter Center, WI-HER, R4D, Save the Children  
**COP:** [Redacted]  
**RTI HQ Team:** [Redacted]

**Total population:** 46,205,893 (2022)  
**Districts:** 136  
**Endemic diseases:** LF (66), TRA (41), OV (43), SCH (91), STH (136)

**TABLE: Activities supported by USAID in FY23**

|                    | LF                               | OV   | Trachoma  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>MDA</b>         | N/A                              | 3/11 districts (R1)<br>0/11 districts (R2) | 2/2 districts (Jan 2023)<br>0/5 districts (June 2023) |
| <b>DSAs (#EUs)</b> | TAS 2: 0/8 EUs<br>TAS 3: 0/3 EUs | N/A  | TSS+: 2 EUs<br>Confirmatory mapping: 2/2 districts    |

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>MERLA</b> | Targeted follow-up investigation in two districts of Nabilatuk and Buliisa<br>Data quality assessment (DQA) in Buliisa district   |
| <b>HSS</b>   | High-level meeting on mainstreaming NTD drugs<br>Building domestic resource mobilization capacity workshops<br>National advocacy meeting<br>Finalize and institutionalize GESI MDA training curriculum<br>Finalize integration of GESI into MOH-led social and behavior change packages<br>GESI behavior change activity scale up in two districts. |

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

- Bi-annual Trachoma MDA in Nabilatuk and Moroto districts was completed
- Confirmatory mapping was conducted in 3 EUs in 2 districts (Bulambuli and Kween)

**Highlights:**

**RTI**

- **Grader and Recorder training:** Act | East supported a grader TOT that was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 in Nakapiripirit district. The team training was undertaken on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in Moroto and 6 individuals qualified as grader and recorder trainers. Similarly, re-training and re-certification of 14 graders was done in addition of training 15 recorders.
- **Trachoma confirmatory mapping:** The confirmatory mapping covered 3 evaluation units (EUs) consisting of i) permanent settlements in Bulambuli ii) permanent settlements in Kween and iii) temporary mobile and migratory populations (MMP) in kraals in both Bulambuli and Kween. The targeted populations were 115200, 252900 and 3315 respectively. 615 children were planned for enumeration. 24 clusters were mapped in each permanent settlement while 20 clusters were planned for the MMP. 15 survey teams implemented the survey with 5 teams in each EU. The data is still undergoing cleaning by Tropical data and will be released later.
- **Trachoma annual review and planning meeting:** With joint support from RTI and Sightsavers, MoH carried out a review and planning meeting for trachoma on the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March in Jinja. The meeting reviewed progress on all components of the SAFE strategy and discussed transition in districts

where transition plans have been drawn. Participants were from MoH, Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Education, WASH partners. The other partners that attended were RTI, Sightsavers, WIHER and Saver the Children. The need to have a transition plan at the national level was highlighted. Also discussed was the need for transition planning in the districts that have stopped MDA and achieved their surgery targets but where transition planning wasn't done. Very good collaboration between Sightsavers and RTI at country level.

#### WI-HER

- Supported Moroto, Nabilatuk and Amudat District GESI teams to conduct 10 coaching/check-in meetings with root agents and behavior change teams in 10 sub-counties. The purpose was to follow up BCTs' work on facial cleanliness and environmental improvements as well as progress on recommendations of the debrief meetings. Updates shared by BCTs, and root agents indicate progress and more involvement of other stakeholders, including parish chiefs and political leaders. A total of 167 people took part in these meetings.
- Trained Nakapiripirit district and sub-county stakeholders on GESI and NTDs to increase awareness and strengthen skills of health professionals and community development staff on GESI issues affecting NTD programming. This training is a springboard for the GESI behavior change activity and a total of 27 people participated. A detailed activity report will be compiled and shared.
- Continued coordination with Save the Children on the integration of key barriers to NTD services as well as optimal practices regarding facial cleanliness and environmental improvements into StC's community dialogues.

#### TCC

- Conducted health education in 8 districts (Gulu, Omoro, Amuru, Pader, Kitgum, Lamwo, Oyam, and Nwoya). Two districts (Moyo & Adjumani) are still conducting health education.
- Lira district trained 2,026 CDDs, 155% of the targeted 1,310. The district trained additional CDDs to help with community sensitization and drug distribution for those who refuse treatment.
- Gulu City and the other districts are conducting CDD training and registration. Kitgum and Lamwo districts are updating registers. Registration occurred during the October 2022 MDA.
- Vector control: 2,571 *Simulium* flies were caught in March. All were from districts in the Madi Mid North focus with the biggest number (1,380) being from Moyo district.

#### Save the Children

- **Community Dialogues:** 25 community dialogues were conducted from March 6–23, 2023, in the districts of Moroto, Nabilatuk, Nakapiripirit and Amudat. A total of 1,156 participants attended these dialogues. Key participants included household heads, opinion leaders, Manyatta leaders, Kraal leaders and local council leaders. Facilitators visited households before the dialogues to check on progress made towards previous commitments, which informed the team's development of follow-up recommendations and new actions for villages that had not yet achieved their commitments. Findings from the dialogues noted progress towards improving sanitation in homes, including improved face washing and cleanliness.
- **Supporting the Functionality of the Village Sanitation Committees:** Act | East organized and conducted 21 review meetings with the VSCs of Nabilatuk and Moroto districts between March 7-22, 2023. A total of 188 sanitation committee members participated. During these meetings, VSC members discuss how they can support their communities to attain clean household status and follow up on progress made to achieve the agreed actions from the previous meetings. Results achieved during the reporting period include an ongoing improvement in the construction of sanitary facilities at household level. In Nabilatuk, at least 18 new latrines have been constructed and are in use as a



result of the VSC efforts. In Moroto, 30 sanitation facilities have been constructed and rubbish pits and hand washing facilities are also under construction. Most households are now trying to clean animal droppings and utilising them to act as manure and increase production in the backyard gardens.

- **Broadcasting Radio Spot Messages:** The program aired 91 radio spot messages between March 6-21, 2023. The radio spot messages aim to increase awareness about facial and environmental (F&E) cleanliness at the household level, to contribute towards the elimination of Trachoma in target communities.
- **Radio Talk show:** Act | East organized and conducted one radio talk show on March 9, 2023. The aim of this talk show was to create community awareness on the F&E components of the SAFE strategy and to increase social mobilization towards Trachoma elimination. Leaders emphasized the importance of collective action on facial cleanliness, handwashing and discouraged the sharing of sanitary towels among household members. They also emphasized the importance of constructing and using basic sanitation facilities in every household to reduce the practice of open defecation, which increases fly prevalence and promotes the spread of trachoma.
- **Coordination with District Stakeholders:** Act | East participated in a coordination meeting with partners and the Ministry of Water and Environment (MOWE) to organize the water, sanitation, and environmental week regional celebrations, held in Moroto district from March 7-10, 2023. This meeting included: MOWE officials, district officials (including the Chief Administrative Officer, District Engineer and Community Development Officer) and implementing partners. The purpose of the meeting was to enable effective planning for the celebration activities, ensure coordination throughout the celebrations and strengthen mechanisms for achieving greater results.

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

##### RTI

- LF TAS is ongoing through April 2023.
- DQA in Buliisa district in April 2023.
- Karamoja stakeholders review meeting in April 2023.

##### TCC

- Completion of Health Education and selection of CDDs in Moyo and Adjumani districts in April 2023.
- Completion of CDD training and registration in all the remaining districts and Gulu City in April 2023.
- Commencement of MDA in all the 11 districts and Gulu City in May 2023.

##### StC

- Provide support to the VSCs to conduct meetings at the village level in Moroto and Nabilatuk districts throughout April 2023.
- Broadcasting spot messages to sensitize and mobilize communities regarding the F&E components of the SAFE strategy.
- Community dialogues will continue to be prioritized, targeting key local leaders like opinion leaders, kraal leaders, natural leaders and household heads across the four districts.
- Radio talk shows to increase awareness on the F&E components of the SAFE strategy

##### WI-HER

- Conducting training on GESI and NTDs for Buliisa district stakeholders to trigger behavior change start up activities.
- Review FY22 MDA data and select new villages for scaling up the GESI behavior change activity in Amudat, Moroto and Nabilatuk Districts.



**COVID-19 data monitoring sources:**

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

National: <https://www.health.go.ug/covid/>