

# Tackling deadly diseases in Africa



Sep 2022



*"It has been the privilege of my career to work with government and other partners and deliver the Tackling Deadly Diseases in Africa project. The progress we have achieved together demonstrates how, when all sectors strive towards shared goals, the country can realize its health security objectives."*

*"One of the initiatives of which I am most proud is the creation of a network of civil society organizations (CSOs) trained in health security. I hope to see it go from strength to strength. Its integration with government initiatives will give a voice and visibility to CSOs in health security, on behalf of all Cameroonians."*

*"I would like to thank the government, as well as Foundation Mérieux and Centre Pasteur, TDDA's implementing partners in Cameroon."*



**Yannick Kamga**  
TDDA country coordinator, Cameroon

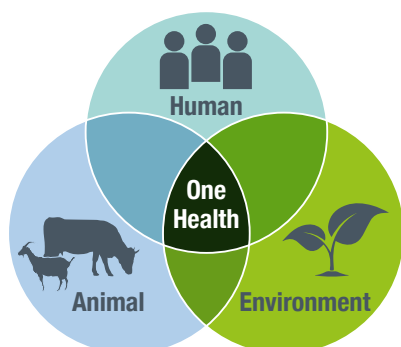
## CAMEROON

Cameroon is rising to the challenge of building a stronger health security system. We are grateful to have been an ally and facilitator in this progress that will keep people safer from infectious diseases and other health threats that can destroy lives and livelihoods. The capacities strengthened with TDDA's technical and financial support - across CSOs, border entry staff and community health volunteer networks – are tangible evidence of the fruitful partnerships we have forged together. They are achievements in which everyone involved can take pride.

Momentum in health security needs investment from all, from funders and multilateral institutions, to government bodies and civil society. We are working closely on this final stretch with government, as well as technical and financial partners, to secure commitments to support the health security work already underway. We are proud to be able to highlight to them many innovations, and are discussing our learnings and recommendations for how pilots might be replicated and scaled up so that more people stay safe.

The TDDA programme closes in November 2022, after almost four years of operation. This is our last newsletter but we will continue to provide a range of resources via our website. In the meantime, we offer a few parting insights into what we see as the most crucial next steps to ensure a healthier, safer future for the people of Cameroon.

# Coordination to save lives – strengthening the National One Health Platform



NOHP key sector representatives come together

The health of people, animals and the environment is closely interconnected. This is why strategies and actions to deal with public health threats are most effective when they are coordinated across a range of sectors, ministries and health actors. The formalization of a National One Health Platform (NOHP) is close to being achieved and will be a major milestone for health security in Cameroon. The platform is a crucial mechanism for driving multi-sectoral coordination. We are pleased to have supported its development and welcome the involvement of CSOs, who have been trained in health security, with our support. Now, by fully operationalizing the NOHP, Cameroon can further strengthen coordination and keep more people safe.

## What next?

The strong leadership of the Prime Minister and the Permanent Secretariat of the Zoonosis Programme will bring more ministries on board, ensuring the NOHP's role is understood by everyone. A formally designated NOHP Secretariat can help to drive this process forward. As TDDA departs, we hope other technical and funding partners (such as WHO, FAO, GIZ and USAID) will continue to support Cameroon's vision of a strong NOHP, to achieve the multi-sectoral coordination that will save lives.

## Integrating health security into strategic plans

Health security is a collective responsibility. It affects, and is affected by, all aspects of daily life. By building health security considerations into all national and sub-national policies, strategies and plans, Cameroon can strengthen efforts to help prevent, prepare for and respond to, public health threats.

Working with government, TDDA has developed guidance on how this integration can be achieved. We are delighted that this work was recently validated at a workshop involving a range of ministries. Key sector representatives are now fully aware of the benefits and ready to support this collective focus on health security.



One Health representatives at integration workshop

## What next?

With strong advocacy by the country's International Health Regulations focal point (IHRNFP) and the leadership of the Zoonoses Program, Cameroon can drive forward the process for integrating health security into all ministries' plans. Timely technical assistance from partners (such as WHO, FAO, WAHO and CDC) can support planning administrations with this work ahead of future strategic planning cycles.



# Realizing the potential of civil society as health security actors

One of the key lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic was the value of community participation in health security. Faced with this public health emergency, TDDA worked with the government to help unlock the potential of CSOs, equipping them to raise awareness and encourage life-saving vaccination. We subsequently provided technical and funding support to a number of CSO-led campaigns which clearly demonstrated their potential to support government health security initiatives for the longer term. These pilots showed how CSOs, thanks to their positions of trust among communities, can help to reach vulnerable groups, including women, disabled people, and those in insecure and hard-to-reach areas.

The One Health Civil Society Organizations Network of Cameroon (ROOHCAM) was formed by these trained CSOs, with TDDA support. The NOHP now holds regular coordination meetings with the network. We are delighted that WHO, GIZ and USAID were among a number of technical and financial partners who participated in the latest of these meetings and expressed interest in taking on TDDA's role of supporting the network going forward. With support, ROOHCAM can continue to strengthen its formal structures and promote membership to new CSOs to expand national coverage.

## What next?

By embedding ROOHCAM into national institutional processes, the coordinating bodies (NOHP and IHRNFP) can consolidate the excellent progress that we have already seen and fully maximize CSOs' contributions to achieving the country's health security objectives. Formalizing the role of CSOs on the NOHP will give a voice to communities, helping to ensure the health needs of all people are met.



Photos (top to bottom): Crowds gather during CSO vaccination campaign, ROOHCAM presentation to potential partners, Materials produced following CSO workshops

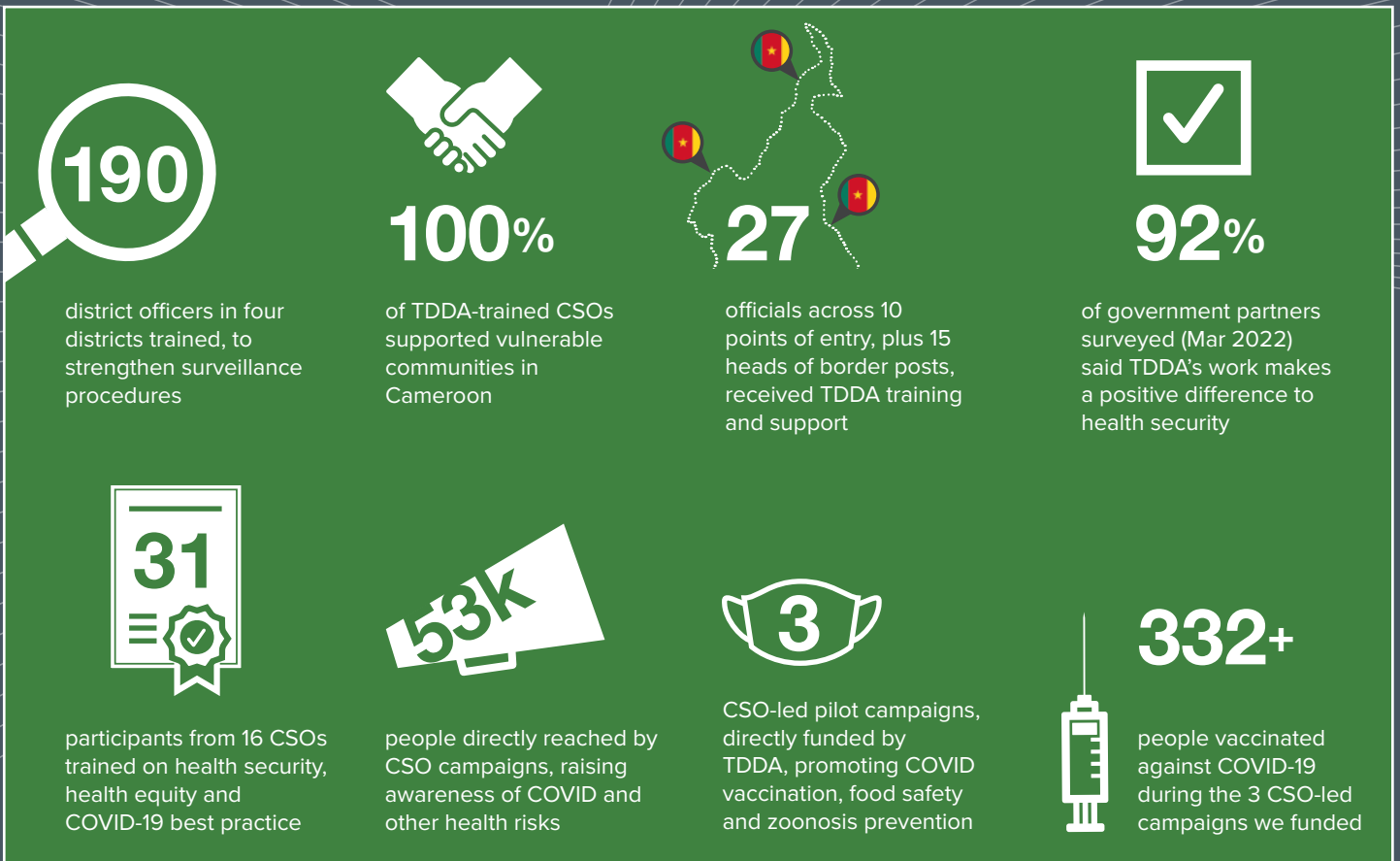
TDDA's work in Cameroon is delivered with Centre Pasteur du Cameroun, in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health and Fondation Mérieux.

**“On behalf of the Mérieux Foundation, I would like to thank the UK Government for their foresight in initiating a project to strengthen health systems and crisis preparedness at such a critical time. TDDA would never have been possible without the strong engagement of the Ministry of Public Health of Cameroon and our local partners. I would like to commend the DAI Global Health team for their leadership, driving an ambitious agenda in a complex global context. It has been a great honor and pleasure to work with our fellow consortium members and the remarkable team at the Centre Pasteur of Cameroon. The advances achieved will make a lasting contribution to global health security.”**

**Koren Wolman-Tardy**  
Chief Executive Officer, Mérieux Foundation USA



TDDA supported a health emergency simulation exercise at Douala Airport ahead of the Africa Cup of Nations (Dec 2021)



DAI Global Health leads a consortium of partners who work together to deliver the TDDA programme.

Principal partners



The Operations Partnership



Resource partners

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For more information go to:

[tacklingdeadlydiseasesinfrica.org](https://tacklingdeadlydiseasesinfrica.org)