

Tackling deadly diseases in Africa



MALI

Tackling Deadly Diseases in Africa (TDDA) is FCDO's flagship programme working to strengthen integrated health security systems in five countries that are highly vulnerable to disease outbreaks – Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, and Uganda.

We provide financial and technical support to improve the systems that detect, monitor and manage health threats before they become public health crises.



As we enter the final months of programme delivery (ending in Nov 2022), TDDA is on track to leave behind strengthened health security systems and improved compliance with International Health Regulations (IHR) obligations.

With our support, focus countries have established procedures to respond to sick passengers at geographic Points of Entry, resulting in improved capacity to respond to public health emergencies at border crossings, as reflected in Côte d'Ivoire's response to an Ebola outbreak in neighbouring Guinea (Feb 2021). By integrating equity into border protocols, border authorities are better prepared to respond to the specific needs of vulnerable travellers, including women, refugees, and people with disabilities. In Uganda, modifying border posts' infrastructure by adding ramps and providing support equipment such as wheelchairs, has facilitated access for travellers with limited mobility. Countries have also strengthened multi-sectoral national One Health Platforms (NOHP) within which all relevant health security actors, including Civil Society Organisations, can coordinate efforts, hold each other to account and represent a broader range of groups, including the most marginalised. In Mali, we successfully promoted the inclusion of women in the NOHP leadership.

Creating a health security legacy

To ensure the sustainability of our efforts and making a lasting impact, we work with governments, civil society and communities, empowering them to achieve their own ambitions in health security, increasing the prospects of institutionalisation and financing of their activities for the long term.

TDDA key achievements in Mali

Accelerating progress towards International Health Regulations

- TDDA supported the government to identify and designate 23 geographic border points (Points of Entry - PoE) and to assess core capacity requirements in 4 of these PoE. This resulted in an increase of staff at these borders, improved the country's scores in IHR core capacities and demonstrated the value in building staff capacity and improving multisectoral collaboration.

Widening participation in health security

No government has the capacity to respond to national health crises alone. TDDA works to ensure health security is integrated into all national and sub-national policies, strategies, and plans. We also work with civil society, creating the foundations for its members to play a greater role in health security delivery, monitoring, and reporting.

- 26 CSOs benefitted from TDDA capacity-building workshops designed to increase their readiness to engage in health security interventions, including modules on risk communication and community engagement, misinformation and COVID-19 vaccine roll-out.

“When I speak to communities, it is clear that many people do not know COVID-19 is a serious and deadly threat. Some even think it is an invention of the white man. I am clear that we need to reach out, dispel the dangerous rumours being spread and encourage people to protect themselves through vaccination. I am delighted that, working with TDDA, we have been given the training and tools to begin this dialogue.”

Mr. Seni Sanogo, JIGI

Better data for better, faster decision-making

We support the roll out of Events-Based Surveillance at community, district and national levels, to quickly identify and manage public health events, shortening the time between alerts and responses, and thus saving lives.

- Surveillance systems to monitor and report disease outbreaks have improved in 14 TDDA-trained districts in Taoudénit region, with reporting showing 100% completeness in comparison to a rate of 83% of non-supported districts. In 9 districts, average time of response from alert to investigation reduced from 10 days to 48 hours, helping to reduce morbidity, mortality and economic impact.

Supporting responses to COVID-19

Our current focus is supporting the government with the complex and urgent challenge of COVID vaccination roll-out. We are building capacity to selected CSOs to enable them to help ensure that vaccines reach the populations that need them most.

- If a TDDA extension is granted, we will provide modest grant support to eligible CSOs to demonstrate their potential in risk communications related to vaccine intake and hesitancy towards vulnerable population in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in collaboration with United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WHO.

The programme is supporting countries toward sustainability of activities, as TDDA winds down at the end of 2022.

Key stakeholders: National Ministry of Health, NOHP, OH-associated ministries, WHO, USAID, CDC, REDISE, FAO, Infectious Disease Detection Project (IDDS), Ministries of Transport and Infrastructure, and Economy and Finance, DGSHP, Planning and statistics Department, Regional Health Directorates, Governors.

