

COMMUNITIES AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS GAIN A VOICE IN HEALTH



Community COVID-19 immunisation at Mayor's Garden in Mulamba Parish - Kamuli Municipality. Source: Uganda Debt Network (UDN)

TDDA is working closely with government to strengthen community participation in health security. To help address the urgent threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, TDDA provided financial and technical support to six civil society organizations (CSOs).

We assisted them to carry out outreach campaigns in selected communities in the districts of Kamuli, Soroti, Lira, Masindi, Kanungu and Lwengo during Jan 2022. The purpose of these activities was to raise awareness of health risks, including COVID, and help to tackle vaccine hesitancy.

These pilot campaigns follow our 2021 initiative to build the capacity and capabilities of CSOs to support government health security efforts. In partnership with the National One Health Platform, we organized workshops for 29 staff from six health-related CSOs, providing

them with training in health security, health equity, risk communications and community engagement. Since then, regular contact between CSOs and government has further strengthened working relationships and gives our work with CSOs a lasting impact.

In the year ahead, our work will have an added focus on equity and inclusion. We plan to provide financial support to another CSO-led project that will reach out to refugees. We will also expand the initiative, by supporting four of our CSO partners (ACODE, HEPS, TIU and UDN) to cascade the capacity-building training to a further 10 smaller CSOs. This will create an extra pool of 40 trained staff, with the capacity to be a strong community voice for marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Read our CSO capacity-building case study [here](#)

RABIES DIAGNOSIS BOOST

TDDA is assisting the Department of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), to enhance the diagnostic capacity for rabies at the national veterinary laboratory in Entebbe.

Rabies is a deadly viral zoonotic disease that is passed from animals to humans. Without treatment, it is 100% fatal. However, it is also completely preventable through vaccination. The vast majority of human cases originate from infected dogs, and continuous vaccination of 70% of the dog population annually can cut off this transmission. MAAIF procures rabies vaccines for dogs but post-vaccination sero-monitoring, necessary to assess vaccine effectiveness, has been a gap. Yet it is only by protecting dogs that we protect humans.

During a handover ceremony (25 Jan 2022), TDDA provided antibody test kits, veterinary surgical kits, saline tablets and other resources – some of which cannot be sourced in Uganda - to bolster diagnostic and monitoring activities.



The Commissioner for Animal Health, Dr. Anna Rose Ademun, voiced her appreciation for our support. She noted that since inception in 2019, TDDA has supported the surveillance of, and outbreak response to, key zoonotic diseases, making a significant contribution to animal and public health.

UGANDA CELEBRATES WORLD ONE HEALTH DAY



Dr. Winyi Kaboyo (third from right) with TDDA and National One Health Platform colleagues and other partners at Uganda's International One Health Day celebrations in November.

International One Health Day is commemorated annually around the globe on 03 November. In Uganda, the celebration was organized by the National One Health Platform (NOHP) in collaboration with TDDA and other partners.

One Health Day proceedings were led by NOHP Coordinator Musa Sekamatte, who thanked TDDA for its support to Uganda's NOHP team as well as our help to publicize the celebrations.

Also helping to reinforce a multi-sectoral One Health approach, in December 2021 TDDA supported the Ministry

of Health to deliver training in Tororo, to district staff including officials from the Malaba border crossing.

“One Health is an initiative that brings together the collaborative efforts of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally, and globally, to improve the health of people, animals and our environment. With so many infectious diseases passed from animals to humans, coordination is a life-saver. A multi-sector One Health approach is central to TDDA's work, which is why we were delighted to support this high-profile event”.

Dr. Winyi Kaboyo, TDDA Country coordinator, Uganda

SURVEILLANCE TRAINING FOR VILLAGE HEALTH TEAMS



By strengthening health surveillance, we ensure decision-makers have the data they need to quickly identify and manage public health events. This data allows us to shorten the time between an alert and a public health response, saving lives.

In November, TDDA trained 119 members of village health teams in Community-Based Surveillance and home-based care. Thanks to their close ties with the communities they serve, these teams are uniquely well-placed

to report local outbreaks as soon as they occur so that action can be taken to prevent a wider health emergency.

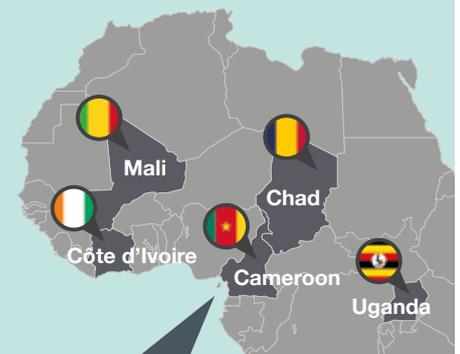
In the year ahead, we will support additional surveillance training in a number of priority districts, working with both district and village health teams. The quality, completeness and timeliness of the data gathered locally is essential, so we will also conduct a series of quality reviews and propose recommendations and plans to the Ministry of Health and other partners.

TACKLING DEADLY DISEASES IN AFRICA PROGRAMME

TDDA tackles the systemic causes of health insecurity, not just the symptoms. Instead of responding to emergencies after they hit, we help equip countries to manage disease outbreaks and other health threats before they become public health crises. Epidemics are a global threat, killing millions of people each year. Strong health systems need strong institutions, infrastructure, surveillance systems, and well-trained and equipped staff. Without these, disease outbreaks can quickly become epidemics, which devastate lives and livelihoods.

TDDA WORKS WITH FIVE COUNTRIES

TDDA works with governments and communities, empowering them to achieve their own ambitions for improving health security. We provide technical expertise and targeted operational support through experts on the ground in Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Uganda.



TDDA assisted Cameroon to manage the disease risks involved in hosting the Africa Cup of Nations football tournament during the COVID pandemic. A simulation exercise at the main airport let us test plans for dealing with sick travellers and our subsequent recommendations were immediately implemented by Government.

Tackling deadly diseases in Africa



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For more information go to:

tacklingdeadlydiseasesinafrica.org

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