

CSOs TRAINING TO SUPPORT COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

In countries where health systems face multiple challenges and resources are stretched, community participation in health security programmes can provide much-needed additional capacity. Now, with the additional, complex challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to extend the reach of Mali's health services has never been greater.

This is why we organised a workshop to strengthen the role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in health security, in collaboration with the Malian government.

Workshop participants were selected through our earlier mapping exercise, which identified CSOs already working in aspects of health security. This work was commissioned by TDDA, in collaboration with the Permanent Secretariat of Mali's National One Health Platform (NOHP), which coordinates strategy and action across the animal, human and environmental health sectors. The study established the range of activities that were already being carried out by health-related CSOs in the country, as well as demonstrating their potential to do more work in this field.

To unlock this potential, TDDA, along with partners ADHD, organized our four-day capacity-building workshop, which took

place from 26-30 July, 2021. Chaired by the NOHP's Permanent Secretary Mrs. Youma Sall, the key objectives were:

- To increase CSOs' understanding of key elements of health security so that they can share this knowledge with their communities.
- To build an understanding of the importance of health equity, so that efforts to improve health security are mindful of the need to reach even the most vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized groups.
- To work with CSOs to develop approaches they can use to build trust and increase community participation in health security interventions.

Strengthening CSOs' communication skills will be particularly useful in the coming weeks and months, as Mali seeks to implement its COVID-19 immunization programme. Sensitive and respectful dialogue will help to raise awareness of the risks from the pandemic, dispel rumours and overcome vaccine hesitancy. Our workshop participants are now better equipped to carry out this work and prepare the way for vaccinations to be rolled out among targeted, often hard-to-reach groups.



"The knowledge and communication skills gained by our participants will undoubtedly help to improve health security in our country, meeting an immediate need as well as providing lasting benefits"

Salif Samake, TDDA's technical lead who oversaw the workshop.

STEPS TOWARDS MAKING ONE HEALTH A REALITY IN MALI

Diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans are a dangerous threat to health in Mali. They include anthrax, bovine tuberculosis, rabies, avian influenza and viral haemorrhagic fevers, such as Dengue and Ebola. The way these diseases spread makes it vital to coordinate our strategies and actions across our human, animal and environmental health sectors.

The National One Health Platform (NOHP) is the structure that plays this essential role of multi-sector coordination. TDDA is working with departments and other agencies to support the operationalization of the One Health approach. As well as hosting regular NOHP coordination meetings, we recently provided training and technical assistance to the people who are officially designated as One Health focal points. Through step-by-step support like this, at TDDA we believe that One Health can move from ambition to reality in Mali.



COMMUNITY VIGILANCE TO FIGHT THE SPREAD OF DISEASE

An implementation guide for community-based epidemiological surveillance (CBS) has been produced by TDDA, working with the government and other partners.

CBS is an active process of engaging the help of communities to monitor, detect, report and respond to health events. Vigilance at the community level can help in the fight against disease outbreaks by ensuring problems are reported early. This includes detecting cases among individuals who would not otherwise seek medical care. Building local participation in surveillance leads to a greater understanding of health risks and the creation of health care networks within communities.

Meanwhile, the data collected in this way can be used to determine the need for public health action.

The handover of 200 copies of the guide took place at a small ceremony on 6 August 2021 at the DGSHP, under the chairmanship of the DGA. Also present were the team leader of the USAID-funded IDDS project, the team leader of the AFENET project, and the Deputy Director DPLM and his staff.

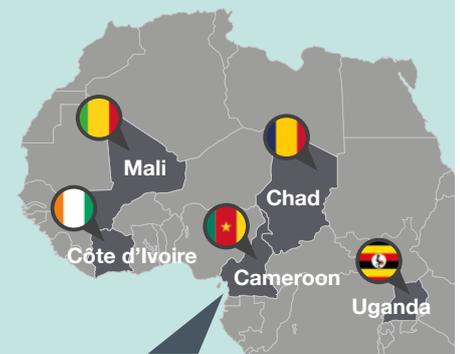
The Director thanked TDDA and our partners for our help to operationalize CBS in Mali and committed to making this guidance available to relevant actors, especially those at the operational level.

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 them, 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.



In Cameroon, we are supporting the government to implement national guidelines on the identification, care and transfer of sick travellers. We helped train points of entry staff to prevent and respond to public health emergencies such as COVID-19.

SUPPORT FOR TDDA IN MALI

100%

of people who replied to our beneficiary feedback survey, conducted in March 2021, reported that TDDA's contributions in at least one key area were useful, indicating that our assistance in Mali is appropriate and well received.

Among government and international respondents, all agreed the most valued areas of our work were:

- Support to the establish the One Health platform.
- Help to strengthen CSOs, so that they can support the implementation of the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS).
- Support to integrate key elements of the NAPHS into national and sub-national plans.

100%

of respondents also reported that that TDDA activities will make a difference in their individual, day-to-day roles—a very positive signal that our programme will have a clear impact on health security in Mali.

Tackling deadly diseases in Africa



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For more information go to:
tacklingdeadlydiseasesinafrica.org

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