

# Tackling deadly diseases in Africa



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 (Mar 2019 - 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 deal with sick passengers at borders (Points of Entry), resulting in improved public health emergency response plans at ground crossings, as reflected in Côte d'Ivoire's response to an Ebola outbreak in neighbouring Guinea (Feb 2021). By integrating equity in border protocols, they are better prepared to respond to the needs of vulnerable populations, such as women, refugees, and disabled people. In Uganda, infrastructure modification with ramps and the provision of support equipment, such as wheelchairs, facilitate access to disabled travellers.

Countries have also strengthened multi-sectoral 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 interests, including those of the most marginalized. In Mali, for example, we successfully promoted the inclusion of women in the NOHP leadership.

# Creating a health security legacy

To ensure the sustainability of our efforts and make a lasting impact, we work with governments, civil society and communities, empowering them to achieve their own ambitions in health security, so that our interventions may be institutionalized and financed for the long term.

## Areas of focus

- **Accelerating progress towards International Health Regulations**

TDDA helps our focus countries to meet World Health Organization's global standards for health security (IHR). We support countries to develop, implement and monitor National Action Plans for Health Security (NAPHS) and establish multi-sectoral National One Health Platforms to improve coordination, and advocate for these mechanisms to be more inclusive.

In Côte d'Ivoire, implementation of the NAPHS, the foundation for accountability, increased from 16% to 40% over the past two years thanks to TDDA's financial and technical support.

- **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 them to play a greater role in health security delivery, monitoring, and reporting.

Over 100 CSOs across our five focus countries benefited from TDDA capacity-building workshops designed to increase their readiness to engage in health security interventions, including supporting COVID-19 national vaccination roll outs. In Chad, we enabled substantial change in the dynamic between government and national CSOs, turning a challenging relationship based on mistrust and scepticism into a mutual collaboration. In Cameroon, we helped formalise a network of CSOs working in health, strengthening collaboration with the government.

- **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, saving lives.

In Uganda (Nov 2021), TDDA trained 119 members of village health teams in surveillance and home-based care. Thanks to their close ties with the communities they serve, these teams are now able to report local outbreaks as soon as they occur so that action can be taken to prevent a wider health emergency.

- **Supporting responses to COVID-19**

TDDA's work complements the significant investment made by the UK government, as one of the major donors to the international COVAX programme. Our current focus is supporting governments with the complex and urgent challenge of COVID vaccination rollout. We are resourcing CSOs to help ensure that vaccines reach the populations that need them most.

In Côte d'Ivoire, five CSOs undertook field missions to support community outreach, building demand for immunisation by working with community leaders, women, and youth associations in vulnerable neighbourhoods. 504 people were vaccinated through our sensitisation campaigns during January and February 2022.

