

A NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR MALI

A National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) is an important tool for improving the health prospects of citizens and save lives. It gives countries the ability to identify priority actions that can be taken quickly to provide immediate benefits, as well as the steps needed to build the capacity of a country's health system for the longer term. It also helps to bring sectors together, identify partners and allocate resources.

Since 2016, the World Health Organization (WHO) has been working closely with many countries and partners to support the development of these plans. TDDA is supporting this work in Mali by helping to translate these high-level principles into practical steps. We recently took part in the NAPHS budgeting and validation workshop, attended by four experts from WHO AFRO. We continue to support the ongoing development of the NAPHS as well as tools to monitor its implementation.

PREVENTING DISEASE TRANSMISSION ACROSS BORDERS

The devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside recent regional outbreaks of measles and yellow fever, demonstrate the importance of the fight against infectious diseases.

A crucial step in controlling disease outbreaks is to ensure there are robust procedures in place for identifying sick travellers arriving at our borders. This way, we can intervene before travellers can spread an infection in the host country or vice versa. TDDA recently led a workshop to validate national guidelines for the prevention, detection, and safe transfer of sick travellers at points of entry into the country.

The final version of the guidelines will shortly be circulated.



CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL ONE HEALTH DAY

Zoonotic diseases, which jump from animals to humans, account for 75 percent of all new infectious diseases around the world. This is why it is important to coordinate action between human, animal, and environmental health sectors. This is known as a "One Health" approach.

To promote the benefits of coordinated action, TDDA helped organize a ceremony to celebrate the International One Health Day during the 10th National One

Health Coordination meeting, held on 5 November 2020 in Bamako. Together with government ministries and other agencies, we are discussing the development of Mali's National One Health Platform, with people designated as One Health focal points to ensure a common understanding of the approach and also to secure this essential role of multi-sector coordination. We stand ready to provide training and technical assistance at these focal points in the coming months.



STRONGER DATA, STRONGER RESPONSES TO HEALTH THREATS

To protect the health of Mali's people, we must be vigilant and respond quickly to health events before they become health crises. Epidemiological surveillance is a cornerstone of good public health.

We recently conducted a baseline survey to assess what surveillance measures we currently have in place. We organized a workshop in October to present the survey results to all stakeholders, including district surveillance officers and health centre staff. Priority actions for strengthening surveillance were discussed.

These include: training and supervision for surveillance staff at national, regional, and district levels; greater support for the investigation of public health events; and, steps to increase communication between different surveillance teams and institutions responsible for the response.

These actions have the potential to ensure policy makers have the data they need, when they need it. Together, we can save lives by shortening the time between alerts and public health responses.

CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS!

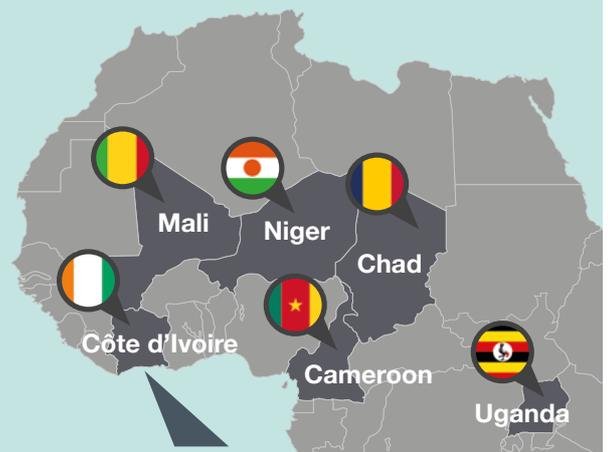
TDDA is assisting the Government to identify civil society organizations (CSOs) working on health issues within the human, animal and environmental sectors. Thanks to their close links with communities, CSOs have a vital part to play in tackling deadly diseases and the potential to make an important contribution to the National Action Plan for Health Security. TDDA has completed a CSO mapping exercise and hopes soon to formally validate its findings with representatives from the relevant government ministries. We will then work with selected CSOs to help build their capacity so that they are ready to support the Government's work when needed.

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.

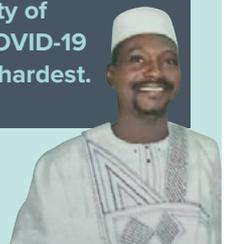
TDDA WORKS IN SIX COUNTRIES

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, Niger and Uganda.



In Côte d'Ivoire, emergency COVID-19 training for over 600 community-based medical staff was provided by the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene, with support from TDDA. Training was centred on the city of Abidjan, where the COVID-19 pandemic has hit the hardest.

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Tackling deadly diseases in Africa



Funded by UK aid and led by DAI Global Health

For more information go to:

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