

Mozambique Work Plan

FY 2025

Program Year 7

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ACT | EAST PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Act to End Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) | East Program supports national NTD programs in reaching World Health Organization goals for NTD control and elimination through proven, cost-effective public health interventions. The Act to End NTDs | East (Act | East) Program provides governments critical support to create sustainable platforms for NTD services within robust and resilient health systems. The Act | East Program is implemented by a consortium of partners, led by RTI International and including The Carter Center; Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF); Light for the World (LFTW); Results for Development (R4D); Save the Children; Sightsavers; and WI-HER.

In Mozambique, Act | East Program activities are implemented by RTI International.

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ACRONYMS LIST

Act East	Act to End Neglected Tropical Diseases East Program
ALB	Albendazole
CDC	U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDD	Community Drug Distributor
DNSP	<i>Direction Nationale de la Santé Publique</i> (National Directorate of Public Health)
DSA	Disease-Specific Assessment
EDC	Electronic Data Collection
EMS	Epidemiological Monitoring Survey
EU	Evaluation Unit
FY	Fiscal Year
HSS	Health Systems Strengthening
IEC	Information, Education, and Communication
INS	<i>Instituto Nacional de Saúde</i> (National Institute of Health)
IR	Intermediate Result
ITI	International Trachoma Initiative
IVM	Ivermectin
JAP	Joint Application Package
LF	Lymphatic Filariasis
LOE	Level of Effort
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDA	Mass Drug Administration
MERLA	Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, Learning, and Adaptation
MISAU	<i>Ministério de Saúde</i> (Ministry of Health)
NTD	Neglected Tropical Disease
OV	Onchocerciasis
PC	Preventive Chemotherapy
Q	Quarter
SCH	Schistosomiasis
STH	Soil-Transmitted Helminths
TAS	Transmission Assessment Survey
TEMF	Trachoma Elimination Monitoring Form
TF	Trachomatous Inflammation–Follicular
TIS	Trachoma Impact Survey
TSS	Trachoma Surveillance Survey
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization

NARRATIVE

1. NATIONAL NTD PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND SUPPORT

Mozambique is divided into 11 provinces, which consist of 161 districts. The estimated 2025 population is 34 million, based on the 2017 census. Currently, 19 districts have a prevalence of trachoma above the elimination threshold of $\geq 5\%$ for trachomatous inflammation–follicular (TF). Moreover, 8 districts require mass drug administration (MDA) for lymphatic filariasis (LF), 4 for onchocerciasis (OV), 161 for schistosomiasis (SCH), and 153 for soil-transmitted helminths (STH). Mozambique is also endemic for several other NTDs including echinococcosis, foodborne trematodiasis, human African trypanosomiasis, leprosy, rabies, snakebite envenoming, taeniasis, and scabies. Mapping has been completed for all five neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) that can be treated through preventive chemotherapy (PC). However, there is still uncertainty about the hypo-endemic status of OV.

Under the coordination of the *Direction Nationale de la Santé Publique* (National Directorate of Public Health; DNSP), each province is responsible for planning and coordinating NTD activities. The provincial representatives coordinate activities at the provincial level, acting as an intermediary between the district and national levels, and reporting to both provincial and national bodies.

At the central level, the Ministry of Health (Ministério de Saúde [MISAU]) is divided into two branches: (1) the DNSP, which oversees the National NTD Program, and (2) the National Directorate of Medical Assistance, which includes the Ophthalmology Department. Both branches work closely together, and the provincial and district Directorates of Health operate throughout the country. The National NTD Program manages MDA campaigns for trachoma, LF, OV, SCH, and STH. LF morbidity management (hydrocele surgery and lymphedema management) is handled by the National Directorate of Medical Assistance and trichiasis surgeries are managed by its Ophthalmology Department. The National NTD Program leads disease-specific assessments (DSAs) for all NTDs, except for trachoma impact surveys (TIS), trachoma surveillance surveys (TSS), and trachomatous trichiasis -only surveys, which are conducted in coordination with the Ophthalmology Department. In 2019, MISAU restructured and merged the National NTD Program with the National Non-Communicable Disease Program.

Operational research is typically conducted by the National Institute of Health (Instituto Nacional de Saúde [INS]), which operates at the national level under MISAU. The INS is responsible for managing, regulating, and supervising activities related to the generation of scientific evidence to support better health and well-being. The DNSP engages with INS to implement public health evaluations. INS staff support LF and OV survey data collection and sample processing for serology and entomology.

2. INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1 (IR1) PLANNED ACTIVITIES: LF, TRACHOMA, OV

LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS

In FY25, Act | East will provide support for the following LF activities:

- **Co-administration to Treat LF and Trachoma.** In FY25, Act | East will support co-administration of LF and trachoma MDA in Mossuril and Nacala-a-Velha districts of Nampula. The program will extend distribution from 5 to 7 days and add an additional training day at all levels; i.e., 2-day provincial supervisors training, 3-day district supervisors training, and 2-day community drug distributor (CDD) training. This will ensure more time for practical exercises and emphasize treatment cadence to avoid adverse events.
- **Epidemiological Monitoring Survey (EMS).** In FY25, Act | East will support MISAU to conduct EMS in 35 districts (36 EUs) across 5 provinces, each with a total population less than 500,000. Thirty-three of these districts in Nampula, Niassa, Sofala, and Zambézia will implement EMS after two rounds of re-MDA in FY23–FY24. Two of these districts in Cabo Delgado will implement EMS, excluding night blood collection because of security concerns, after three or more years of pre-TAS eligibility. EMS will be conducted among adults aged 20 year and older, using random household sampling, and using RTI’s electronic data collection (EDC) system.
- **TAS2.** Act | East will support MISAU to conduct TAS2 in 39 districts (33 EUs) in Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, Niassa, Sofala, and Zambézia after they passed TAS1 in 2022. Each of the EUs has a total population less than 500,000. These will be conducted using RTI’s EDC system. If there are two or more positives in any cluster, Act | East will support MISAU to plan targeted treatment.
- **Training for LF DSAs.** Act | East will support six 2-day provincial TAS2 trainings in Gaza, Inhambane, Sofala, Manica, Zambézia, and Niassa Provinces. Act | East will also support five 3-day provincial EMS trainings in Cabo Delgado, Sofala, Zambézia, Nampula, and Niassa. Participants will include the district laboratory technician, NTD district focal point, mobilizers, and the district medical chief. The first day teams will learn the protocols and theory; the second day, teams will practice data collection. Trainers will be experienced laboratory technicians from the INS and they will use Act | East’s on-the-job training materials that includes a post-training test and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) training materials if available.
- **LF Dossier Meeting.** Act | East will support MISAU to conduct a 2-day LF Dossier meeting with 21 participants. The meeting will include staff from MISAU, the World Health Organization (WHO) NTD focal point; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and education representatives; the National Malaria program representative (to discuss vector control), and Act | East. The main objectives of the meeting are to review and update the dossier’s Excel and narrative files, as well as discuss achievements and lessons learned from previous years.

Trachoma

In FY25, Act | East will provide support for the following trachoma activities:

- **Trachoma MDA.** In FY25, Act | East will support MISAU to implement re-MDA in nine districts. Five Zambézia and Nampula districts (Zambézia, Chinde, Inhassunge, and Pebane; and Nampula, Liupo and Mogincual) are scheduled for November 2024 and the remaining four districts in Nampula (Erati, Memba, Mossuril, and Nacala-a-Velha) are scheduled for June 2025. MISAU will co-administer LF and trachoma MDA in Mossuril and Nacala-a-Velha districts, as described above.

- **TIS+ DBS processing.** In FY25, INS, with Act | East support, will process TIS+ DBS samples from Erati (2 EUs), with technical support from the CDC. All needed materials and supplies for this processing were procured and delivered in FY24.
- **Enhanced TIS.** Act | East will support MISAU to implement TIS+ in seven EUs. Three EUs in Manica (Guro, Macossa, and Tambara) are scheduled for April 2025, and four EUs in Zambézia (Chinde and Pebane) and Nampula (Liupo and Mogincual) are scheduled for July 2025. Survey teams will use WHO's simplified trachoma grading system to identify and register trachoma cases and employ the Tropical Data service. DBS and ocular swabs will be processed in collaboration with partners, CDC, and the University of California San Francisco. Support for survey methodology, epidemiological support, data cleaning and review, and data analysis will be provided through Tropical Data, which Act | East supports globally through RTI.
- **TSS.** Act | East will support TSS in one EU in Nampula (Moma 1), scheduled for September 2025. Survey teams will use WHO's simplified trachoma grading system to identify and register people with trachoma and employ the Tropical Data service. Support for survey methodology, epidemiological support, data cleaning and review, and data analysis will be provided through Tropical Data.
- **Training for Trachoma DSAs.** To conduct surveys in FY25, Act | East will support MISAU to organize Tropical Data trainings, including identifying certified instructors and providing training materials. A certified recorder and grader trainer will provide the training based on the Tropical Data protocol, clinical grading, and EDC. Additional support for survey training and materials (training manuals, follicle size guides, binocular loupes, and 3D goggles) will be provided through Tropical Data.
- **Trachoma Dossier Meeting.** Act | East will continue to participate in quarterly dossier review meetings, with support for two, 2-day, in-person workshops outside Maputo, with 21 participants. Participants will include representatives from MISAU, Act | East, WHO, and other trachoma partners.
- **Mapping NTD Program Data on WASH Coverage.** In FY25, Act | East will use household data on water and sanitation collected through trachoma surveys to create a web-based map showing water and sanitation coverage aggregated by administrative areas or geospatially modeled to show local area coverage. Act | East will work with government partners to develop the map using open-source platforms. The NTD team will use this platform to present these data as a means for leveraging how NTD endemic woredas are prioritized for WASH support.

Onchocerciasis

In FY25, Act | East will provide support for the following OV activities:

- **OEM DBS processing.** In FY25, INS, with Act | East support, will process the 9,000 DBS second-line village samples collected during Sightsavers supported OV elimination mapping that have not yet been analyzed. Currently, all samples are stored at INS along with FY24 procured reagents and materials for sample processing.
- **OV Elimination Mapping.** In FY25, Act | East will support river prospection and epidemiological surveys, steps 2 and 3a from the WHO OEM Handbook, in Niassa Province.
 - **River Prospection:** Act | East will support river prospection of breeding sites in 13 districts of Niassa.

- **Epidemiological Survey:** Based on the results of the prospection, MISAU and Act | East expect to conduct an epidemiological survey in 10 districts. These surveys will be conducted via RTI’s EDC system.
- **Trainings for OEM.** Act | East will support OEM trainings in Niassa Province for 5 days for river prospection and 10 days for epidemiological surveys. Participants will include entomologists, district laboratory technicians (to collect DBS), NTD district focal points (enroller), mobilizers, and the district medical chief. Trainers will be experienced professionals who have knowledge and understanding of blackflies, DBS collection, and data entry on mobile phones. Act | East will hire a consultant to support entomological training.
- **OV MDA.** Act | East will support MDA in four districts in Niassa (Lago and Sanga), and Zambézia Province (Milange and Morrumbala).
- **MOEEAC Meeting.** Act | East will support a 3-day MOEEAC meeting for 48 participants, including local and international OV experts.

3. IR2 SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) STRATEGY ACTIVITIES

Improving Core NTD Program Functions

Data Security and Management

In FY25, the Act | East M&E Officer will continue providing quarterly ad hoc support to the MISAU NTD team on safeguarding NTD files, using the HMIS (including adding OV indicators), and using data to improve program implementation.

Drug Management

In FY25, Act | East will support the following:

- **JAP & TEMF Workshop.** In Q2 FY25, Act | East will support one 3-day JAP and TEMF workshop for 14 participants. Participants will include MISAU, WHO, central supply pharmacy, and other NTD partners who will complete the following: Epidemiological Data Reporting Form, Joint Reporting Form, work plan, Joint Request for Selected Medicines, and TEMF. This meeting will take place one month before the JAP submission. During the meeting, participants will be divided into groups, each responsible for one file.
- **Drug Transport.** Act | East will support MISAU to coordinate shipments of NTD medicines for LF, OV, and trachoma MDA, as well as the costs for drug transportation from the central warehouse to the province’s warehouses, and from provincial warehouses to health areas.
- **OV Rapid Diagnostic Tests.** In FY25, Act | East will procure rapid diagnostic tests for OEM first-line village epidemiological surveys in 10 districts.
- **TEO:** In FY25, Act | East will procure tetracycline eye ointment for trachoma MDA and surveys in 17 districts.
- **Inventory Reporting.** Act | East will support MISAU to do a biannual review of the inventory reporting to support accurate drug forecasting and quantification. Timing of the review will be coordinated with the timing of the JAP submission.

Achieving Sustainability: Mainstreaming and Health Systems Strengthening

Per guidance from USAID, Act | East will not engage in specific HSS activities for NTDs in FY25.

4. IR3 PLANNED ACTIVITIES: SCH AND STH

SCH

USAID does not support SCH MDA or surveys in Mozambique.

STH

USAID does not support standalone STH MDA in Mozambique.