

<b>Project Title</b>	Neglected Tropical Disease Control Programme
<b>Client</b>	USAID
<b>Partners</b>	RTI International, SCI, ITI
<b>Year</b>	2006 - 2011

### Context

One sixth of the world's population is affected by one or more neglected tropical diseases. These diseases impact the poorest and most vulnerable communities disproportionately because they lack access to safe water, sanitation services, basic health delivery, and essential medicines. For these untreated individuals, the results can be disastrous. NTDs cause disability and morbidity, affect mental and physical development, and in extreme cases, cause blindness, severe disfigurement, and death. These diseases curtail human potential and impair economic growth while burdening communities with the additional cost of providing chronic care coverage to the infected. To respond to this global dilemma, USAID developed the NTD Control Program which is the first large scale and global effort to integrate existing NTD treatments and provide help to millions of the world's poorest people. Led by RTI International with its partners, LATH, ITI, and SCI, the \$100 million programme provides funds to integrate and deliver treatment for five NTDs: lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, trachoma, onchocerciasis and soil-transmitted helminthes.

### Programme Objectives

The key objective is to reduce the disease burden of the five NTDs. The Programme aims to reduce the burden of these NTDs by delivering 160 million integrated treatments to 40 million people in affected countries.

### Approach

The programme aims to scale up existing disease specific programmes to expand coverage and treatment to vulnerable groups. Developing integrated approaches to treatments by leveraging the success of country's existing disease specific programs. The programme works in collaboration with Ministries of Health, district and regional health facilities and local communities so as to be integrated and sustainable. Results are monitored to determine the impact on treated communities, in coordination with USAID and WHO.

### Expected Outcomes

- Achieve high drug coverage
- Integrated control of the five diseases
- Contribution to the global policy on the integrated control of neglected tropical diseases
- Health system strengthening
- Alleviated poverty
- Contribution to the Millennium Development Goals

### Results to Date

Over 6 millions people have been treated in Niger (April-May 2007) and in Mali (May-July 2007). 8.1 million people have been treated in Ghana (April-June 2007). More than 1.9 million people have been undergoing mass treatment in Burkina Faso (August to September 2007.) 11 million people are being targeted in Uganda during mass drug distribution at the end of 2007.

### Lessons Learnt:

- Integration is key to programme success at all levels as demonstrated by district officials and health workers in the field throughout the five countries

- Established health programmes (immunization, nutrition, child health etc) provide an opportunity for coordination or integration as evidenced by the examples in Mali and Ghana whereby efforts were synergised through harmonization of mass drug distribution with the national nutrition campaign to synergize the efforts
- Early detection and management of side effects during drug distribution is key to the programme to overcome problems encountered during mass distribution campaigns
- Social mobilization should be prioritized before any mass campaign to be able to anticipate refusals, rumours, misunderstanding, and to augment the level of attendance
- Commitment of health authorities is mandatory to the programme success in each country; for instance, the active involvement of government officials has been the backbone of Niger's mass campaign achievements
- Special emphasis should be placed on the drug procurement and supply chain to prevent mismanagement, drug losses and to ensure that all drugs packages are available during the distribution campaigns.