

FIGHTING COVID-19 TOGETHER

In 2020, our programme was adapted to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government has created response plans to protect Uganda's population but the need to care for the sick and provide robust testing and isolation care is putting a strain on the health system. TDDA is providing grants and technical assistance to two projects, in partnership with NGOs IDI and AFENET. Both initiatives are designed to prevent hospitals from becoming overwhelmed right now - and will leave systems stronger in the face of future threats, too.



HEALTH WORKER PROTECTION IN EASTERN UGANDA

With healthcare workers at high risk of contracting COVID-19, TDDA is partnering with the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI), working in rural districts within the Mbale and Karamoja regions. The project is training healthcare workers in infection prevention and control, as well as providing emergency supplies of personal protective equipment and laboratory sampling kits.

STRENGTHENING HOME-BASED CARE IN RURAL DISTRICTS

Community transmission is widespread across most districts. TDDA is partnering with the African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET), working in consultation with the Ministry of Health on a new decentralized approach. We are supporting the roll-out of a homebased system of care and community contact tracing to the high-risk district of Masaka.

The project is helping to support local leadership, and train District and Village Health Teams. It is also engaging and educating communities in the part they can play to minimize COVID's spread and care for those who need to isolate at home.

TDDA STRENGTHENS UGANDA'S HEALTH SECURITY SYSTEMS TO SAVE LIVES

Preventing the spread of deadly disease requires effective disease surveillance.

That means a well-trained and equipped workforce.

With our support, Uganda is one of the first countries in East Africa to train health workers on the electronic Open Data Kit (ODK) tool to improve the quality of data collected and reported. Amongst those trained are Point of Entry (POE) staff in Busoga, West Nile and Kigezi regions. Points of entry are a vital link in stopping the spread of disease outbreaks across borders.

The ODK tool is installed on the participants' phones and each receives step-by-step training on how to use it. Thanks to this initiative we have seen improved reporting of diseases, events and conditions of public health importance, all using standard case definitions which improves the quality of the data.

Disease outbreaks can now be detected more rapidly as a result. The right authorities are quickly alerted and can respond through the Village Health Teams right at the source of the outbreak. This curtails further spread of the disease and hence saves lives.

A STRONG, AGILE HEALTH SYSTEM CAN RESPOND TO ALL MANNER OF DISEASES

Dr. Winyi Kaboyo,
Country coordinator, Uganda



As a partner in strengthening Uganda's health security, part of TDDA's work is to maintain strong relations with government officials, civil society partners and UN agencies such as WHO and FAO. We work to raise awareness of the importance of overall health security: rather than a narrow focus on one specific disease over another, TDDA takes a system-level view. We support the government to strengthen that system, aiming to prevent, control and manage the full spectrum of deadly diseases collectively.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has shown the value of this approach. If we focused on specific individual diseases, it may have been impossible to provide support for COVID-19 which came on the scene only after the launch of our programme in 2019. But since our focus is on Uganda's health system as a whole, we have been able to support the fight against COVID, such as supporting training of POE staff in strengthening data collection using the Open Data Kit Tool.

ONE HEALTH – BETTER HEALTH OUTCOMES THROUGH PARTNERSHIP IN UGANDA

'One Health' is a global initiative that promotes cross sector collaboration to achieve better public health outcomes. Many of the same microbes infect animals and humans, so efforts in just one sector cannot prevent the problem. Rabies in humans, for example, is effectively prevented only by targeting the animal source of the virus. Tackling deadly diseases in Africa is working hard to promote the One Health approach.

TDDA supported a high-profile event to mark the annual World Rabies Day event in Kyengera, Wakiso District. We were honoured by the attendance of the Minister of State for Animal Industry, Hon. Bright Rwamirama. We were joined by many key players, including the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) country office, national and district leaders, professional associations, students and the local community leaders.

Community awareness is essential in stemming the spread of infectious diseases, so rabies prevention education was the order of the day. Free vaccinations of dogs and cats were carried out, significantly reducing the threat of rabies transmission to humans.

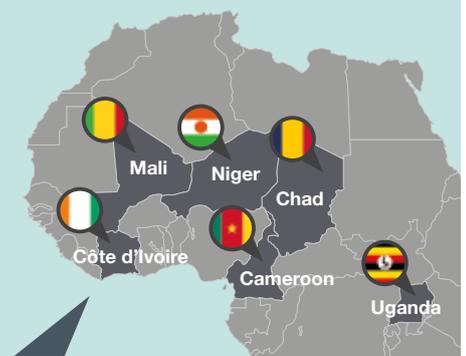


TACKLING DEADLY DISEASES IN AFRICA PROGRAMME

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.

Tackling deadly diseases in Africa



For more information go to:

tacklingdeadlydiseasesinfrica.org

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