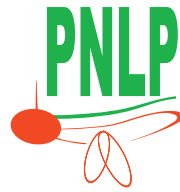




Ministère de la Santé
et de l'Action Sociale



BEST PRACTICE

MALARIA AND NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES DATA INTEGRATION IN SENEGAL



Background

Senegal, like the countries of West African sub-region, is committed to effectively fighting Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) and adheres to the 2021-2030 roadmap of the World Health Organization (WHO) for the elimination and control of NTDs. At the operational level, the National Neglected Tropical Disease Control Program (NNTDCP) is not well known, and activities are most often limited to annual Mass Drug Distribution campaigns (DMM) for diseases requiring preventive chemotherapy. To this end, the regular organization of data reviews is a key action that will contribute to strengthening the coordination of interventions between the operational level and the program. It will ensure overall monitoring of the program and ownership of the fight at the operational level, as well as decision making following data analysis. However, it has been noted that the implementation of these reviews is hampered by a lack of financial resources.

To address this challenge that drastically affects partners, the NNTDCP has integrated the quarterly reviews organized by the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) with all health districts and medical regions of the country. This is effective thanks to the support of Speak Up Africa. These reviews remain important forums for sharing data collected at the operational level and for performance analysis. The relevance of this integration lies in the fact that these two programs belong to the same entity, the Direction de la Lutte contre la Maladie (Department of Disease Control). To begin this integration, two NTDs will be concerned, namely schistosomiasis and lymphatic filariasis, but the completeness and timeliness of NTD reports in the District Health Information Software (DHIS2).



Main objective

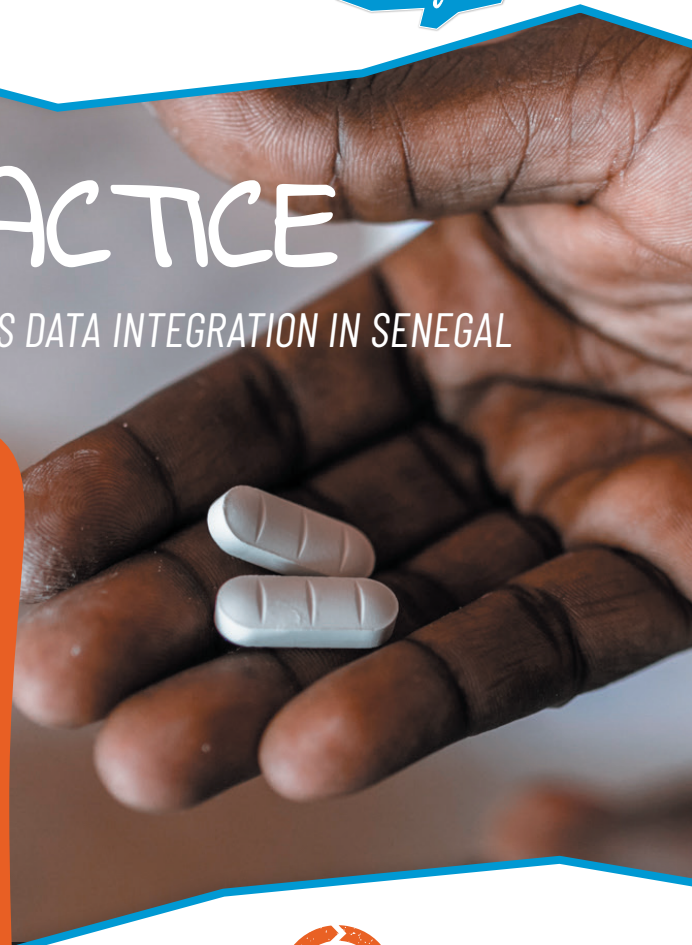
To improve effectiveness and efficiency in the implementation of disease control interventions through an integration of NTD and malaria data, and to share promising practices in collaborative implementation.



Methodology

The NNTDCP requested the NMCP to integrate NTDs in their quarterly reviews at the intermediate level. Following their positive feedback, the NNTDCP proposed a list of 10 indicators to be integrated into the first integrated NTD-Malaria review which took place on July 27 and 28 of 2021.

Data collection was done quarterly at the national level with monthly reports. The medical regions, health districts, the national supply pharmacy and the regional supply pharmacies participated in six collection zones (also called axes) to address two areas: morbidity management and data management (see Table 2). Discussions were held with the Ministry of Health and Social Action to better define the strategic, operational, and technical aspects of this integration. Technical meetings on the modalities of the integration between the technicians of the two programs (national coordinators of the NTDs and sub-program coordinators at the NNTDCP), communication officers, planners, and Department of Disease Control agents, were held to: (1) identify objectives by program, and (2) stabilize indicators for integration, coordination, and database sharing with the regions.





Major events 2021



JANUARY 30

Advocacy meeting for sustainable financing on the fight against NTDs with the private sector and NGOs



APRIL

Three integrated Malaria-NTD and SUA team meetings to begin the process

APRIL

Malaria-NTD technical meeting to formalize the integration of NTDs into the Malaria-NTD integrated reviews



MAY 4

Workshop to finalize the technical approach of the NTD priority integration pilot project at the operational level



JULY 27-28

Malaria-NTD integrated review at the national level



JULY-AUGUST

Organization of follow-up surveys of lymphatic filariasis transmission in 23 evaluation units of 24 Health Districts



AUGUST 12

Integration of NTD/Malaria data officially endorsed by circular N°010687 MSAS/DGSP/DLM/MTN by the Minister of Health and Social Action



AUGUST 23-27

TIPAC Data Analysis and Budget Advocacy Workshop (NNTDCP)



Results of the process

The main outcome of the process is the government's commitment, on the strategic level, for data integration and, on the operational level, with the implementation of the circular N°010687 MSAS/DGSP/DLM/MTN dated August 12, 2021, from the Minister of Health and Social Action officially ratifying the integration of NTDs/Malaria data in Senegal.



Lessons learned

Strengths

- The political will of the government to integrate malaria-NTD data and to put in place the circular officially endorsing this integration.
- The commitment of technicians and partners in the sector to carry out the above steps to achieve the integrated review at the national level.
- The rationalization of efforts and costs by using the NMCP's platform for data collection on NTDs.
- Improved ownership of the fight against NTDs by the actors of the decentralized level.
- Better consideration of NTDs in the health care system.

Weaknesses

- Insufficient financial and human resources at the NNTDCP level.
- Insufficient number of days to integrate more NTDs indicators.
- Lack of next steps for monitoring the effectiveness and efficiency of this intervention.



Perspectives

Sustainability

Ownership of the project at the ministry level is done with the circular at the central and decentralized levels.

Scaling up

- Implementing and documenting this process which already concerns the NNTDCP and the NMCP whose indicators were already well defined at the beginning of the process.
- Integrating the efforts planned for malaria, NTDs and tuberculosis which are underway, and which are part of the dynamics of universal health coverage and primary health care.
- Based on the lessons learned from this integration, encouraging reflection on the development of integrated vector control and mass campaigns implemented by the programs (Mass Drug Distribution and Chemoprevention of Seasonal Malaria).