

# TB-COVID

## Strengthening the Capacity of National TB Programmes (NTP) in West and Central Africa to Monitor and Mitigate the Impact of COVID-19 and Future Global Health Emergencies on TB Service Provision

### Duration

2021 – 2023

### Budget

approx. 980,000 EUR

### Partner countries

WHO/WARN-TB  
and CARN-TB:

#### West Africa

The Republic of Benin  
Burkina Faso · Cape Verde  
Cote d'Ivoire · Gambia  
Ghana · Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau · Liberia  
Mali · Mauritania · Niger  
Nigeria · Sierra Leone  
Senegal · Togo

#### Central Africa

Angola · Burundi · Cameroon  
Central Africa Republic  
Chad · Congo · Democratic  
Republic of the Congo  
Gabon · Equatorial Guinea  
Rwanda · Democratic  
Republic of São Tomé and  
Príncipe

### Challenges addressed by the project

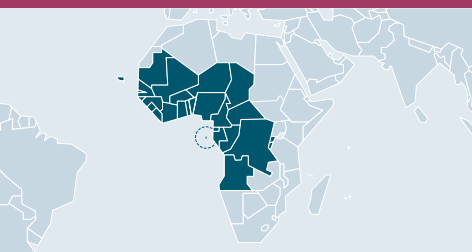
As the world comes together to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that essential services and operations continue to protect the lives of people with tuberculosis (TB). TB remains the leading cause of death from a single infectious agent worldwide. The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to reverse much of the progress that has been made in reducing TB-related morbidity and mortality in recent years. There is a need to ensure the ongoing performance of national TB programmes (NTPs), while strengthening the public health approach and promoting preparedness of TB programmes and capacity for health crisis management.

### Objectives

- » Developing an impact assessment framework to monitor essential TB services
- » Integration of a comprehensive DHIS2 package
- » Development of country preparedness plans to mitigate the impact of future public health emergencies on TB services

### Overview of activities

This project will strengthen TB surveillance systems to detect and track disruptions in the context of a public health emergency and support NTPs to develop preparedness and response plans that address these disruptions and mitigate their impact. The project will be conducted in West and Central Africa with close collaboration with the West and Central regional network for TB control, regrouping the 27 NTPs of the region and support from the Global TB programme of the WHO and the special programme for research and training in Tropical Disease (WHO/TDR). In order to support data-driven responses, an impact assessment framework will be developed to quantify and evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on NTP functioning and performance. The finalised framework will be embedded into routine surveillance activities and used to collect data to quantify the impact of COVID-19 on TB services. Virtual training will be provided to key staff on the framework and support provided for data analysis and interpretation. The project aims to expand the functionality of the existing WHO TB DHIS2 packages (a set of standardised dashboards with trends of key indicators for routine TB surveillance) to also include mobile outreach solutions for contact tracing. NTPs of WARN/CARN TB will be supported in the development of data-driven country preparedness and response plans that outline measures to be taken to mitigate the impact of COVID-19



Supported by:



on the basis of a decision  
by the German Bundestag



Steering Committee meeting (Photo ©RKI)

and future public health emergencies on TB service provision and quality. A virtual workshop with WARN/CARN TB network members will be held to collectively review the data gathered. The preparedness plans will integrate the enhanced monitoring provided by the impact assessment framework/DHIS2 package to determine appropriate indicator thresholds that can be used to trigger mitigation plans strategies in the future.

### Partner institutions

- » Global TB Programme at WHO (WHO/ GTB)
- » The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (WHO/ TDR)  
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- » West and Central African Regional Networks for TB (WARN-TB/ CARN-TB)
- » Health Information Systems Program (HISP) at the University of Oslo (UiO), Norway

### Supporting institution in Germany/Contact

Robert Koch Institute  
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