Steps towards Elimination: Re-evaluation of Lymphatic Filariasis Prevalence in Tanzania

**Results**

The LF remapping exercise was implemented in three phases.

**PHASE I**: Covered 10 districts namely; Arusha, Monduli, Karagwe, Muleba, Hai, Moshi, Moshi, Same, Musoma and Bariadi.

**PHASE II**: Covered 26 districts namely; Arusha, Karatu, Longido, Ngorongoro, Chato, Geita, Geita, Mbogwe, Bukombe, Nyang'wale, Hai, Rombo, Mwanza, Ilemela, Magu, Kwimba, Nyamagana, Misungwi, Ukerewe, Sengerema, Maswa, Meatu, Busega, Bariadi and Itilima.

**PHASE III**: Covered 23 districts namely; Bukoba, Misenyi, Bukoba, Ngara, Kyerwa, Biharamulo, Shinyanga, Kishapu, Shinyanga, Kahama, Msalala, Ushetu, Kibondo, Kakonko, Kigoma, Ujiji, Uvinza, Musoma, Butiama, Bunda, Tarime, Roringa and Serengeti.

**Materials and Methods**

The 2015 LF remapping exercise was conducted in nine regions covering 63 districts in the Lake, Western and Northern zones in Tanzania, with support from USAID through the ENVISION Project and from the Task Force for Global Health. The 2015 LF re-mapping exercise adopted a new method developed by WHO, and it was piloted in Tanzania and Ethiopia.

**Re-evaluation sites**

The re-evaluation exercise aimed to determine the current prevalence of circulating filarial antigen (CFA) in 63 districts not covered by the MDA.

The LF re-mapping exercise was conducted in Geita, Mwanza, Simiyu, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Kagera, Mara, Shinyanga and Kigoma regions.

**Study Design**

This was a randomized 30-cluster school survey design, in which 30 primary schools were randomly selected from each district.

Each child was tested using the immunochromatographic card test (ICT) for LF.

**Sampling of Schools and children**

- 30 primary schools were randomly selected from a complete list obtained from each district using SSB developed by TFGH.
- An average of 16 children aged 9-10 years were selected using the random number list produced by SSB in each selected school.
- The total sample size per district was 480 children aged 9-14 years sampled from 30 primary schools.
- A total of 1,770 primary schools were randomly sampled and 29,054 students aged ≥10 yrs old were tested for LF.
- Additional schools were pre-selected for use in case the sample was not met after assessing the 30 schools.
- The ICT tests were conducted on site and results given after 10 minutes.

**Conclusion**

The results of the re-mapping indicated that these districts do not require MDA. This is an important step in scaling down MDA interventions in Tanzania and now the NTD program will focus on the remaining districts to achieve elimination.

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