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Pandemic Influenza A H1N1: Vaccination Campaigns Protect the Most Vulnerable Populations in Togo



During two countrywide vaccination campaigns, Togo's MOH immunized 10 percent of its most at-risk populations. Togo is one of 40 countries conducting a national H1N1 immunization campaign in collaboration with WHO and the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT.

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The H1N1 influenza virus, also known as swine flu, has been spreading across the globe since 2009. To limit the number of infections and deaths, the World Health Organization (WHO) partnered with the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT to provide vaccination support to 40 developing countries.

In April 2010, Togo became the first country in Africa to conduct a vaccination campaign. In this four-day event, Togo's Ministry of Health (MOH) encouraged the target groups—health personnel and pregnant women—to get immunized. With vaccine donated by WHO, the

MOH was able to protect the most vulnerable 2 percent of the population.

In August 2010, Togo conducted a second vaccination campaign to immunize pregnant women, people with chronic illnesses, and children age 6–18 months, among others. By the end of this campaign, another 8 percent of the most at-risk populations in the country had received the H1N1 vaccination.

To support the campaigns, the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT brought syringes and safety boxes into the country and helped the MOH carry out the two countrywide vaccination campaigns.

Togo's vaccination campaigns were made possible by the MOH and the active participation of many partners—WHO; USAID; United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and USAID-funded projects, including the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT.

The USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, Task Order 2, is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, and manages a global distribution mechanism for commodities to prevent and mitigate outbreaks of existing and emerging pandemic threats. Task Order 2 also assists in forecasting and procurement planning for developing countries and helps pre-position commodities in national and regional warehouses for rapid deployment in case of outbreaks.

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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