

# Strengthening the pneumonia response in Chad

## Developing a pneumonia control strategy

### Background

Pneumonia is the leading infectious cause of death in children under five, globally. According to the Global Burden of Disease estimates, 672,000 children under five died of pneumonia in 2019, equating to almost two fatalities every minute of every day — more than diarrhoea, malaria and measles combined.<sup>[1]</sup> The vast majority of those killed by pneumonia lives in low- and middle-income countries, and just 10 countries in south Asia and sub-Saharan Africa account for 60 percent of pneumonia deaths worldwide.<sup>[2]</sup>

Chad has one of the world's highest under-five mortality rates (119 deaths/1,000),<sup>[3]</sup> with pneumonia accounting for 23.3 percent of these deaths.<sup>[4]</sup> The Every Breath Counts (EBC) Coalition has ranked Chad as its top priority country. In 2015, only 26 percent of suspected pneumonia cases in children were taken to a health facility/provider. Although Chad has a national healthcare strategy that includes integrated community case management, it remains largely unimplemented. In theory, health facility coverage should be over 80 percent; however, (very) few health service delivery points have the capacity to deliver the full national service package.

### Country

Chad

### Donor

Malaria Consortium U.S.

### Length of project

January 2022 – December 2022

### Partners

Ministry of Health, Chad

## Project outline and objectives

To date, little has been done to assess and improve pneumonia case management in Chad. Drawing on our experience in conducting large-scale studies, we aim to develop a suitable strategy. This work builds on EBC's successful recent experience in Nigeria in developing a national childhood pneumonia strategy (PCS), which was completed in 2020 and endorsed by the Federal Ministry of Health.

This project aims to improve pneumonia case management in Chad through understanding the current methods and systems used to manage pneumonia cases at different levels of the health system. It also aims to develop and operationalise a suitable best-practice strategy to support this. The key objectives are to:

- lead the development and costing of a PCS through a Ministry of Health (MoH)-led platform through which all key stakeholders (under the EBC umbrella) can contribute to the process
  - work closely with the MoH and stakeholders to operationalise the strategy components
  - use the findings and lessons learnt from developing the PCS to support their integration into the national health system planning. This will contribute to their sustainability and, ultimately, to improving pneumonia case management
  - attract new donors to widen the scale and scope of pneumonia activity and child survival at Malaria Consortium.
- carry out a project kick-off and preliminary research, including desk research; mapping of key policies, strategies, guidelines and training programmes that support pneumonia case management; mapping of pneumonia case management initiatives and key stakeholders; and interviews with priority individuals to identify barriers and opportunities facilitated by the use of tools to better align PCS with the country's universal health coverage strategy
  - develop the PCS in collaboration with EBC, including drafts, review cycles, revision and finalisation of documents; this will involve MoH validation and official launches
  - provide technical assistance to the MoH to provide a coordination and leadership role and develop a two-year work plan that addresses the key components of the PCS: coordination and partnership creation; policy and financing; research, data and information systems; community prevention; service delivery; and supply and distribution
  - conduct an evaluation to capture learnings from developing the PCS through key informant interviews with stakeholders. The results will be used to raise awareness and drive commitment to an improved pneumonia response, as well as continued engagement and commitment to the PCS
  - continue to seek new donors to secure additional funding to support the design and implementation of the total PneumoTransform proposal, a large-scale health systems implementation evaluation focused on improved pneumonia case management in Chad, Ethiopia and Nigeria. Activities will include donor relationship management and ongoing leadership of Malaria Consortium's EBC Research Group.

## Activities

To achieve these objectives, Malaria Consortium will:

- conduct engagement and advocacy with the MoH to secure high-level endorsement of the PCS, and support the creation of a platform for its development through staff placement within the ministry



## References

1. JustActions. The missing piece: Why the global pandemic is an inflection point for pneumonia control. Revised and updated for COVID-19 and the Global Burden of Disease 2019. New York: JustActions; 2021.
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4. UNICEF. Pneumonia data. [2021 Aug; cited 2019 Nov 28]. Available from: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/dataset/symptoms-pneumonia-careseeking/>.

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