



© Newsha Tavakolian / Magnum Photos. Community Health worker Moutiete Kpakou (35) is making her rounds through a village on her bicycle.

# INTEGRATE HEALTH

INVESTIGATES THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON PRIMARY CARE DELIVERY

Early predictions estimated COVID-19 would cause significant interruptions to routine healthcare that could have reversed decades of progress towards reducing maternal and under-five mortality. **Yet, Integrate Health hypothesized that investments in building strong integrated primary health systems, like those we make alongside the Ministry of Health in Togo, would help protect against unplanned shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic.**

In July 2020, Integrate Health launched a rigorous study to test this hypothesis. The study's purpose was to understand the impact of COVID-19 on healthcare utilization, ultimately to inform strategies to maintain access to essential primary care during health crises. The study was conducted across Integrate Health-supported and non-supported sites and employed a mixed-methods approach, combining health data from the government's health information

system DHIS2; programmatic data collected by Integrate Health; and qualitative data collected through interviews with community members, health center head nurses, and Community Health Workers (CHWs).

The study, funded by Northwestern University's Institute for Global Health, ran from July 2020 through June 2021, and a manuscript, submitted for publication in November 2021, is currently under review. The study will provide evidence of the extent to which Togo's health system is withstanding the adverse effects of the pandemic. Integrate Health hopes the study will add to the growing body of literature exploring resilient health systems and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more about the study design and analysis [here](#). We look forward to sharing the study results with our partners as soon as they are published.



## DELIVERY



Catchment Population  
**204,810**



Health Centers  
**25**



Community Health Workers  
**203**



Community Health Worker Visits  
**145,884**

## PEDIATRIC HEALTH

### Timeliness

(% of cases of childhood illness that were treated within 72 hours of symptom onset)



### Effective Pediatric Referrals

(% of referrals by Community Health Workers for children under five needing escalated care who follow-up at a health center)



### Rate of Attendance of Children

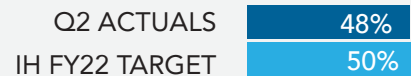
(Number of consultations of children under five at a health center, out of number of children under five living in the catchment area)



## MATERNAL, NEONATAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

### Prenatal Consultation Coverage

(Number of women who attended four prenatal visits, out of women who delivered at a health facility)



### Facility-Based Delivery Coverage

(Number of women who delivered at a health facility, out of total recorded births)



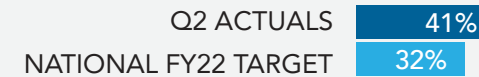
### Postnatal Consultation Coverage

(Number of women who attended first postnatal consultation, out of total recorded births)



### Modern Contraceptive Coverage

(Number of women effectively protected by a modern family planning method, out of eligible women)





New mother  
visiting the  
Koutiere  
health  
center, in  
Dankpen.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Successes

- In October, the program team organized a refresher training for CHWs in the Kéran District. The training allowed CHWs to strengthen their health education communication skills, particularly regarding family planning methods and vaccine awareness for pregnant women, including COVID-19 vaccination. Refresher trainings take place four times per year and are an important form of continuing education for CHWs.
- Transfer of the Integrated Primary Care Program (IPCP) to the Ministry of Health district health team continues to progress in the Kozah district, where IH has been leading IPCP implementation since 2015. In November 2021, a workshop was held for IH and both district and regional health management teams to review all activities and discuss any necessary modifications to enable implementation directly by the district health teams. IH is pleased to be ensuring the sustainability of the IPCP through continuing to transfer ownership of the program to the MOH.
- The research team presented preliminary findings from a pilot study assessing the feasibility and acceptability of the ThinkMD clinical decision tool being used by Integrate Health-supported CHWs in Dankpen and Bassar districts. The study indicated positive perceptions of the tool by both Community Health Workers and patients; however, significant implementation challenges persist. Next steps include engaging the Togolese Ministry of Health and other partners to understand future national plans for use of digital tools to support healthcare delivery.

### Challenges

- On November 15, Integrate Health's team in Togo held an all-staff workshop on road safety and security. Staff reviewed accident reports and completed a root cause analysis of the five vehicle accidents that involved staff in the last 18 months. Based on this analysis, the staff developed a set of recommendations that will be transformed into an action plan for the Operations Team. While many of the recommendations were actionable (e.g., new staff, training, policies, and equipment), Integrate Health recognizes that there is much work to do to reinforce a broader culture of safety and that significant structural and environmental obstacles persist.



# EXPANSION HIGHLIGHTS

## Successes

- Integrate Health's Deputy Country Director met with the Deputy Minister for Universal Health Access in December to discuss 2022 strategic priorities. The Deputy Minister requested Integrate Health's ongoing support of government priorities including the professionalization of CHWs among other Universal Health Coverage activities and was supportive of the potential expansion of the IPCP to another region of Togo. This is an excellent opportunity for Integrate Health to continue its technical support to the Togolese Ministry of Health in its goal of advancing Universal Health Coverage.
- In November, Integrate Health supported the Ministry of Health to train eight members of the community health center management committees (COGES) of Kozah and Haho districts. As the COGES is a key community accountability mechanism, this training aimed to improve the identification and prioritization of health center needs, budgeting, analysis of the local environment, and identification of potential resources.

## Challenges

- Due to challenges created by COVID-19, Integrate Health is working to determine the most efficient ways to disseminate findings from its Phase I study in Togo. Integrate Health hopes to make these findings and their potential impact on future health system reforms more widely known among partners at the Ministry of Health and other relevant stakeholders.

Woman and child from the community of Adabawéré







Group work during the Personnel Safety and Security Workshop.

## ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS


### Successes

- This quarter, Integrate Health welcomed several new staff members: Development and Communications Assistant, Kondi Ousman Tchalare; Human Resource Specialist in Advanced Training and Development, Koffi Senyo Siakou; Binah District CHW Supervisor, Tchara Essomouna Mangbassim; Kéran District CHW Supervisor, Adja Lantame; Development Director, Tobore Egborge; Development Program Officer, Maryama Diaw; and Clinical Director, Dadou Pikèdinam Tcheou. All new teammates are filling critical positions at Integrate Health, and we're thrilled to have them on board!

### Challenges

- It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of our colleague and friend, Atsou Kokou Josef Sogbo. Josef joined Integrate Health in March 2021 as the biomedical technician, thanks to support from the Gould Family Foundation. He performed a critical service to Integrate Health-supported health centers and CHWs, ensuring their equipment was in good working condition to continue providing lifesaving care. All of us at Integrate Health will continue to work until equitable healthcare is accessible to all, in honor of Josef.





© Newsha Tavakolian / Magnum Photos. Community Health worker Damawai Kassin continues visiting patients amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Successes

- This quarter, Integrate Health received renewal funding from eight partners. We remain grateful for their continued support.

## FUNDING SNAPSHOT

Metric	Result	Notes
Three-Year Funding Need	\$24M	Fiscal Years '21, '22, '23
FY22 Projected Expenses	\$8M	
Current Funding Runway*	10 months	6 months operating + 4 months reserve

*\*Indicates cash on hand, excluding projections*

### Spotlight on Pyalo Soule, Patient from Djamdè

Pyalo Soule is a member of the Djamdè community. Pyalo was pregnant when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the country. She feared contracting COVID-19 and how it might affect her baby. As a result, she skipped her prenatal consultations at the health center, to avoid a potential COVID-19 exposure. Fortunately, an Integrate Health-supported CHW visited her at home and reassured her that nurses and midwives at the health center were aware of the risks of COVID-19 and well prepared to keep patients safe. With the right information, Pyalo was able to go to the health center without fear and give birth to a healthy baby in the midst of the pandemic.

“When the coronavirus crisis came to Togo, I started hearing scary rumors. I stopped going to prenatal visits and stayed home. I probably would have given birth at home, in unsafe conditions. It took a visit from a CHW to sound the alarm. She saw that my pregnancy was at term and referred me to the Djamdè Health Center. From there, I was transferred to the University Hospital Center of Kara. I really don’t know what I would have done without the CHW and Integrate Health. They took care of everything. I gave birth in Kara at the hospital. Here is my son today. What would I have done?”



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