

# Country Disease Outlook

## Togo

August 2023



World Health Organization

African Region

### Background

The Republic of Togo is a country in west Africa, bordered by Burkina Faso, Benin, Ghana and the Atlantic Ocean. It is a low-income country with a GDP per capita of US\$918 (2022) and a population of 8.9 million (2022)..

### Key points

- ◆ Togo has a high burden of communicable and non-communicable disease (NCDs), with the latter making up 41% of deaths in 2019.
- ◆ Togo improved its child survival rates between 2015 and 2021, however it is not yet meeting the SDG targets for neonatal or under-five mortality rates.
- ◆ Togo is endemic for four of the five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA). In 2020, 97% of the 3.6 million people targeted were treated with MDA.
- ◆ In Togo 81,123 people were receiving antiretroviral treatment in 2021. However, Togo has met only one of the 95-95-95 goals and should focus efforts on increasing the testing rates given that an estimated 20% of the people living with HIV did not know their status in 2021.
- ◆ Togo's coverage rates of vaccination in children have historically been below the 90% target levels. In 2021, the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine reached 83%, while the coverage rate for the first dose of measles vaccine was 70%. It is important for Togo to continue to maintain and strengthen its routine immunization system, while also implementing catch-up vaccination strategies in the country to ensure that no children are left unprotected from vaccine-preventable diseases in the future.

**UHC/CN**

Universal Health Coverage/Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases  
WHO Regional Office for Africa





2019

41%

of deaths due to NCDs

## Broad disease outlook

The country has a high burden of both communicable (such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS) and non-communicable disease (NCDs). The latter was estimated to have caused 41% of deaths in 2019.

## Communicable diseases

### Malaria

Malaria remains a public health problem in Togo with an estimated 2 million cases in 2021 (incidence rate of 224.7 per 1000 people), resulting in 3,715 deaths. The malaria incidence rate has fallen in line with the targets set by the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria between 2015 and 2019, although the incidence rate plateaued after and has been slightly above the targets set for 2020 and 2021.

### Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS

The number of TB cases in 2020 was estimated at 3,000. With an estimated burden of 33 TB cases per 100,000 in 2021, is one of the low burden countries in the African region. The mortality rate of TB cases (all forms, excluding HIV coinfection) has decreased from 6.4 to 2.7 per 100,000 population between 2015 and 2021. The TB mortality rate among HIV-positive people has fallen from 3.2 to 0.88 in the same period.

Togo has met one of the 95-95-95 goals:

- ▲ 80% of people living with HIV know their status.
- ▲ 95% of the people living with HIV that know their status are on treatment.
- ▲ 80% of people living with HIV and on treatment are virally suppressed.

Approximately 81,123 people were receiving antiretroviral treatment in 2021.

### Neglected tropical diseases

Togo is endemic for two of the five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA), namely schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminthiasis. In 2020, 3.5 million of the 3.6 million people targeted (97%) were treated with MDA.

Other notable NTDs that remain endemic are human African trypanosomiasis (*gambiense*), Buruli ulcer,

taeniasis and cysticercosis, leprosy, and rabies.

## Non-communicable diseases

NCDs are a significant health problem in Togo. The age-standardised mortality rate across four major NCDs (Cardiovascular Disease, Chronic Respiratory Disease, Cancer and Diabetes) was 731 per 100,000 in males and 545 in females in 2021.

Togo has implemented efforts on the NCD progress indicators on areas including the NCD policy and plan, tobacco taxes, tobacco smoke free/pollution, tobacco advertising bans, tobacco media campaigns, however there is limited progress against a subset of the indicators. These include NCD guidelines, alcohol advertising restrictions, salt policies, trans fats policies, marketing to children and physical activity awareness.

## Childhood Immunization

Togo's coverage rates of vaccination in children have historically been below the 90% target levels. In 2021, the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine reached 83%, while the coverage rate for the first dose of measles vaccine was 70%. This resulted in an estimated 45,104 under-immunized children and 31,838 zero dose children. It is important for Togo to continue to maintain and strengthen its routine immunization system, while also implementing catch-up vaccination strategies in the country to ensure that no children are left unprotected from vaccine-preventable diseases in the future.

## Child survival

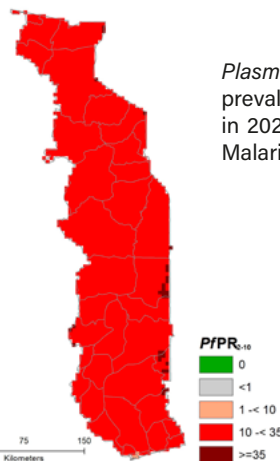
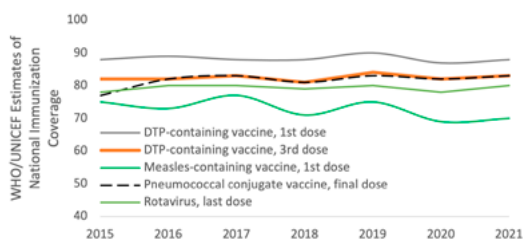
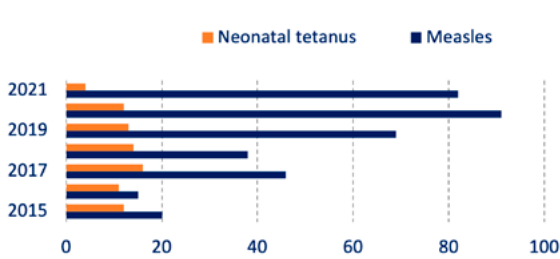
Based on the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) estimates, the under-5 mortality rate has fallen from 76 to 63 per 1,000 live births between 2015 and 2021, although it is still above the SDG target of 25 per 1,000 live births. Similarly, the neonatal mortality rate declined from 27 to 24 per 1,000 live births in the same period, remaining above the SDG target of 12.

**MALARIA**

POPULATION AT RISK IN 2022	TOTAL MALARIA CASES IN 2021	TOTAL MALARIA DEATHS IN 2021
<b>18.6 million</b>	<b>2.0 million</b>	<b>3,715</b>

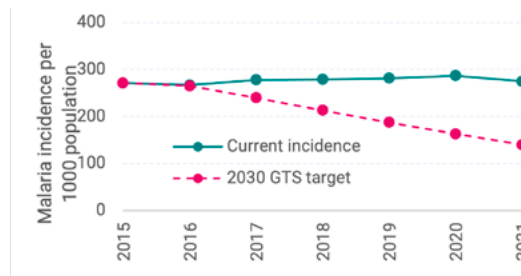
ITN use in children under five years 69.7% and 62.6% use of ACTs among those with fever for whom care was sought and received a finger or heel prick

**EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION IN CHILDREN**



*Plasmodium falciparum* malaria prevalence in children in Togo in 2020. Estimates from the Malaria Atlas project

Malaria incidence in Togo since 2015 compared to GTS targets shows that the country is on track to achieving GTS targets despite a slight increase in 2020.



**Zero dose children 31,838**      **Under-immunized 45,104**

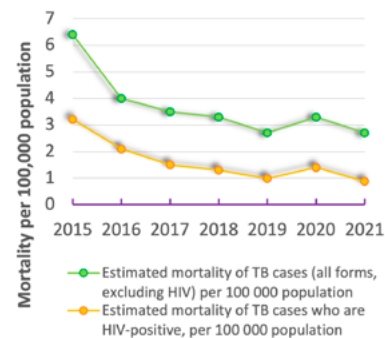
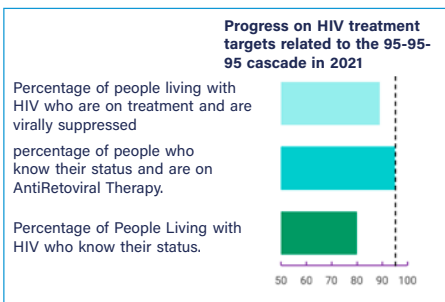
WUENIC estimates show a stable trend for most basic antigens in Togo.

However, cases of measles and rubella are regularly reported.

**HIV AND TUBERCULOSIS**

- 81,123** people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021
- 77%** Treatment success rate for HIV-positive TB cases
- 55%** of children (aged < 5 years) household contacts of bacteriologically-confirmed TB cases on preventive treatment

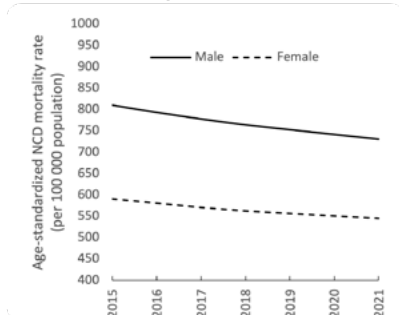
**45%** Domestic funding for TB  
**Unknown** Domestic funding for HIV



- Indicator 1 - Targets
- Indicator 2 - CRV Mortality
- Indicator 3 - Surveys
- Indicator 4 - NCD policy and Plan
- Indicator 5A - Tobacco taxes
- Indicator 5B - Tobacco smoke free/polution
- Indicator 5C - Tobacco health warning
- Indicator 5D - Tobacco advertising ban
- Indicator 5E - Tobacco media campaign
- Indicator 6A - Alcohol availability
- Indicator 6B - Alcohol advertising restrictions
- Indicator 6C - Alcohol taxes
- Indicator 7A - Salt policies
- Indicator 7B - Trans fats policies
- Indicator 7C - Marketing to children
- Indicator 8 - Physical activity awareness
- Indicator 9 - NCD guidelines

**NCD PROGRESS INDICATORS**

- Achieved**
- Partially achieved**
- Not achieved/Unknown**



**NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES**

- Endemic NTDS requiring Preventive Chemotherapy (PC)**
- Soil-transmitted helminthiasis
  - Schistosomiasis
  - Onchocerciasis (non-endemic)

**PC-NTDs treatment in 2020**  
**3.6 million** targeted for MDA  
**3.5 million** treated with MDA

**OTHER MAJOR NTDS**

- Human African trypanosomiasis (*gambiense*)
- Buruli ulcer
- Taeniasis and cysticercosis
- Leprosy
- Rabies

