



# How programs are adapting during the #COVID19 crisis

USAID's Act to End NTDs | East Program  
Chief of Party, Ethiopia

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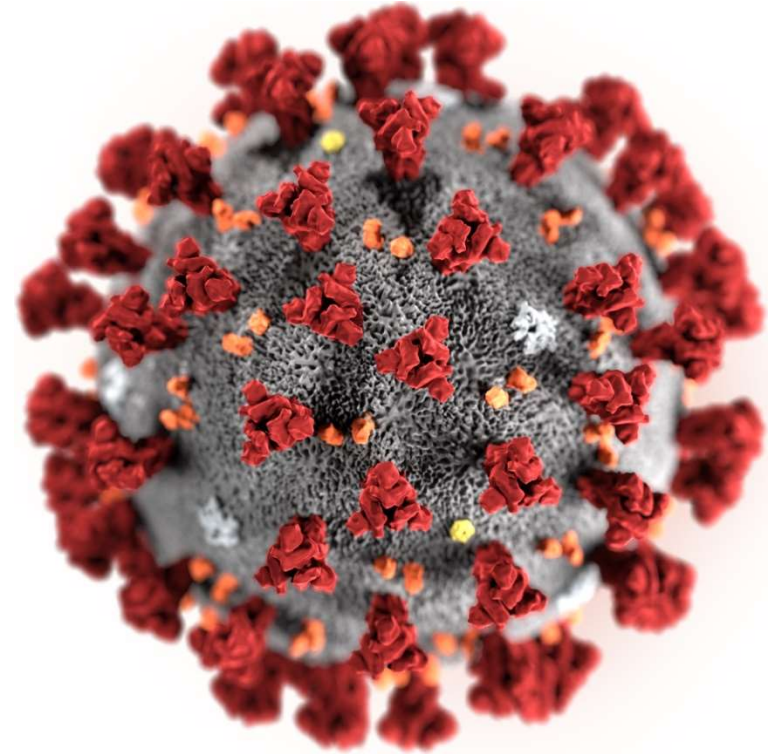
# USAID's Act to End NTDs | East Program

**Goal:** Support countries to reach their control and elimination goals for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) through proven, cost-effective public health interventions.



# COVID-19 in Ethiopia

- First COVID-19 case reported March 13
- Federal preventive measures include:
  - ban on mass gatherings
  - school closures
  - border closure
- State of Emergency starting April 9 for tentatively 5 months



# NTD Programs during COVID-19

- World Health Organization issued guidance for NTD programs to postpone:
  - community-based surveys
  - active case-finding activities
  - mass treatment campaigns
- All NTD field activities suspended



# Challenges of a “new normal”



# Learning: Act to End NTDs | East Program



Collaborating with the  
MOH



Planning ahead for  
NTD activities to  
resume



Maintaining  
commitment to support  
communities to reach  
NTD elimination goals

# Adapting during COVID-19

Working with staff to accommodate to a changing work environment

Establishing new communications systems

Focusing on personal connection

Commitment to maintain and engage staff

# Acknowledgments



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