



The Download Jan 2017



**100TH SURVEY
COMPLETE!**

Our 100th survey was an Impact Survey, which took place in the Tivaouane district of Senegal on 8th October 2016 with RTI as the partners supporting the Ministry. Congrats to them!

Message from the Chief Scientist

As 2017 begins, we're delighted to be working with so many countries on so many projects. To date, we have supported 160 surveys in 13 different countries, of which 115 have been fully processed, and the remaining are in progress, cleaning or approval. Without wishing to boast, we think that's good going for a service that was officially launched only six months ago.

However, we are aware that many of you have questions about how Tropical Data actually works – particularly with respect to processes, roles and funding. Please get in touch with the team if you'd like to discuss what we do and how we do it; we would be delighted to help.

The Global Trachoma Mapping Project proved to us that high quality data are absolutely essential as we plan the steps that will lead us to trachoma elimination. Tropical Data is building on the work of the GTMP, expanding the service to include other survey types whilst maintaining quality and country ownership; we are helping countries validate their hard work in carrying out SAFE interventions. We look forward to working with you in 2017 and wish you a Happy New Year.

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Did you know?

Tropical Data is a universal service, free for any country to use and is provided by a coalition of partners that includes the International Trachoma Initiative (ITI), RTI International, Sightsavers and the World Health Organisation (WHO). We provide support including epidemiology, trainers, survey tools, guidelines, scientific oversight, and data processing & reviews. National programs are responsible for the delivery and funding of in-country implementation, including project planning, training, fieldwork and results. Don't let lack of funding stop you, though – get in touch if this is an issue and we can offer advice on where funds might be found.

All data collected remain the property of the health ministry. Our system allows you full and unrestricted secure access to your data; our role is to support data collection, cleaning, analysis, presentation and quality assurance, helping you ensure quality survey outcomes.

Tropical Data Super Training



Photo: RTI International

These photos were taken at our Anglophone Super Training in June last year in Tanzania. We also held a Francophone session in Senegal in July. Both sessions included participants from 17 different countries and 65 people were successfully trained as graders or recorders.



We are already thinking about training plans for 2017; if you have surveys lined up for this year and want to be involved and to develop your pool of national level Tropical Data trainers, do get in touch with us at training@tropicaldata.org

WHAT'S NEW?

TT-only surveys

During 2016 we piloted TT-only surveys in Uganda, Tanzania, Cameroon and Chad. These surveys are designed to estimate the prevalence of TT in adults aged ≥ 15 years and will not be routine surveys – they are expected to be used in only a limited number of scenarios, such as districts in which there is evidence of TT but no active trachoma.

Tropical Data is pleased to announce that the protocol and sampling methodology has now been validated and approved for this type of survey, allowing us to add it to our service and to support countries where there is a need. If you would like more detail about the approach or have any questions about these surveys, please do get in touch on admin@tropicaldata.org.

More languages

Tropical Data is now fully available in French, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic. This includes our online application and project management portal, as well as our Training materials.

GETTING STARTED

It's never too early to start planning your survey. We encourage any programme that knows they have upcoming surveys to register at application.tropicaldata.org so that we are aware of survey requirements and can allocate support from our team of epidemiologists to help with planning and drafting protocols.

As always we are happy to discuss your specific requirements or answer any questions you may have. Just get in touch at www.tropicaldata.org



TROPICAL DATA

Tropical Data helps countries to collect high quality data by providing epidemiological, training, logistical and data management support to national programmes carrying out all types of cross-sectional surveys on trachoma. More info at: www.tropicaldata.org