In 2012, the WHO African Regional Office (AFRO) NTD Programme, in collaboration with WHO headquarters in Geneva, the African Onchocerciasis Control Programme (APOC), and NTD control partners, including Research Triangle Institute (RTI), the Centre of Neglected Tropical Diseases (CNTD), the Center of Disease control (CDC), and Schistosomiasis Control Initiative (SCI), proposed the development of an IT database. Once the database developed, it should be used by the National NTD Programmes for the storage and management of data relating to NTD control and elimination activities. This tool will also be used for monitoring and evaluation of activities conducted at different levels of the health pyramid.

As part of the development of this new tool, a team from Research Triangle Institute (RTI) is at the headquarters of the African Programme for onchocerciasis control in Ouagadougou. RTI international is one of the world’s leading research institutes, dedicated to improving the human condition by turning knowledge into practice.

The team, made up of Kalpana Bhandari from RTI and Jennifer Fox, RTI consultant, is there to hold discussions with the Management of APOC to ensure that the new tool takes into account the specific needs of the Programme in terms of indicators for monitoring and evaluation, and reporting. The team will also demonstrate a preliminary version of the tool and collect suggestions that can contribute to its improvement. Capacity building training sessions are planned for the staff of national programmes early in 2014.

Honorat Zouré, head of the Biostatistics and Mapping service at APOC, said «The ultimate goal of this exercise is that all NTD partners agree on the reporting and integrated IT management data tools by developing the new software. For this purpose, variables, indicators, and expectations in the reporting of the implementation data of the Programme’s community-directed treatment with ivermectin will be taken into account». SEARO and WPRO are also interested in using this tool.