



Lomé Initiative

Fighting medicines that kill

Programme 2022-2024

Trafficking in falsified and substandard medicines (FSMs) deprives African patients of affordable quality medicines.

In January 2020, six African governments joined forces to fight this criminal activity that threatens public health, national security, and the rule of law. It also weakens the health economics.



Congo



Ghana



Niger



Senegal



Togo



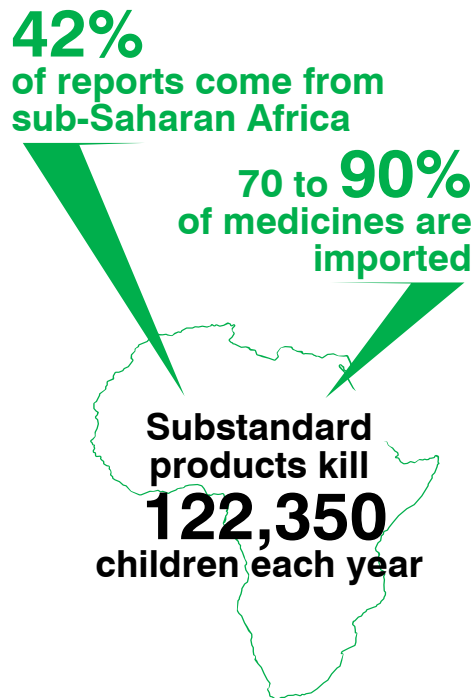
Uganda

with the support of the



Brazzaville Foundation

Trafficking in Falsified and Substandard Medicines (FSMs)



A public health issue

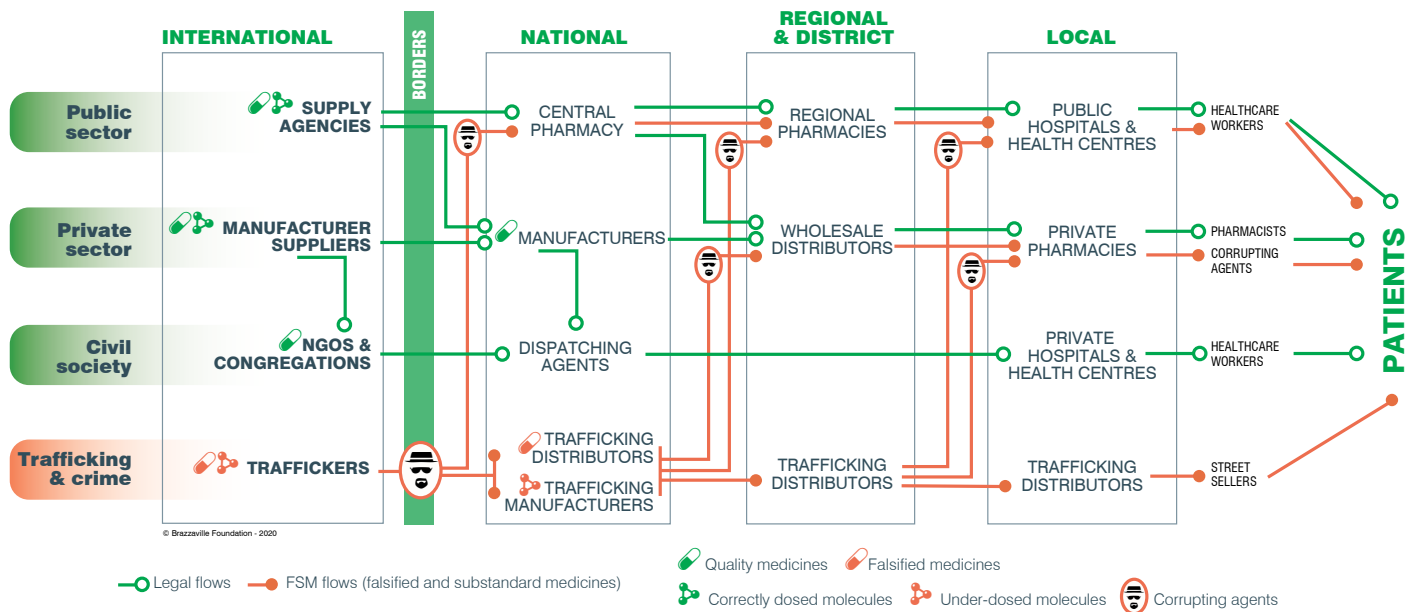
- Africa is highly dependent on drug imports: 70 to 90% of medicines consumed in sub-Saharan Africa are imported (*McKinsey, 2019*)
- Sub-Saharan Africa is extremely affected by the trafficking of falsified medicines: 42% of the trafficking reports reported to the WHO global monitoring system come from sub-Saharan Africa (*WHO, 2017*)
- All medicines are at risk of containing toxic or contraindicated substances: in March 2019, in Cameroon, numerous cases of hypoglycaemia revealed the presence of an anti-diabetic drug in an anti-hypertension medicine (*WHO, 2019*)
- **Drugs that kill:** each year, an estimated 122,350 deaths of children under five years old in the 39 sub-Saharan African countries surveyed are linked to the use of poor quality antimalarials (*The American Journal of tropical medicine and hygiene, 2015*)

A security, rule of law and health economics issue

- **Damage to African economies:** Socio-economic losses caused by trafficking in falsified and substandard medicines undermine the economies of African countries, particularly through money laundering (*UNODC, 2019*)
- **A traffic managed to varying degrees by organised crime** (*Pryzswa, 2013*)
- **The illegal drug market** is estimated to be worth \$200 billion worldwide (*World Economic Forum, 2011*)

The effects of corruption on the pharmaceutical supply chain

Observing the effects of corrupting agents on the pharmaceutical supply chain raises awareness of the need for (1) an inter-ministerial action at government level and (2) coordinated plans between the public and private sectors and civil society actors to effectively fight trafficking.





On Saturday 18 January 2020, H.E. Faure Gnassingbé, President of Togo, H.E. Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda, H.E. Macky Sall, President of Senegal, and representatives of the Republic of Congo, Ghana, and Niger launched the Lomé Initiative, with the support of the Brazzaville Foundation.

At the launch of the Lomé Initiative, the Heads of State signed a political declaration with the following objectives:

- To put in place legislation to criminalise trafficking in falsified and substandard medicines and to impose severe criminal sanctions.
- To sign and to ratify international agreements, notably the MEDICRIME Convention, the Palermo Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, and the treaty establishing the African Medicines Agency.

“ H.E. Faure Gnassingbé President of the Republic of Togo

This is the first time that we Africans have taken up the problem of fake medicines and their trafficking: a scourge of which our continent is the first victim and whose consequences are dramatic for our populations



“ Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus Director-General, World Health Organization, present at the Lomé summit

Two of the twelve actions in the WHO strategy relate to strengthening legal frameworks to combat the criminals who traffic them. It is important to strengthen the legal response to falsified and substandard medicines.



Methodology for national plans to fight FSMs

To respond to the challenges identified, member countries are called upon to implement national plans to fight FSMs, which are structured around four complementary areas of action and two levers of action.



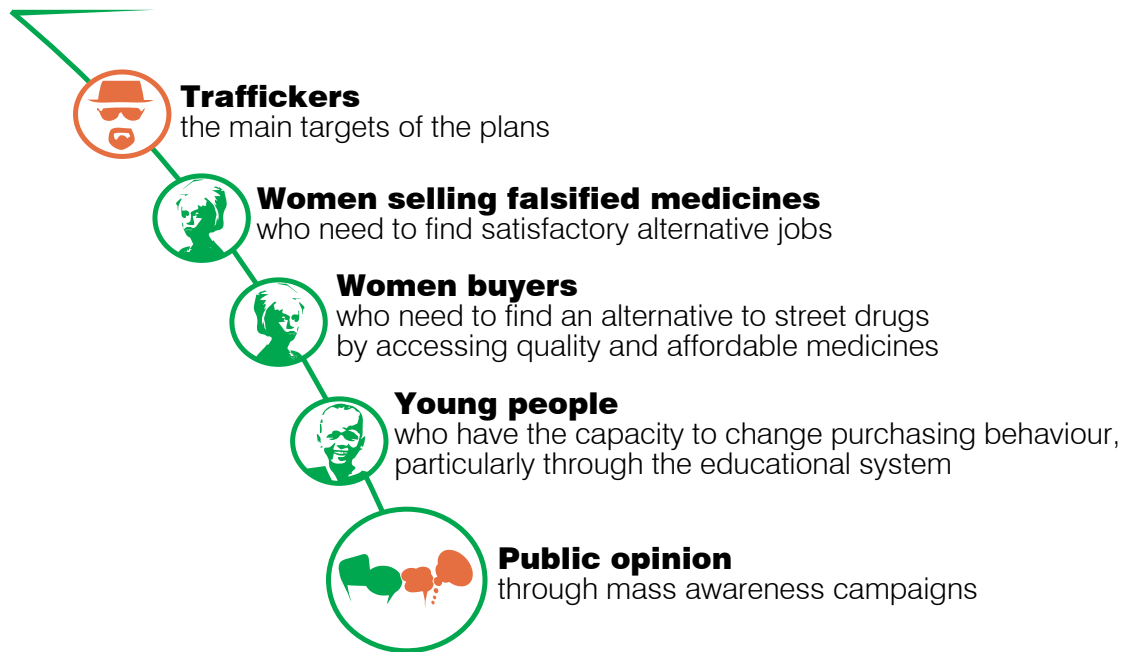
levers for action

1 A cross-cutting policy based on inter-ministerial action and the adoption of strong legislation

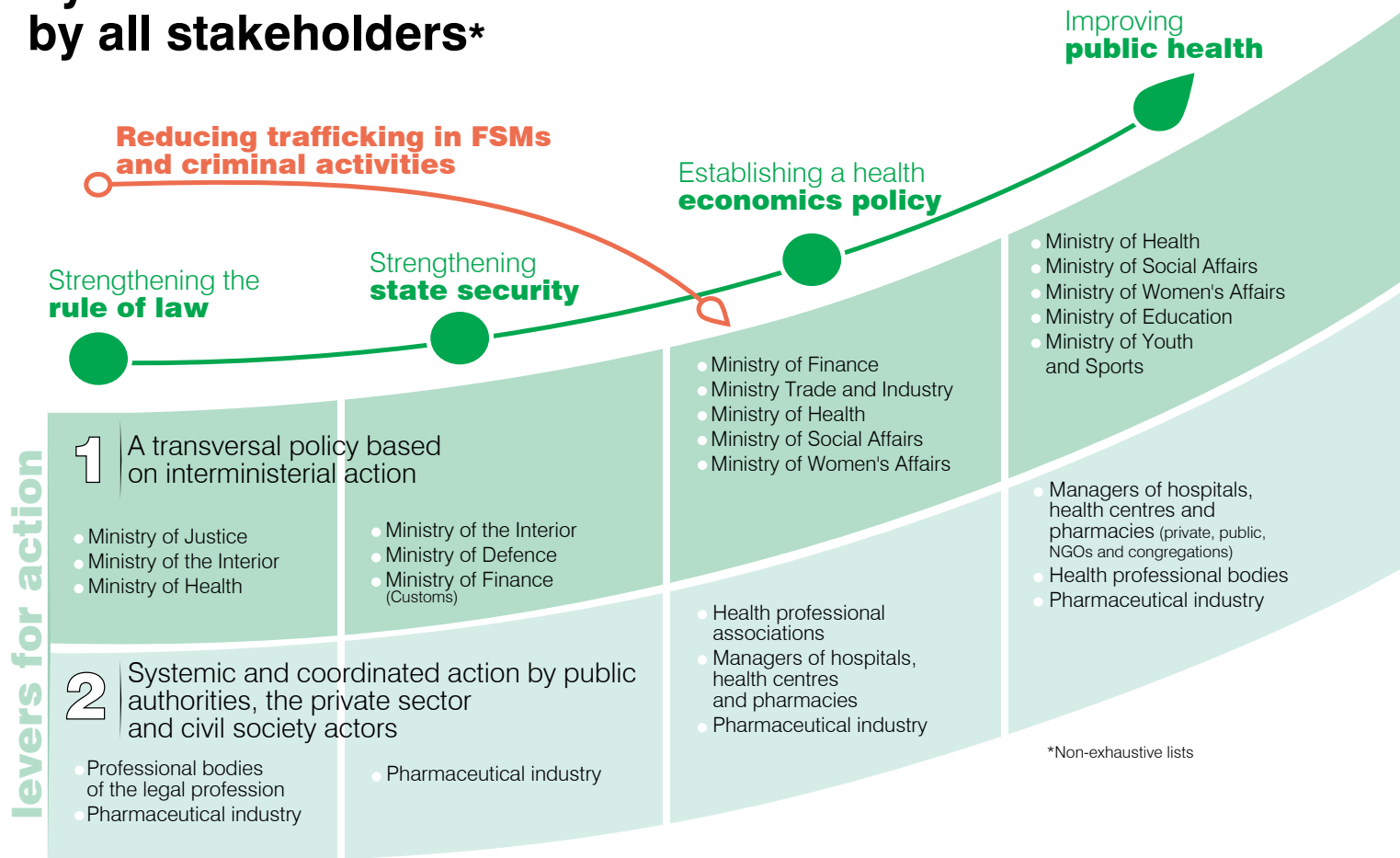
2 Systemic and coordinated action by public authorities, the private sector and civil society actors

Priority targets of the national plans to fight FSMs

Five priority targets have been identified to support behavioural changes among groups of individuals who can effectively contribute to the reduction of traffic of FSMs.

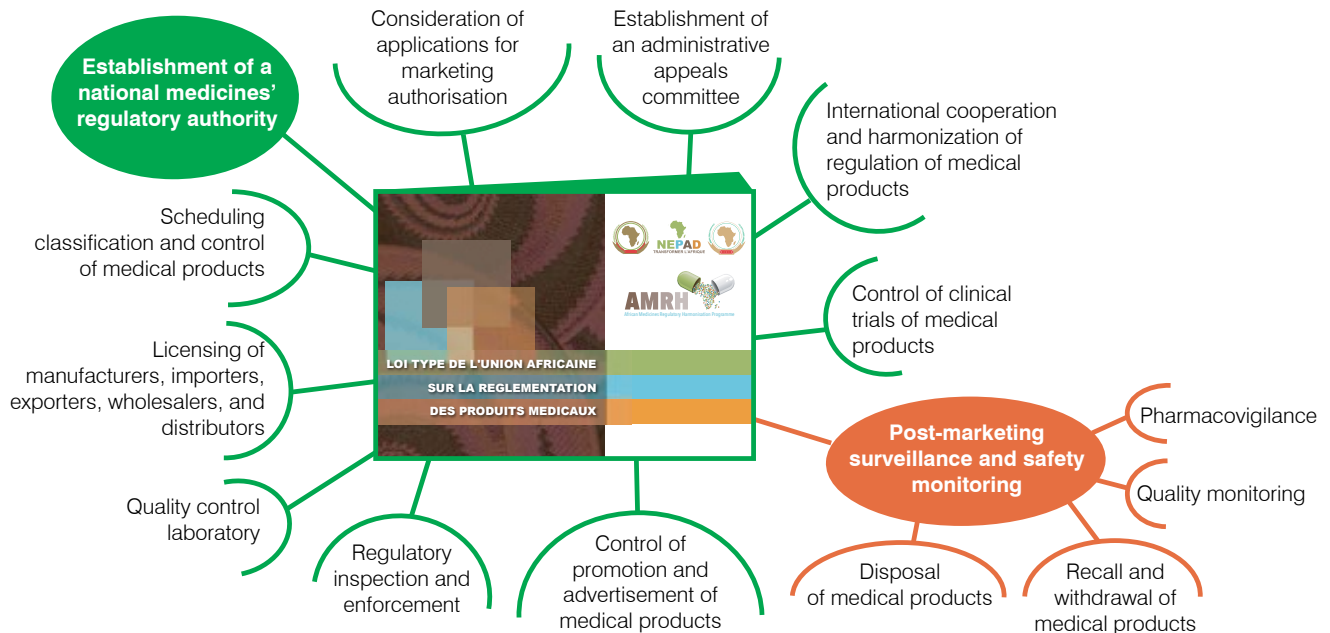


Systemic and coordinated action by all stakeholders*



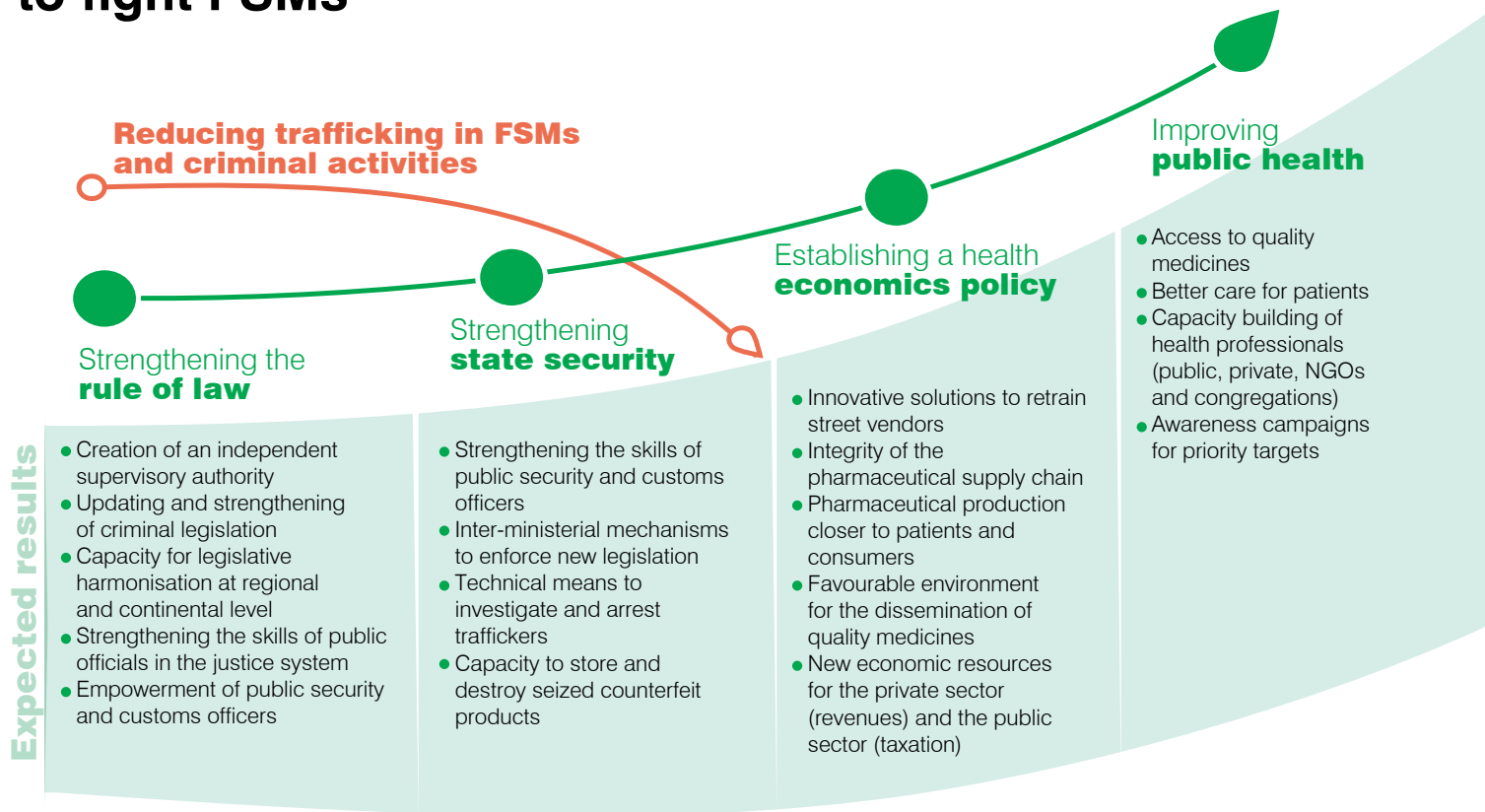
The legal response

The establishment of new legislation is at the heart of the Lomé Initiative, which provides for the ratification by signatory states of international treaties, including the one establishing the African Medicines Agency. This pan-African project includes the adoption, by each African country, of a model pharmaceutical law that aims to harmonise regulation at the continental level.



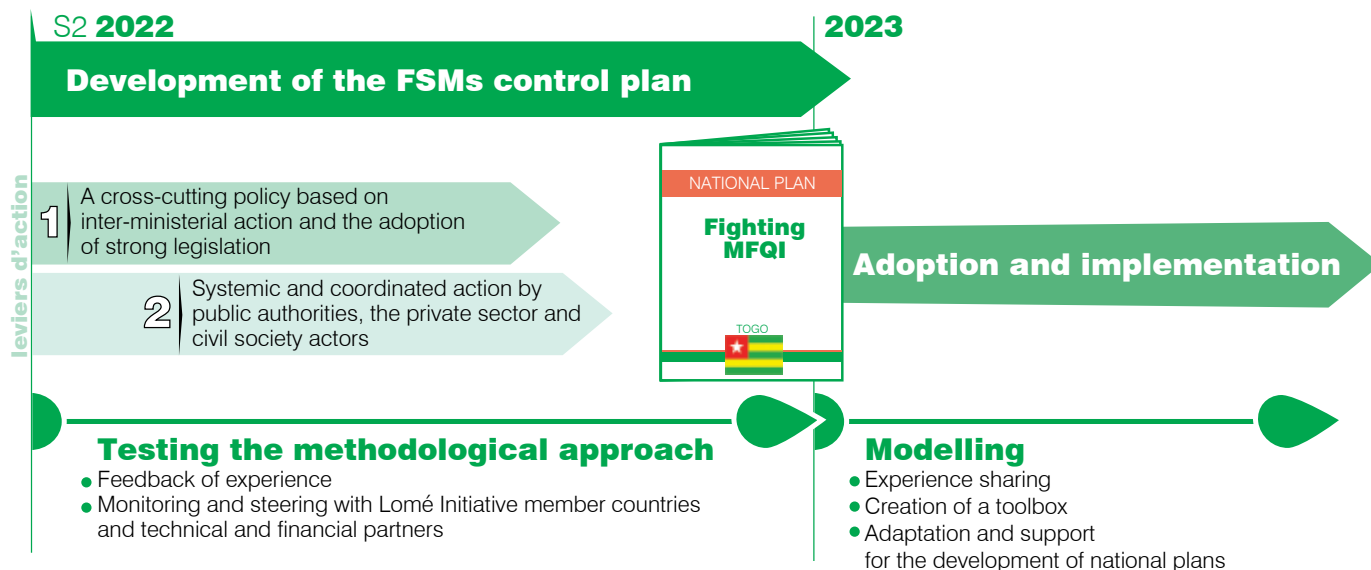
Components of the African Union Model
Pharmaceutical Law (Ncube et al., 2021.)

Expected results of national plans to fight FSMs



The pilot project in Togo and modelling of the methodology

Togo has applied to host a pilot project to test and model the methodology for developing a FSMs control plan.



Perspectives of the Lomé Initiative

The commitments of the signatory countries

- Develop and implement a national plan to fight FSMs
- Ratify international treaties (Palermo, MEDICRIME, African Medicines Agency)
- Adapt legislation, including the adoption of the African Union Model Pharmaceutical Law, and enforce it

Political and technical coordination

- Regular meetings of Ministers of Health of signatory states
- Regular meetings of Directors of Pharmacy and Directors of Regulatory Agencies
- Integration of candidate countries

Public affairs and international advocacy

- Relations with technical and financial partners
- Participation in international events
- Accompaniment for the signature of treaties and conventions

Capacity building

- International seminars and workshops
- International youth expert consultation

Photo left: Working meeting between the Minister of Health of Togo and the WHO Resident Representative, January 2021, in the presence of the Director General of the Brazzaville Foundation. Photo right: Participants at a UNODC seminar on transnational organised crime in Abidjan, March 2022.



The partnership framework

Member States

The signatory states are the project owners of the programme. The Republic of Togo is the host of the launching summit and is responsible for political coordination.



Congo



Senegal



Ghana



Togo



Niger



Uganda

Candidate States



Democratic Republic of Congo



Guinea Bissau



Gambia

Technical coordination

The Brazzaville Foundation is the project manager of the programme and as such is responsible for technical coordination.



Brazzaville Foundation

It has observer status on the Committee of Parties to the Council of Europe's Medicrime Convention (May 2021).



It is a member of the executive board of the Fight the Fakes Alliance (February 2022).



Cooperation and collaboration

The partners of the Lomé Initiative have cooperative and collaborative relationships with:

The World Health Organization headquarters, regional office, and country offices



The African Union (African Medicines Agency and AUDA-NEPAD)



UNODC headquarters and West and Central Africa office



The Executive Board of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations - IFPMA



The French Pharmaceutical Companies Association



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