The entire population of Angola is at risk of malaria. The annual reported number of suspected malaria cases in 2018 was 5,928,260 with 11,814 deaths.
Malaria
Sustaining Essential Health Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic is putting an incredible strain on health systems across Africa. Health systems are required to maintain routine health services for other illnesses even as they handle the additional burden. In order to prevent widespread morbidity and mortality, it is of vital importance that we work to sustain the delivery of essential life-saving interventions during this difficult time including for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent health and malaria.

WHO underlines the critical importance of sustaining efforts to prevent, detect and treat malaria during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is of vital importance to ensure the continuity of malaria prevention and treatment services including distribution of insecticide-treated nets and indoor residual spraying, as well as chemoprevention for pregnant women (intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy). Any intervention must consider the importance of both lowering malaria-related mortality and ensuring the safety of communities and health workers given the ease of transmission of COVID-19.

For Angola, the country is encouraged to sustain the delivery of essential health services including malaria case management, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Without this, it is estimated by WHO there will be an increase in malaria cases and deaths. Under the worst-case scenario, in which there is a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could be a 15.4% increase in malaria cases, and a 103.7% increase in malaria deaths in Angola. This scenario would represent a complete reversal in the substantial progress in malaria mortality reductions seen over the last 2 decades.

Global Fund Update
The Global Fund has announced that Angola will receive US$82,600,349 million for HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, and health systems strengthening as the country allocation for 2021-2023. The Global Fund has determined the total allocation amount based on Angola’s disease burden and income level, as well as several other factors. The malaria component is also allocated a specific proportion of the total, according to a formula developed by the Global Fund that takes into account several factors, including disease burden and previous disbursements. For Angola this is calculated at US$31,047,306 million. The allocations to the individual disease components are not fixed, and can be adjusted according to decisions made at country level. Angola is urged to ensure that resources are allocated to malaria control from the overall Global Fund country allocation, as well as from domestic resources, to further accelerate progress.

Progress
Sufficient financing has been secured for the LLINs, malaria diagnostics and treatment required by the country in 2020. However, the country has limited supplies of essential malaria commodities due to the COVID-19 pandemic delivery bottlenecks. Angola has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control Scorecard.

Impact
Angola reported 5,928,260 malaria cases with 11,814 malaria deaths in 2018.

Key Challenges
- There is a need to strengthen cross border collaboration with neighbouring countries.
- Sustaining the delivery of essential life-saving interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic including for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent and Child health including malaria.
### Previous Key Recommended Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Action Item</th>
<th>Suggested completion timeframe</th>
<th>Progress</th>
<th>Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address funding</td>
<td>Ensure the GF malaria funding application is submitted by Q3 2020 and ensure that resources are allocated to malaria control at a level that is sufficient to sustain the gains made in recent years</td>
<td>Q3 2020</td>
<td>Deliverable not yet due. The country application was delayed as the country was awaiting the allocation from the Global Fund. Planning is now ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>Investigate and address the reasons for the increase in estimated malaria incidence between 2015 and 2018</td>
<td>Q4 2020</td>
<td>Angola report that the observed increase in cases was caused by the following: a combined outbreak of malaria, dengue and yellow fever in 2015 and 2016; insufficient ACTs and RDTs due to a financial crisis; excessive rainfall leading to increased mosquito breeding sites and transmission; and a general weak surveillance and preparedness and response to malaria epidemics. In response, the country ordered a total of 3.2m ACT treatments; recruited Community Health Workers (ADECOS) to improve diagnosis and treatment; introduced DHIS2 for capture of surveillance data; carried out mass distribution of LLINs in the whole country; revised the treatment guidelines and protocol; disseminated a laboratory manual for improved diagnosis; IRS was re-introduced in southern Angola to address the malaria outbreaks; and carried out an operational research in Cunene and Cubango provinces to produce entomological and epidemiological data to guide malaria implementation.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vector control</td>
<td>Work to address the falling LLIN coverage</td>
<td>Q4 2020</td>
<td>In addressing the falling coverage in LLINs, the country through PMI and E8 has procured 1.5 million nets for distribution in 2020, however, delivery has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>Ensure that malaria services including case management and vector control are sustained and implemented whilst using COVID-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic</td>
<td>Q4 2020</td>
<td>Angola has experienced difficulties in data collection during the COVID-19 pandemic. The country has had some shortages of malaria commodities at central level and has worked to accelerate delivery of essential commodities. Plans have continued for vector control, with everything in place for the IRS programme, with the LLINs expected to be delivered in Q3</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The country has responded positively to finalising the policy on Community Case Management of malaria and pneumonia.

**RMNCAH and NTDs**

**Progress**

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Angola is demonstrated using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminths. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Angola is moderate for schistosomiasis (51%), low for soil transmitted helminths (25%) and onchocerciasis (20%) and very low for lymphatic filariasis (1%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index in 2018 is low (13), although there has been slight increase compared with 2017 (10).

### Previous Key Recommended Actions

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<tr>
<td>RMNCAH**: Optimise quality of care</td>
<td>Work to accelerate coverage of ARTs in the total population and in children under 14 years of age</td>
<td>Q1 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td>Angola updated the national HIV prevention, care and treatment guidelines to align with normative guidance from WHO and UNAIDS. Strategic priorities include focusing HIV testing services on key and vulnerable populations, re-defining, enhancing and expanding the package of HIV prevention, care and treatment services for key and vulnerable populations, implementation of the test and treat strategy and improving HIV diagnosis among children. There has been a 3% increase in coverage in children in the last year</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Investigate and address the reasons for the lack of data on vitamin A coverage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A bottleneck analysis to identify key constraints impairing optimum coverage of Vitamin A supplementation was planned in 2019. Unfortunately, a polio outbreak in 2019 overwhelmed the EPI programme capacity to respond and routine activities were put on hold. 2020 plans have been similarly disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Plans to undertake the bottleneck analysis are being assessed, including considering the feasibility to conduct the data collection and bottleneck analysis workshop, pending the lifting of Covid-19 imposed social distancing and travel restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ensure that essential RMNCAH services are sustained and implemented whilst using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. Address any stock-outs of essential RMNCAH commodities</td>
<td>Q4 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Deliverable not yet due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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1 RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
Angola has responded positively to the MNCH recommended actions addressing the lack of data on exclusive breastfeeding and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

**Key**

- **Action achieved**
- **Some progress**
- **No progress**
- **Deliverable not yet due**