Malaria is present throughout Burkina Faso, with transmission most intense in the southern part of the country. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 11,970,321 with 4,294 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, Adolescent and Child 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 and young children (intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy and seasonal malaria chemoprevention). 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 Burkina Faso, it will be of vital importance to ensure that the delivery of seasonal malaria chemoprevention planned for 2020 goes ahead as planned, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the recent guidance and recommendations from WHO. Without this campaign, coupled with the need to sustain essential health services including malaria case management, there will be an increase in malaria cases and deaths. Under the worst-case scenario, in which all ITN campaigns are suspended and there is a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could be a 10.3% increase in malaria cases, and a 73.9% increase in malaria deaths in Burkina Faso. This scenario would represent a complete reversal in the substantial progress in malaria mortality reductions seen over the last 2 decades.

Progress
Burkina Faso has scaled up coverage of iCCM and has procured sufficient LLINs to achieve universal operational coverage of the targeted at risk population. Burkina Faso has a high rating in public sector management systems (CPIA cluster D). The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO and has recently completed the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. Burkina Faso has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Scorecard. Burkina Faso has decreased the estimated malaria mortality rate by more than 40% since 2015. The country is also showing leadership in malaria control through participation in the High Burden High Impact approach.

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 11,970,321 with 4,294 deaths.

Key Challenges
- Insecticide resistance threatens vector control effectiveness.
- 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 Q2 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>Q2 2020</td>
<td>The country submitted the GF malaria application in Q2</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 Impact</td>
<td>The country has adequate stocks of RDTs and is working to accelerate the delivery of ACTs. The IRS campaign took place as planned, whilst planning is ongoing for the SMC campaigns beginning in Q3 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress
Burkina Faso has also made good progress in tracer RMNCAH interventions, including DPT3, exclusive breastfeeding and skilled birth attendants. Burkina Faso has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of the Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Burkina Faso is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis and trachoma. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Burkina Faso is high for schistosomiasis (100%), trachoma (100%), onchocerciasis (82%) and for lymphatic filariasis (77%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Burkina Faso in 2018 is 89 and shows a slight decrease compared to 2017 index (90).

Previous Key Recommended Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RMNCAH1: Impact</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>Deliverable not yet due</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Burkina Faso has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing the low coverage of ARTs in children, and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

1 RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
Key
- Green: Action achieved
- Yellow: Some progress
- Red: No progress
- Gray: Deliverable not yet due