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. IRS has commenced in five districts in the south of the country. 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></td>
<td>Deliverable not yet due but the country has begun work on the GF application and plans to submit in Q4 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vector control</td>
<td>Work to address the falling LLIN coverage</td>
<td>Q4 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Over 1 million LLINs were shipped to the country in Q2 with another 600,000 under procurement</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></td>
<td>Angola have seen some reductions in the reported malaria cases and deaths. Provinces are reporting short supplies of RDTs and ACTs. IRS has started in the 5 districts targeted in the south of the country. LLINs for routine distribution in 2 provinces have also arrived in the country</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The country has responded positively to finalising the policy on Community Case Management of malaria and pneumonia, and insecticide resistance monitoring and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

### 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><img src="progress.png" alt="Progress" /></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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Investigate and address the reasons for the lack of data on vitamin A coverage</td>
<td></td>
<td><img src="progress.png" alt="Progress" /></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. Vitamin A supplementation was delivered as part of the integrated nationwide polio, measles, rubella and vitamin A vaccination campaign conducted in September 2020 by Ministry of Health</td>
</tr>
<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><img src="progress.png" alt="Progress" /></td>
<td>Angola has adapted RMNCAH programming during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes innovative approaches to deliver services, including online remote trainings, mobile payments and virtual meetings with partners. The country has fast tracked procurements, working with partners including UNICEF to avoid stockouts, including EPI vaccines and immunization supplies, essential medicines and medical equipment. An integrated nationwide polio, measles, rubella and vitamin A vaccination campaign was conducted in September 2020 by Ministry of Health</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Angola has responded positively to the MNCH recommended action addressing the lack of data on exclusive breastfeeding and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.

### Key
- **Green**: Action achieved
- **Yellow**: Some progress
- **Red**: No progress
- **Gray**: Deliverable not yet due

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1. RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO