Malaria transmission occurs year-round in Cameroon and is most intense in the south of the country. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 2,471,514 with 3,256 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 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 Cameroon, it was of vital importance that the delivery of seasonal malaria chemoprevention planned for 2020 as well as the completion of the long-lasting insecticidal net (LLIN) universal coverage campaign in the remaining three regions went ahead as planned in 2020, including with the fast tracking of procurement and contracting of implementation partners, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the recent guidance and recommendations from WHO and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria. The country is congratulated for successfully implementing three rounds of SMC in Q3 2020. Without this SMC campaign, coupled with the need to sustain essential health services including malaria case management, there would have been 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 13.4% increase in malaria cases, and a 74.6% increase in malaria deaths in Cameroon. This scenario would represent a complete reversal in the substantial progress in malaria mortality reductions seen over the last 2 decades.

Progress
Cameroon secured the resources to cover the costs of the ACTs and RDTs needed in 2020. Cameroon has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. Cameroon has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control Scorecard. The country is also showing leadership in malaria control through its participation in the High Burden High Impact approach.

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 2,471,514 with 3,256 deaths.

Key Challenges
- Insecticide resistance.
- Delays in the completion of the universal coverage campaign.
- Sustaining the delivery of essential life-saving interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic including for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent and Child health including malaria.
<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>Vector Control</td>
<td>Work to ensure the LLIN universal coverage campaign is completed</td>
<td>Q2 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country completed the distribution of almost 1 million LLINs in Littoral in June. The Northwest distribution implementation is underway with microplanning completed, and training ongoing. Door to door registration and distribution is planned for October</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>Cameroun reports that it has faced stockouts and delays in the delivery of anti-malarial commodities including ACTs and SP. There has been a reluctance in the population to seek care through health facilities or CHWs leading to delays in treatment, and resulting in a slight decrease in cases and deaths. However, most malaria cases are being taken care of by CHWs. The country is currently strengthening the supplies for Health Centres and CHWs to continue to offer all the malaria control services packages. In addition, the country is continuing to implement LLIN and SMC campaigns with adaptation of strategies taking into account COVID 19 prevention measures. During the SMC campaigns, suspected cases of COVID are referred to health facilities for testing. PPE and hand sanitiser have been provided to everyone involved in the campaigns. Local town criers are working at community level to ensure that the second and third doses are taken</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RMNCAH and NTDs**  
**Progress**  
Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Cameroon is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Cameroon is high for trachoma (100%); and below WHO targets for onchocerciasis (64%), lymphatic filariasis (58%), soil transmitted helminths (34%) and schistosomiasis (25%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Cameroon in 2018 is 50 and this shows a substantial decrease compared with the 2017 index value (83).
## 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>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>Green</td>
<td>The country (with support from GFF) is currently undertaking an analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on RMNCAH services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The country has responded positively to previous recommended action on accelerating coverage of ARTs in the total population and in children under 14 years of age, with a 2% increase reported in the last year.

### Key

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

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO