Malaria transmission in Chad is intense in the south of the country. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 1,175, with 1,948 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 Chad, it was of vital importance to ensure that the universal coverage campaign for long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) be completed in 2020. The country is congratulated for rolling out the LLIN campaign. Under the worst-case scenario, in which the LLIN campaign is suspended and there is a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could be a 21.5% increase in malaria cases, and a 39.5% increase in malaria deaths in Chad. This scenario would represent a complete reversal in the substantial progress in malaria mortality reductions seen over the last 2 decades.

Progress

Chad has procured sufficient LLINs to achieve operational universal coverage of the targeted at risk population. Chad has also successfully rolled out the LLIN campaign, distributing nets door to door to ensure social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. The country has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Scorecard.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 1,175,041 with 1,948 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Weak health information system.
- Insufficient resources to fully implement the national strategic plan.
- Sustaining the delivery of essential life-saving interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic including for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent and Child health including malaria.
Chad has responded positively to the recommended actions for the development of the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan.

**RMNCAH and NTDs**

**Progress**
Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Chad 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 Chad is very good for lymphatic filariasis (75%) and onchocerciasis (72%), below WHO targets for schistosomiasis (71%), soil transmitted helminths (60%) and trachoma (51%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Chad in 2018 is 65, which represents a decrease compared with the 2017 index value (71).
## 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>✓</td>
<td>With partner support, the government have reinforced the surveillance system with training of laboratory technicians and supported their deployment supported advocacy and training of community leaders to ensure community safety and prevention messages, distribution of personal protection equipment to health staff and Community Health Workers. This has allowed the progressive resumption of health services. The government is advocating for more donor support since the COVID-19 pandemic continues to slow the national economy due to government restrictions. Loss and scarcity of employment opportunities due to COVID-19 has led to the erosion of purchasing power of very poor and poor households.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chad has responded positively to the recommended actions for skilled birth attendants, exclusive breastfeeding, ART coverage in children, with a 3% increase reported over the last year, and vitamin A, and postnatal care coverage and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

### Key
- Action achieved
- Some progress
- No progress
- Deliverable not yet due

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO