Nearly 50% of the population of Djibouti is at low risk of malaria, while the remaining in the desert is free of malaria. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 25,319.
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. 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 Djibouti, with the indoor residual spraying (IRS) campaign planned for the fourth quarter of 2020, it will be of vital importance that the insecticides for the campaign are ordered on time and that the IRS campaign goes ahead, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the recent guidance and recommendations from WHO. Without this IRS, coupled with the need to sustain essential health services including malaria case management, there will be an increase in malaria cases and deaths.

Progress

The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. Djibouti has decreased the estimated malaria mortality rate by more than 40% since 2015. The country has recently increased the quality of their public sector management systems (CPIA cluster D).

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 25,319.

Key challenges

- Increases in malaria cases have been experienced in the country since 2015.
- 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>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>Djibouti has faced stock outs of ACTs and RDTs. Some emergency funds have been secured to cover some of these stock outs, whilst WHO has provided case management supplies. Vector control interventions have been completed for refugees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address funding</td>
<td>With the GF funding application being sent back for iteration, work to address the comments of the TRP and resubmit</td>
<td>Q4 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Djibouti resubmitted the GF funding request</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The country has responded to the recommended action on finalising the insecticide resistance management and monitoring plan, and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.

### RMNCAH and NTDs

**Progress**

Djibouti has achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH intervention skilled birth attendants. Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Djibouti is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for soil transmitted helminths. The country has not reported preventive chemotherapy coverage in 2018 to WHO.

## Previous Key Recommended Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NTDs</td>
<td>Take steps to confirm the epidemiological situation of Soil Transmitted Helminths and Schistosomiasis to determine the extent to which interventions for preventive chemotherapy are required. For trachoma, should Djibouti wish to submit a dossier to be validated as having eliminated trachoma as a public health problem, begin compiling data using the WHO Dossier preparation guidelines</td>
<td>Q1 2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>Djibouti has submitted a request for consultant support to assist in the mapping of the endemic NTDs. Once this mapping is completed, the country plans to carry out MDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTDs</td>
<td>Submit the preventive chemotherapy coverage data for Soil Transmitted Helminths to WHO</td>
<td>Q1 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country confirms that MDA was not conducted in Djibouti between 2015-2019. The country submitted a request for consultant support to WHO to map endemic NTDs in Djibouti and MDAs will be conducted once the mapping is done based on the results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Action Item</td>
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</tr>
<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>

Djibouti has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing low coverage of exclusive breastfeeding and the country continues to track progress as this action is implemented. Djibouti has also responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing lack of data on postnatal care and vitamin A coverage and low coverage of ARTs, with small increases recently reported and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

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

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1 RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO