The entire population of Guinea is at risk of malaria. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 1,599,625 with 1,267 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.

The country is encouraged to sustain the delivery of essential health services including malaria case management, coupled with the planned delivery of seasonal malaria chemoprevention, during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the whole of the continent learning lessons from your country’s experience during the Ebola outbreak. The country is congratulated for completing three rounds of SMC to date. Without this sustained health system delivery, 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 6.2% increase in malaria cases, and a 30.9% increase in malaria deaths in Guinea. This scenario would represent a complete reversal in the substantial progress in malaria mortality reductions seen over the last 2 decades.

Progress

Guinea has secured sufficient resources for the majority of the RDTs and LLINs required in 2020. The country has completed the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan, carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. Guinea has procured sufficient LLINs to achieve universal operational coverage of the targeted at risk population. The country has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control and Elimination Scorecard.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 1,599,625 with 1,267 deaths.

Key Challenge

- Sustaining the delivery of essential life-saving interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic including for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent and Child health including malaria.
RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress
Guinea has achieved high coverage of vitamin A, and recently increased coverage of exclusive breast feeding.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Guinea 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 Guinea is very good for schistosomiasis (92%), lymphatic filariasis (79%) and onchocerciasis (75%). Preventive chemotherapy coverage is below WHO target for soil transmitted helminths (62%) and trachoma (35%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Guinea in 2018 is 65, which represents a substantial decrease compared with the 2017 index value (87).

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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RMNCAH: Optimise quality of care</td>
<td>a) Address the falling coverage of skilled birth attendants</td>
<td>Q1 2021</td>
<td>Deliverable not yet due</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Address the falling coverage of postnatal care</td>
<td>Q1 2021</td>
<td>Deliverable not yet due</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c) 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>
Guinea has responded on the recommended actions on low coverage of ARTs, with recent data indicating coverage of this intervention has increased.

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