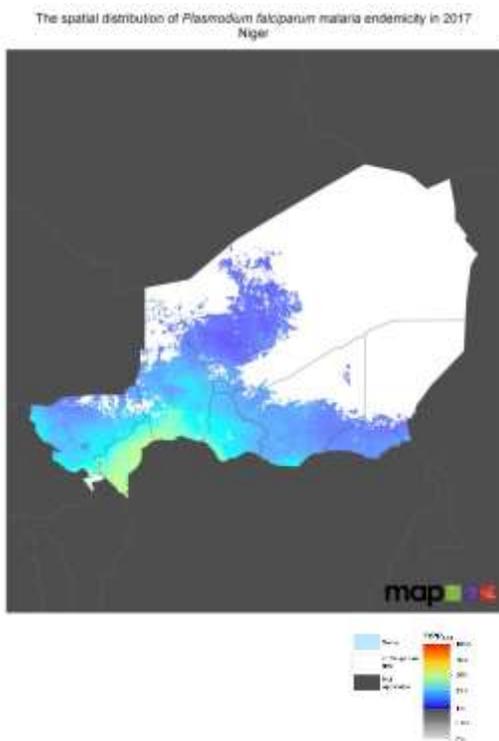


Scorecard for Accountability and Action



Malaria transmission is most intense in the south whilst the desert areas in the north are malaria-free. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 3,358,058 with 3,576 deaths.

Metrics

Commodities Financed and Financial Control		
LLIN financing 2020 projection (% of need)	100	100
Public sector RDT financing 2020 projection (% of need)	100	100
Public sector ACT financing 2020 projection (% of need)	100	100
World Bank rating on public sector management and institutions 2019 (CPIA Cluster D)	3.1	3.1
Insecticide Resistance Monitoring, Implementation and Impact		
Insecticide classes with mosquito resistance in representative sentinel sites confirmed since 2010	4	4
Insecticide resistance monitored since 2015 and data reported to WHO	100	100
National Insecticide Resistance Monitoring and Management Plan	100	100
RDTs in stock (>9 months stock)	100	100
ACTs in stock (>9 months stock)	100	100
LLINIRS campaign on track	100	100
Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign	100	100
Scale of Implementation of ICCM (2017)	100	100
Operational LLINIRS coverage (% of at risk population)	100	100
On track to reduce case incidence by ≥40% by 2020 (vs 2015)	100	100
On track to reduce case mortality by ≥40% by 2020 (vs 2015)	100	100
Tracer Indicators for Maternal and Child Health and NTDs		
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2018)	56	56
Estimated % of Total Population living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2019)	61	61
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2019)	42	42
% deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant	40	40
Postnatal care (within 48 hrs)	37	37
Exclusive breastfeeding (% children < 6 months)	33	33
Vitamin A Coverage 2018 (2 doses)	64	64
DPT3 coverage 2019 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)	81	81

Key

100	Target achieved or on track
100	Progress but more effort required
100	Not on track
100	No data
100	Not applicable

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 Niger, we commend the Ministry of Health, in the decision to go ahead with the universal coverage campaign for long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs), as well as rolling out SMC, in accordance with the recent guidance and recommendations from WHO and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria. WHO modelling suggests that this decision, allied with sustained malaria case management through the health system, and seasonal malaria chemoprevention campaigns will prevent a significant increase in cases and deaths. The country is commended for this commitment to the fight against malaria. 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 17.6% increase in malaria cases, and a 100.7% increase in malaria deaths in Niger. This scenario would represent a complete reversal in the substantial progress in malaria mortality reductions seen over the last 2 decades.

Progress

Niger has mobilised the required financing to procure and distribute LLINs, ACTs and RDTs required for 2020. The country has procured sufficient LLINs to achieve universal operational coverage of the targeted population. Niger has completed the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan and has recently reported the results of insecticide resistance testing to WHO. The country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Control Scorecard. The country is also showing leadership in malaria control through its participation in the High Burden High Impact approach. Niger has launched its Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 3,358,058 with 3,576 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Insufficient resources to achieve high coverage of essential malaria interventions.
- 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

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
Impact	Ensure that malaria services including case management and vector control are sustained and implemented whilst using COVID-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic	Q4 2020		The country developed a COVID-19 contingency plan to ensure malaria activities are minimally interrupted, with some front loading of activities that were supposed to happen in July 2020. Despite Covid-19, the country has been able to do a review and re-write of their strategic plan, submitted their Global Fund application, conducted an LLIN campaign in 44 districts to supplement routine channels, and continued the distribution of other anti-malarial commodities. Three rounds of SMC were completed in Q3 2020, with one round remaining in Q4 2020. There are reports of increased rainfall leading to increases in cases

Niger has responded positively to the recommended action addressing resource mobilisation and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

The country has achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH intervention vitamin A. The country has enhanced tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Niger is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Niger is high for schistosomiasis (100%); good for soil transmitted helminths (76%) and for lymphatic filariasis (74%) and low for trachoma (18%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Niger in 2018 is 56.

Previous Key Recommended Actions

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
NTDs	Carry out mapping for elimination of Onchocerciasis to identify if there are some areas where elimination has occurred	Q3 2019		Niger has completed the mapping for onchocerciasis elimination. The country organised the local experts' meeting for data review and analysis to determine the next steps, and is planning an external experts' meeting post COVID-19
RMNCAH ¹ : Impact	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	Q4 2020		Deliverable not yet due

Niger has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing low coverage of skilled birth attendants, postnatal care and exclusive breastfeeding, and ARTs coverage in children (with recent increases in coverage reported), 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