The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 4,198,029 with 341 deaths.

The spatial distribution of Plasmodium falciparum malaria endemicity in 2017 Rwanda
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 (intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy). 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 Rwanda, we commend the Ministry of Health, in the decision to go ahead with the universal coverage campaign for LLINs and IRS, in accordance with the recent guidance and recommendations from WHO and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria. Based on WHO modeling, this decision, allied with sustained malaria case management through the health system, will prevent a significant 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 have been a 33.9% increase in malaria cases, and a 100.1% increase in malaria deaths in Rwanda. This scenario would represent a complete reversal in the substantial progress in malaria mortality reductions seen over the last 2 decades.

Progress
Rwanda has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO and has completed the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. The country has rolled out iCCM countrywide and has secured sufficient resources to distribute the required LLINs, ACTs and RDTs in 2020. Rwanda has implemented an emergency response programme to address the upsurge in malaria cases. The country has a high rating in terms of public sector management systems (CPIA cluster D). Rwanda has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Control Scorecard.

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 4,198,029 with 341 deaths.

Key Challenges
- Reported malaria upsurges from 2015.
- Gaps in funding to support IRS scale-up.
- 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>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>Malaria control activities are continuing in Rwanda whilst respecting COVID-19 preventive measures. Malaria Case management activities at health facility level and through Home Based Management are continuing. 24 districts received LLINs through the mass campaign. The remaining LLINs for 6 districts will complete the distribution in Q4 2020. Regarding IRS, in Q2 2020, IRS was conducted in 3 targeted districts as planned with preparations ongoing for IRS in 2 targeted districts to be completed in October 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rwanda has responded positively to the previous recommended action on the increase in cases observed since 2010 and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

**RMNCAH and NTDs**

**Progress**

Rwanda has achieved high coverage of tracer RMNCAH interventions, including exclusive breastfeeding, vitamin A, ARTs in the total population, DPT3 vaccination and skilled birth attendants. The country has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Rwanda is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for schistosomiasis, and soil transmitted helminths. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Rwanda is high for soil transmitted helminths (99%), and slightly below WHO target for schistosomiasis (73%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Rwanda in 2018 is 85, which represents an increase compared with the 2017 index value (80).
<table>
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</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>RMNCAH services have continued in all health facilities whilst respecting COVID-19 protective measures. A Maternal and Child Health week is planned in December 2020 and preparations are ongoing. A rapid assessment on impact of COVID 19 on RMNCAH services was conducted using the adapted UN tool. The RMNCAH scorecard was updated by revising and increasing the number of indicators tracked</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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