The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 536,745 and 555 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 of COVID-19. 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 Senegal, it will be of vital importance that the country sustains essential health services including malaria case management. Without the 2020 SMC campaign, coupled with sustained malaria case management, there would be an increase in malaria cases and deaths. The country is commended for rolling out SMC in Q3 2020. 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 19.5% increase in malaria cases, and a 79.9% increase in malaria deaths in Senegal. This scenario would represent a complete reversal in the substantial progress in malaria mortality reductions seen over the last 2 decades.

Progress
Senegal has implemented iCCM country wide. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. The country has recently finalised the insecticide resistance management and monitoring plan. Senegal has secured sufficient resources to sustain universal coverage of essential malaria control interventions in 2020 and has distributed sufficient LLINs to achieve universal operational coverage in the targeted at risk population. Senegal has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control and Elimination Scorecard. Senegal has put in place strong public sector management systems and has achieved a rating of 3.5 for Cluster D CPIA. Senegal was the first country to launch the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign. The country is applauded for loaning TDTs to The Gambia to address the country’s stockout during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 536,745 and 555 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.
**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>The country has sufficient stocks of essential antimalarial commodities and loaned RDTs to The Gambia to prevent a stock out. IRS was completed and SMC in ongoing with three rounds completed by the end of quarter 3 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RMNCAH and NTDs**

**Progress**

Senegal has achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH interventions DPT3 and postnatal care, and has recently increased coverage of ARTs in children and the total population, as well as skilled birth attendants. The country has 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 Senegal 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 Senegal is high for onchocerciasis at 94% and below WHO targets for schistosomiasis (67%), lymphatic filariasis (62%), soil transmitted helminths (34%) and preventive chemotherapy was not implemented for trachoma (0%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Senegal in 2018 is low (17), which represents a large decrease compared with the 2017 index value (71).

**Previous Key Recommended Actions**

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NTDs</td>
<td>Work to increase the preventive chemotherapy for Soil Transmitted Helminths, lymphatic filariasis and schistosomiasis to reach WHO targets along with onchocerciasis and implement preventive chemotherapy for trachoma</td>
<td>Q4 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Despite the availability of deworming medicines, the country did not manage to organize MDA for SCH and STH in December 2019 as planned due to the lack of operational funds. The country is working to mobilise resources and is planning MDA in December 2020</td>
</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></td>
<td>The country worked to ensure that services were maintained during the pandemic period. The Directorate of Maternal and Child Health used WHO COVID-19 guidelines. A situational analysis of services in health facilities has helped the development of a contingency plan to ensure the continued availability and use of services during this period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
Senegal responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing low coverage of ARTs in children, with increased coverage recently achieved.

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