In Cabo Verde, 58% of the population lives in areas where there is a low risk of malaria; the rest of the country is malaria-free. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 40 with zero 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, Neglected Tropical Diseases and malaria.

For Cabo Verde, it was of vital importance that the indoor residual spraying (IRS) campaign planned for 2020 went ahead as planned, 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 would have been an increase in malaria cases and deaths.

It is essential to ensure the continuity of malaria, RMNCAH and NTD services in 2021 as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our continent. This may include the implementation of any necessary catch-up activities and ensuring timely planning to account for potential delays in procurement and delivery. Any intervention must ensure the safety of communities and health workers given the ease of transmission of COVID-19.

Progress
Cabo Verde secured sufficient resources to sustain universal coverage of ACTs and RDTs in 2020. WHO identified Cabo Verde as being a country with the potential to eliminate local transmission of malaria by 2020. The country has completed the insecticide resistance management and implementation plan and has submitted insecticide resistance data to WHO. Cabo Verde has more than nine months of stocks of ACTs and RDTs but there were delays in the delivery of insecticide for IRS, however, IRS is now ongoing. Cabo Verde has a high rating in terms of public sector management systems (CPIA cluster D). The country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Elimination Scorecard.

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 40 with zero deaths.

Key Challenges
- Sustaining malaria control gains as the country prepares for elimination.
- Sustaining the delivery of essential life-saving interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic including for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent and Child health, malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases.
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>Cabo Verde rolled out IRS in Q2 2020, but the campaign was paused whilst awaiting the delivery of additional insecticide, which arrived at the end of August allowing for the resumption of the spraying. The country has adequate stocks of ACTs and RDTs. The economy has been impacted with a slowdown in socio-economic activities, including a significant impact on tourism. In the health sector, the provision of all health services has declined because attention is focused on urgent measures to prevent and treat COVID-19. The country has submitted an emergency plan to be able to fight COVID-19. Some planned activities such as supervisory visits, were not implemented during the COVID-19 lock-down</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RMNCAH and NTDs
Progress
The country has achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH interventions, DPT3 vaccination, skilled birth attendants, exclusive breastfeeding and coverage of ARTs in the total population.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Cabo Verde is measured using preventive chemotherapy achieved for soil transmitted helminths. The preventive chemotherapy coverage for soil transmitted helminths in Cabo Verde is 63% and below the WHO target. The overall NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Cabo Verde is 63 in 2019, which represents a decrease compared with the 2018 index value (70).
## Previous Key Recommended Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RMNCAH:</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>RMNCAH services were mostly affected at the beginning of the pandemic, with a reduction in the demand for primary care by the population due to the fear of contracting the disease, financial duress and lack of transport options. The country responded by task-shifting health technicians to COVID related activities and requiring spacing of appointments to maintain social distancing. In this reorganization, essential RMNCAH services were not neglected. The Ministry of Health released an official decree for health facilities to ensure a continuation of priority care in sexual and reproductive health services, child health and vaccination, antenatal and postnatal care, family planning, and services for patients with chronic diseases, and emergencies. The country developed procedures to assist health facilities impose a series of prevention and protection measures, to be strictly complied with by users and health professionals during COVID. Guidelines have also been developed for caring with confirmed COVID cases in pregnant women, during child birth, children and adolescents. Additionally, TV and radio spots have been amplified during COVID promoting reproductive health services of mothers, new-borns, children and adolescents, respecting individual prevention and protection measures.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cabo Verde has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing lack of data on postnatal care, ART coverage in children and vitamin A and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

## New Key Recommended Action

<table>
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<th>Suggested completion timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NTDs</td>
<td>Ensure that NTD interventions including Mass Drug Administration, vector control and Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention are sustained and implemented whilst using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. This includes prioritising key necessary catch up activities</td>
<td>Q4 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO