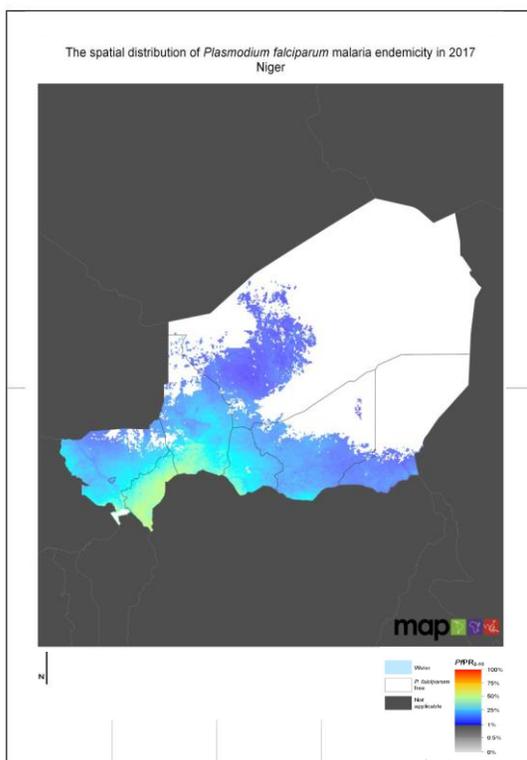


Scorecard for Accountability and Action



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 2019 was 3,434,163 with 4449 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	
Insecticide Resistance Monitoring, Implementation and Impact		
Insecticide classes with mosquito resistance in representative sentinel sites confirmed since 2010	4	
Insecticide resistance monitored since 2015 and data reported to WHO		
National Insecticide Resistance Monitoring and Management Plan		
RDTs in stock (>9 months stock)		
ACTs in stock (>9 months stock)		
LLIN/IRS campaign on track		
Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign		
Scale of Implementation of iCCM		
Operational LLIN/IRS coverage (% of at risk population)	100	
On track to reduce case incidence by $\geq 40\%$ by 2020 (vs 2015)		
On track to reduce case mortality by $\geq 40\%$ by 2020 (vs 2015)		
Tracer Indicators for Maternal and Child Health and NTDs		
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2019)	74	
Estimated % of Total Population living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2019)	61	
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2019)	42	
% deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant	40	
Postnatal care (within 48 hrs)	37	
Exclusive breastfeeding (% children < 6 months)	23	
Vitamin A Coverage 2018 (2 doses)	64	
DPT3 coverage 2019 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)	81	

Key

	Target achieved or on track
	Progress but more effort required
	Not on track
	No data
	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, Neglected Tropical Diseases and malaria.

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 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.

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

Niger 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 2019 was 3,434,163 with 4449 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, malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases.

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. COVID-19 has led to increased programming costs and switching fixed site distributions to door to door approaches. 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. Four rounds of SMC were completed in 2020. There are reports of increased rainfall leading to increases in cases. The country has reprogrammed resources to procure additional ACTs and RDTs to ensure stocks are sufficient to address any increase 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%) and good for soil-transmitted helminths (73%), for lymphatic filariasis (65%) and for trachoma (63%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Niger in 2019 is 74, which represents a very substantial increase compared with the 2018 index value (60).

Previous Key Recommended Actions

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
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		No progress reported

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.

New Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
NTDs	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	Q4 2021

Key

	Action achieved
	Some progress
	No progress
	Deliverable not yet due

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO

