The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 3,572,761 with 224 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. 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 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 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 in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Nigeria 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 Nigeria is high for schistosomiasis (99%) and for onchocerciasis (80%), good for soil transmitted helminths (76%), for trachoma (67%) and for lymphatic filariasis (62%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Nigeria in 2019 is 76, which represents a substantial increase compared with the 2018 index value (60).

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. The country has launched the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 3,572,761 with 224 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Reported malaria upsurges from 2015.
- 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>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. The LLIN campaign completion was initially delayed due to delays in commodity delivery but the campaign was completed in 2020. IRS was also completed. Resources to cover the additional costs were secured through the Global Fund.</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 this action is implemented.

New Key Recommended Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Action Item</th>
<th>Suggested completion timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>Investigate and address the reasons for the increase in estimated malaria incidence and mortality between 2015 and 2019, which means that the country is not on track to achieve the 2020 target of a 40% reduction in malaria incidence and mortality</td>
<td>Q4 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 good for schistosomiasis (70%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Rwanda in 2019 is 83, which represents a large increase compared with the 2018 index value (85).
### Previous Key Recommended Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
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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>RMNCAH services continue to be provided and COVID-19 restrictions have been eased. A new assessment on the impact of COVID-19 has been initiated. Preparation of the next MCH week is ongoing but it may be conducted in January 2021 when all primary schools will resume</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### New Key Recommended Action

<table>
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<th>Action Item</th>
<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>

### 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