The entire population of Angola is at risk of malaria. The annual reported number of suspected malaria cases in 2019 was 7,530,788 with 18,691 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 Angola, the country is encouraged to sustain the delivery of essential health services including malaria case management, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Without this, it is estimated by WHO there will be an increase in malaria cases and deaths. 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 15.4% increase in malaria cases, and a 103.7% increase in malaria deaths in Angola. 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
IRS has been rolled out in five districts in the south. The country has submitted insecticide resistance data to WHO.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Angola has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control Scorecard. This has recently been updated, with new indicators added.

Impact
The annual reported number of suspected malaria cases in 2019 was 7,530,788 with 18,691 deaths.

Key Challenges
- There is a need to strengthen cross border collaboration with neighbouring countries.
- 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.
<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>Angola has continued implementing essential malaria services during the COVID-19 pandemic with provision of support and supervision, training, implementing of iCCM and SBC. Treatment of malaria according to treatment guidelines continued even though the country experienced some stockouts of RDTs and nets for routine distribution. IRS in the southern part of the country continued covering the 5 targeted districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>Investigate and address the reasons for the increase in estimated malaria incidence 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</td>
<td>Q4 2021</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>Angola report that the observed increase in cases was caused by the following: insufficient ACTs and RDTs due to a financial crisis; excessive rainfall leading to increased mosquito breeding sites and transmission; and a weak surveillance and preparedness and response to malaria epidemics. In response, the country recruited Community Health Workers (ADECOS) to improve diagnosis and treatment; introduced DHIS2 to capture surveillance data; revised the treatment guidelines and protocol; disseminated a laboratory manual for improved diagnosis; IRS was re-introduced in southern Angola to address the malaria outbreaks; and operational research was carried out in Cunene and Cubango provinces to produce entomological and epidemiological data to guide malaria implementation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address vector control coverage</td>
<td>Address falling vector control coverage</td>
<td>Q4 2021</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>600,000 LLINS were shipped to Angola in the last quarter of 2020.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The country has responded positively to finalising the policy on Community Case Management of malaria and pneumonia, and insecticide resistance monitoring and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

**RMNCAH and NTDs**

**Progress**

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Angola is demonstrated using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminths. Preventive chemotherapy coverage for trachoma is very low (1%), low for lymphatic filariasis (11%), onchocerciasis (12%), for soil transmitted helminths (14%), and for schistosomiasis is 27%. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index is
Previous Key Recommended Actions

<table>
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<tr>
<td>RMNCAH¹: Optimise quality of care</td>
<td>Work to accelerate coverage of ARTs in the total population and in children under 14 years of age</td>
<td>Q1 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td>Angola updated the national HIV prevention, care and treatment guidelines to align with normative guidance from WHO and UNAIDS. Strategic priorities include focusing HIV testing services on key and vulnerable populations, re-defining, enhancing and expanding the package of HIV prevention, care and treatment services for key and vulnerable populations, implementation of the test and treat strategy and improving HIV diagnosis among children.</td>
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<tr>
<td></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>During the first quarter of 2021, the MoH Angola, continued to ensure that essential RMNCAH services were provided at all levels of the health system, especially at primary health care level. The PHC department conducted field supervision visits to the provinces affected by drought supported by the World Bank, in order to monitor the degree of implementation of Nutrition programmes and conducted health provider training in 4 provinces in family planning. The Primary Health Care Department conducted a meeting with partners to review and update the joint annual work plan with a focus on the improvement of RMNCAH. The MoH started the Covid-19 vaccination campaign of frontline workers and target risk groups. An Emergency Response to Covid-19 Health project will contribute to increasing access to life-saving interventions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the survival, well-being and resilience of the populations of Luanda, specifically the inhabitants of selected districts where COVID-19 infection rates were higher and where they present multidimensional poverty indicators. The MoH conducted an assessment in the 49 health facilities on the provision of essential RMNCAH services.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
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| NTDs      | Work to increase the coverage of all the preventive chemotherapy 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 | | From June to December 2019, the country updated its epidemiological profile for all the MDA NTDs however, this also impacted the coverage of MDA. In relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, Angola, like other countries, interrupted some planned interventions in the first half of 2020, and then resumed them in the 3rd quarter of 2020. This included the targeting of the 48 endemic municipalities with Onchocerciasis and 49 of the 53 endemic municipalities with Lymphatic Filariasis. The remaining 4 districts will be targeted in 2021. In Q1 2021, Angola began to implement the school-age deworming campaigns which were interrupted the previous year in seven provinces. Despite the critical state of the Covid-19 pandemic, the MDA campaigns have complied with COVID-19 prevention guidelines to avoid the risk of transmission including through encouraging hand washing and social distancing. These campaigns are supported by the NGO MENTOR Initiative.

Angola has responded positively to the MNCH recommended action addressing the lack of data on exclusive breastfeeding and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.

**Key**

- [ ] Action achieved
- [ ] Some progress
- [ ] No progress
- [ ] Deliverable not yet due