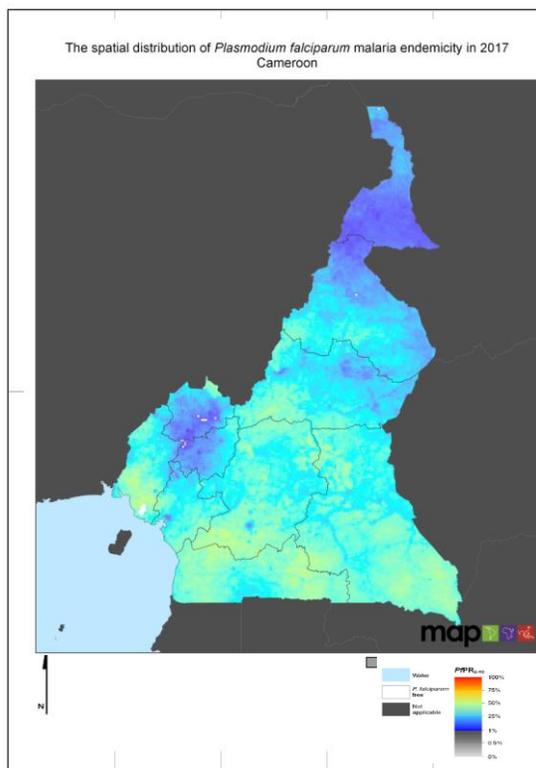


# Cameroon ALMA Quarterly Report

## Quarter One, 2021



### Scorecard for Accountability and Action



Malaria transmission occurs year-round in Cameroon and is most intense in the south of the country. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 4,266,648 with 4,510 deaths.

#### Metrics

Commodities Financed and Financial Control		
LLIN financing 2021 projection (% of need)	100	100
Public sector RDT financing 2021 projection (% of need)	100	100
Public sector ACT financing 2021 projection (% of need)	100	100
World Bank rating on public sector management and institutions 2019 (CPIA Cluster D)	3.0	
Insecticide Resistance Monitoring, Implementation and Impact		
Insecticide classes with mosquito resistance in representative sentinel sites confirmed since 2010	4	Not on track
Insecticide resistance monitored since 2015 and data reported to WHO		Target achieved or on track
National Insecticide Resistance Monitoring and Management Plan		Target achieved or on track
RDTs in stock (>9 months stock)		Progress but more effort required
ACTs in stock (>9 months stock)		Progress but more effort required
LLIN/IRS campaign on track		No data
Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign		No data
Scale of Implementation of iCCM		Target achieved or on track
Operational LLIN/IRS coverage (% of at risk population)	100	Target achieved or on track
On track to reduce case incidence by ≥40% by 2020 (vs 2015)		Not on track
On track to reduce case mortality by ≥40% by 2020 (vs 2015)		Progress but more effort required
Tracer Indicators for Maternal and Child Health and NTDs		
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2019)	18	Not on track
Estimated % of Total Population living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2019)	62	Progress but more effort required
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2019)	33	Not on track
% deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant	65	Progress but more effort required
Postnatal care (within 48 hrs)	65	Progress but more effort required
Exclusive breastfeeding (% children < 6 months)	28	Progress but more effort required
Vitamin A Coverage 2018 (2 doses)	47	Progress but more effort required
DPT3 coverage 2019 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)	67	Progress but more effort required

#### Key

Green	Target achieved or on track
Yellow	Progress but more effort required
Red	Not on track
Grey	No data
White	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.

In 2020, for Cameroon, it was of vital importance that the delivery of seasonal malaria chemoprevention as well as the completion of the long-lasting insecticidal net (LLIN) universal coverage campaign in the remaining three regions went ahead as planned, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the guidance and recommendations from WHO and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria. The country is congratulated for successfully implementing the SMC in 2020. Without this SMC campaign, coupled with the need to sustain essential health services including malaria case management, there would have been an increase in malaria cases and deaths. Under the worst-case scenario, in which all ITN campaigns are suspended and with a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could have been a 13.4% increase in malaria cases, and a 74.6% increase in malaria deaths in Cameroon. 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**

Cameroon secured the resources to cover the costs of the LLINs, ACTs and RDTs needed in 2021 and has more than 6 months of commodity stocks. Cameroon has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO and has completed the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. The country is also showing leadership in malaria control through its participation in the High Burden High Impact approach.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Cameroon has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Control Scorecard. The country is also planning the launch of the End Malaria Council and Fund in quarter 2 2021.

### **Impact**

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 4,266,648 with 4,510 deaths.

### **Key Challenges**

- Insecticide resistance.
- Delays in the completion of the universal coverage campaign.

- 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		Cameroun has sufficient stocks of ACTs and RDTs, although there have been some covid-19 RELATED delivery delays experienced. All malaria control interventions are going on as planned and take into account COVID-19 guidelines. The country has some funding gaps for the acquisition of PPEs for community health workers involved in the SMC campaign funded by PMI that will begin in July 2021, and this is being addressed through the Global Fund
Impact	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	Q4 2021		The country reports that the increase in cases is probably linked to the following: improvements in routine data collection with an increase in the number of health care facilities reporting data increasing from 3,616 to 5,065 (an increase of 40 percent); inadequate coverage of prevention interventions and increasing resistance of vectors to insecticides. In response, the country has adopted the High Burden High Impact approach, including sub-national stratification to support the better targeting of interventions for maximum impact.

## RMNCAH and NTDs

### Progress

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Cameroon 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 Cameroon is very low for trachoma (0%); low for lymphatic filariasis (33%) and for onchocerciasis (49%), good for soil transmitted helminths (76%) and high for schistosomiasis (98%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Cameroon in 2019 is 16 and this represents substantial decrease compared with the 2016 index value (50).

## Previous Key Recommended Actions

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
RMNCAH <sup>1</sup> : 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		The country (with support from GFF) is undertaking an analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on RMNCAH services
NTDs	Given the high coverage of Preventive Chemotherapy (PC) for Schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminths, implement preventive chemotherapy for trachoma and work to increase the preventive chemotherapy coverage for lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis including by putting in place the necessary waivers for the donated medicines. 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		By using COVID-19 sensitive guidelines, Cameroon maintained NTD case detection and treatment in the health facilities. In October - November 2020, the country organised a transmission assessment; in December 2020 the country organized MDA for onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, Soil Transmitted Helminths and Yaws. The MDA for trachoma is ongoing. The country is also working on the MDA reports and these will be shared with WHO once completed.

The country has responded positively to previous recommended action on accelerating coverage of ARTs in the total population and in children under 14 years of age, with a 2% increase reported in the last year.

### Key

	Action achieved
	Some progress
	No progress
	Deliverable not yet due

<sup>1</sup> RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO