Malaria transmission in Chad is intense in the south of the country. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 2,103,400 with 3,374 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.

WHO underlines the critical importance of sustaining efforts to prevent, detect and treat malaria during the COVID-19 pandemic. For Chad, it was of vital importance to ensure that the universal coverage campaign for long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) and Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC) was completed in 2020. The country is congratulated for rolling out the LLIN campaign and completing the SMC. Under the worst-case scenario, in which the LLIN campaign was suspended and there was a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could have been a 21.5% increase in malaria cases, and a 39.5% increase in malaria deaths in Chad. This scenario would have represented 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

The ACTs, RDTs and LLINs needed for 2021 are fully financed. Chad has procured sufficient LLINs to achieve operational universal coverage of the targeted at risk population. Chad has also successfully rolled out the LLIN campaign, distributing nets door to door to ensure social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Chad has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Scorecard, however this scorecard is not yet shared through the ALMA Scorecard Knowledge Hub.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 2,103,400 with 3,374 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Weak health information system.
- 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>Green</td>
<td>The country has adequate supplies of ACTs and RDTs for 2021</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>Green</td>
<td>The country reports that one reason for the increase in reported cases is due to the extension of health coverage, with an increase in the number of health facilities, from 1,061 in 2012 to 1,672 in 2019, improved data reporting, free management of malaria cases in health facilities, and the improvement in the quality of care following training supervision at all levels of the health pyramid.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chad has responded positively to the recommended actions for the reporting of insecticide resistance to WHO.

**RMNCAH and NTDs**

**Progress**

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Chad 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 Chad is good for lymphatic filariasis (71%), for onchocerciasis (70%), for schistosomiasis (66%), for soil-transmitted helminths (62%) and for trachoma (57%). The NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Chad in 2019 is 65, with no change compared with the 2018 index value (65).
<table>
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</tr>
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<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>Chad, with support from partners, continues to prioritise critical areas including communication, disease surveillance and testing, supply of essential drugs and equipment and capacity building of health personnel and frontline workers to reinforce integrated case management and surveillance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Key challenges remain, including delayed availability of some commodities and limited capacity at decentralized levels for surveillance. The government is advocating for more donor support since the COVID-19 pandemic continues to slow the national economy due to government restrictions. To mitigate the negative impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on Chad, the authorities announced economic and social measures to support households and private companies in recent months. Health service delivery is returning to normal whilst respecting social distancing.</td>
<td></td>
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<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>
<td>Deliverable not yet due</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chad has responded positively to the recommended actions for skilled birth attendants, exclusive breastfeeding, ART coverage in children, with a 3% increase reported over the last year, and vitamin A, and postnatal care coverage and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO