Malaria transmission occurs all year round throughout Côte d’Ivoire, although it is more seasonal in the north of the country. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 5,950,336 with 1,693 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. It was of vital importance to ensure the continuity of malaria prevention and treatment services including distribution of insecticide-treated nets and indoor residual spraying, as well as chemoprevention for pregnant women and young children (intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy and seasonal malaria chemoprevention). Under the worst-case scenario, in which all ITN campaigns were suspended and with a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimated that there could have been a 23.2% increase in malaria cases, and a 111.4% increase in malaria deaths in Cote d’Ivoire. 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
Côte d’Ivoire has successfully raised resources for the financing of LLINs, RDTs, and ACTs in 2021 and has procured enough LLINs to achieve 100% operational coverage of the targeted at risk population with LLINs. The country has also scaled up implementation of iCCM, Côte d’Ivoire has recently reported the results of insecticide resistance testing to WHO. The country has achieved a high rating in terms of public sector management systems (CPIA cluster D). The country has launched the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign.

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

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 5,950,336 with 1,693 deaths.

Key Challenge
- Sustaining the delivery of essential life-saving interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic including for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent and Child health, malaria and NTDs.
RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress
The country has made progress on the tracer RMNCAH intervention of postnatal care and has recently increased coverage of vitamin A and of ARTs. Côte d'Ivoire 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 Côte d'Ivoire is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths, lymphatic filariasis and trachoma. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Côte d'Ivoire is high for onchocerciasis (95%) and soil transmitted helminths (92%). Coverage for lymphatic filariasis is 74%, 54% for schistosomiasis and 33% for trachoma. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Côte d'Ivoire in 2019 is 65 and this represents substantial increase compared with the 2018 index value (21).

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>RMNCAH1: Optimise quality of care</td>
<td>a) Address the falling coverage of vitamin A</td>
<td>Q1 2021</td>
<td>No progress reported</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) 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>No progress reported</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</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>By respecting COVID-19 preventive measures, in 2020, the country organized MDA for Lymphatic Filariasis, Onchocerciasis, Trachoma, Schistosomiasis and for Soil Transmitted Helminths. The country also managed to conduct the identification of different cases with disabilities for further management.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Côte d'Ivoire has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing low coverage of exclusive breastfeeding, and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.

**Key**

- Green: Action achieved
- Yellow: Some progress
- Red: No progress
- Gray: Deliverable not yet due

* RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO