Nearly 50% of the population of Djibouti is at low risk of malaria, while the remaining in the desert is free of malaria. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 49,402.
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 and malaria.

For Djibouti, with the indoor residual spraying (IRS) campaign planned for the fourth quarter of 2020, it was of vital importance that the IRS campaign went ahead, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the recent guidance and recommendations from WHO. Without this IRS, coupled with the need to sustain essential health services including malaria case management, there will be an increase in malaria cases and deaths.

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 count has sufficient funds to procure sufficient ACTs, RDTs and cover costs for IRS to achieve universal coverage of the targeted at risk population in 2021. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO, and has completed the insecticide resistance management and monitoring plan. The country has increased the quality of their public sector management systems (CPIA cluster D).

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 49,402.

Key challenges
- Increases in malaria cases have been experienced in the country since 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>Djibouti has not reported any stock outs of ACTs and RDTs to-date following support from WHO. As the country grapples with the Covid-19 pandemic, the country has successfully distributed a total of 152,000 nets and sprayed a total of 6,000 house structures with insecticide. Plans are underway to procure vector control products, insecticides for IRS implementation, in August/September 2021, and PBO nets for distribution in 2022</td>
</tr>
<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>
<td></td>
<td>Djibouti declared a malaria emergency in 2019 following an upsurge in cases and prepared an emergency response plan. The country secured emergency resources from the Global Fund for ACTs, RDTs and LLINs. The Ministry of Health implemented vector control including LLINs and IRS in the affected areas. In addition, the country held a round table for resource mobilization which resulted in funding pledges from a number of partner organisations. The number of cases reduced in 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The country has responded to the recommended action on finalising the insecticide resistance management and monitoring plan, and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.

## RMNCAH and NTDs

**Progress**

Djibouti has achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH intervention skilled birth attendants.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Djibouti is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for soil transmitted helminths. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Djibouti is low for soil transmitted helminths (0%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Djibouti in 2019 is 0, with no change compared with the 2018 index value (0).
## Previous Key Recommended Actions

<table>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NTDs</td>
<td>Submit the preventive chemotherapy coverage data for Soil Transmitted Helminths to WHO</td>
<td>Q1 2020</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>The country confirms that Mass Drug Administration was not conducted in Djibouti between 2015-2019. Djibouti submitted a request for consultant support to WHO to map endemic NTDs in Djibouti and MDAs will be conducted once the mapping is done based on the results. While waiting for the mapping, the NTD programme is collecting NTD data reported by the hospitals, focusing on leishmaniasis and trachoma. The country did not register any new cases of leprosy and managed to treat successfully all leishmania cases</td>
</tr>
<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>-</td>
<td>No progress reported</td>
</tr>
<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>

Djibouti has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing low coverage of exclusive breastfeeding and the country continues to track progress as this action is implemented. Djibouti has also responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing lack of data on postnatal care and vitamin A coverage and low coverage of ARTs, with small increases recently reported and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

### 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