The entire population of Togo is at high risk of malaria. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 2,406,091 and 1,275 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, Adolescent and Child health, Neglected Tropical Diseases and malaria.

For Togo, it was of vital importance to ensure that the universal coverage campaign for long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) scheduled for 2020 went ahead, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the guidance and recommendations from WHO and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria. Without this campaign, coupled with the need to sustain essential health services including malaria case management and deliver seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC), there could be an increase in malaria cases and deaths. The country is congratulated for completing this campaign and carrying out the necessary SMC. Under the worst-case scenario, in which all ITN campaigns were suspended and with a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could have been a 38% increase in malaria cases, and a 327% increase in malaria deaths in Togo. 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

Togo has secured sufficient resources to fund the LLINs, RDTs and ACTs required in 2021. The country has distributed sufficient LLINs to achieve 100% operational coverage of the targeted at risk population. Togo has finalised the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan and has reported the results of insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan.

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

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 2,406,091 and 1,275 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 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>At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a drop in attendance at health facilities, which resulted in a drop in malaria cases. The country completed the mosquito net distribution campaign in 2020. For SMC, a contingency plan as developed. Togo addressed a stock out of RDTs in the fourth quarter of 2020 and now has adequate stocks of both RDTs and ACTs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Togo has responded positively to the recommended action on monitoring national insecticide resistance and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.

**RMNCAH and NTDs**

**Progress**

Togo achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH intervention exclusive breastfeeding and DPT3 vaccination, and has recently increased vitamin A coverage.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Togo is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, trachoma, schistosomiasis, and soil transmitted helminths. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Togo is high for lymphatic filariasis (100%), trachoma (100%), soil transmitted helminths (99%), onchocerciasis (83%) and low for schistosomiasis (34%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Togo in 2019 is 77, which represents a decrease compared with the 2018 index value (93).

**Previous Key Recommended Actions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<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></td>
<td>No progress reported</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<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></td>
<td>Since June 2020, NTD activities were resumed in Togo. Epidemiological and entomological surveys on onchocerciasis were conducted, active case detection campaigns on Innovative and Intensified Disease Management (IDM) were organized, the first round of MDA which was planned in May delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic and was conducted in September 2020. This led the country to miss the second round of MDA in the same year and it was organized in February 2021.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Togo has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing low coverage of ARTs in children, with a 6% increase in coverage recently observed, and skilled birth attendants and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

**Key**
- **Action achieved**
- **Some progress**
- **No progress**
- **Deliverable not yet due**