

ALMA SUMMARY REPORT 2nd QUARTER 2021

Introduction

As the continent battles the all consuming impact of the global COVID 19 pandemic, Malaria has continued to ravage communities with devastating impact on the most vulnerable in countries. In his call for youth engagement and action with the support of Africa’s heads of state and government, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta; President of Kenya and Chair of ALMA stated:

“We must eliminate malaria once and for all, so that our people can peacefully carry on with life without any more fears of this disease. You, the young people, are the ones with the energy, the ability, and the might to fight malaria to its ultimate end. You must now take the lead!”

Indeed, His Excellency is sounding a clarion call to the youth. This is their time to lead the fight against Malaria on the continent.

ALMA Youth Army

The ALMA Youth Task Force with the ALMA Youth Advisory Council (AYAC) members organized a Youth Webinar to commemorate the World Malaria Day 2021 themed “Zero Malaria Starts with Me”, on Friday 23, April 2021; engaging young people to mobilize collective youth-driven solutions to promote advocacy around eliminating malaria in Africa by 2030. ALMA promoted Youth Armies’ in Eswatini, Kenya and Tanzania through ALMA Youth Task Force and AYAC members in different activities of the “Zero Malaria Starts With Me” campaign in collaboration with the RBM partnership.

Launching the Kenya Youth Army, President Kenyatta stated “Throughout the rest of the year, we’ll ensure that our youth are deployed in all the malaria-endemic counties to support the existing prevention and control efforts. We’ll leverage the *Kazi Mtaani (working in your neighbourhood)* program to actively engage the young people in the efforts towards bringing the scourge of malaria to an end.”

Malaria and the COVID-19 Pandemic

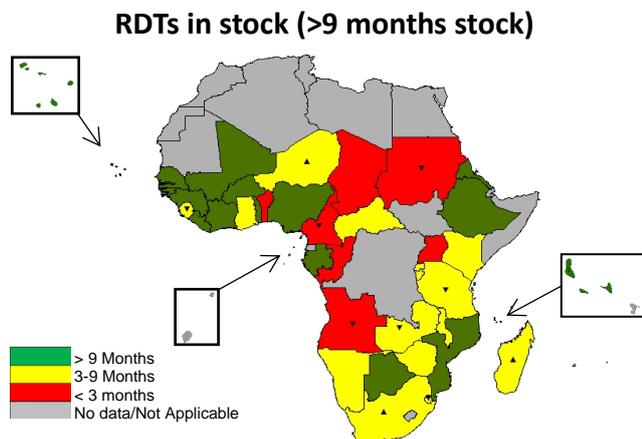
This harnessing of youth drive and leadership is particularly urgent with the ongoing escalation of COVID-19 and stagnation of malaria efforts.

There has been an increase in the number of countries reporting less than three months of stocks of either ACTs and/or RDTs from 6 countries in Q4-

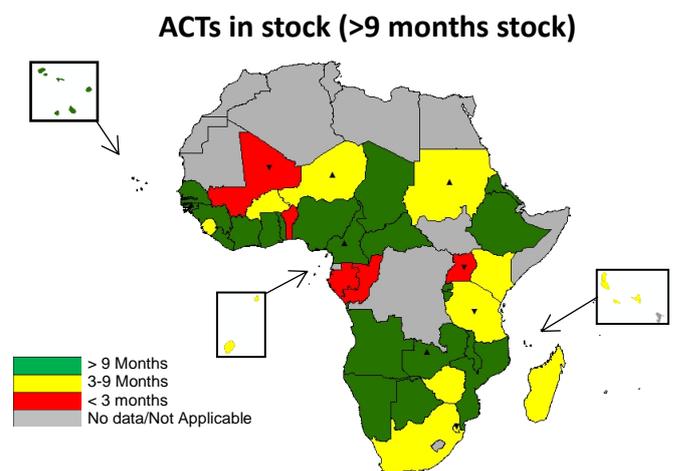
MEMBERS

- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Cape Verde
- Chad
- Comoros
- Republic of Congo
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Sahrawi Arab
- Democratic Republic
- São Tomé and Príncipe
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- The Gambia
- Togo
- Uganda
- United Republic of
- Tanzania
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

2020; to 10 countries in Q2-2021. This is consistent with the GF Global Fund COVID-19 Country Monitoring Tool which has showed an increasing number of countries reporting increased risk to national malaria stocks (3% of countries reporting very high disruption and 18% of countries reporting high levels of disruption). This disruption is likely linked to the COVID-19 wave 3 impacting more countries in east and southern Africa. Delivery times across all malaria commodities are still delayed by approximately 2 months, contributing to the lower stock levels.

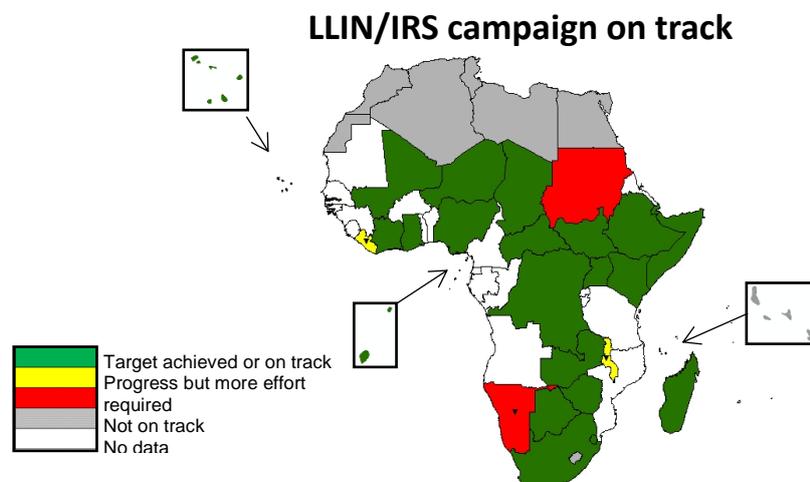


Source: Quarter 2 2021 ALMA Scorecard
The designation employed and the presentation of material in these maps does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of ALMA concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area of its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries



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There are significantly fewer LLIN campaigns in 2021 compared to 2020, and these are largely on track (Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Malawi, Liberia, Niger, Madagascar and Kenya with the rolling campaigns in DRC and Nigeria). The majority of IRS campaigns are on track, although Namibia has gaps in funding and planning for the Sudan campaign has been delayed but resources have been recently approved through the Global Fund.



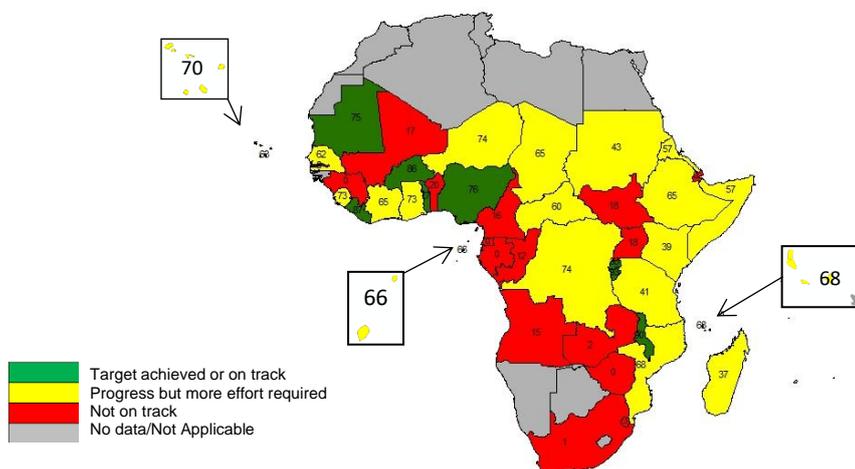
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The impact of COVID-19 on NTDs

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt implementation of essential NTDs interventions, including mass treatment, morbidity management and disability prevention (MMDP), monitoring and evaluation activities (e.g. routine surveillance and population based surveys), active case-finding, case management, shipment and delivery of NTD medicines and consumables as well as distribution to and within countries. All of these are further exacerbated by the re-assignment of NTD personnel to the COVID-19 response.

ALMA, in collaboration with WHO/ESPEN and Uniting to Combat NTDs (UTC), has issued recommended actions on resource mobilization and the urgent use of NTD drugs with high risk of expiry to 11 countries; and four have already taken action and the others are in the process of doing so.

Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2019)



Source: Quarter 2 2021 ALMA Scorecard

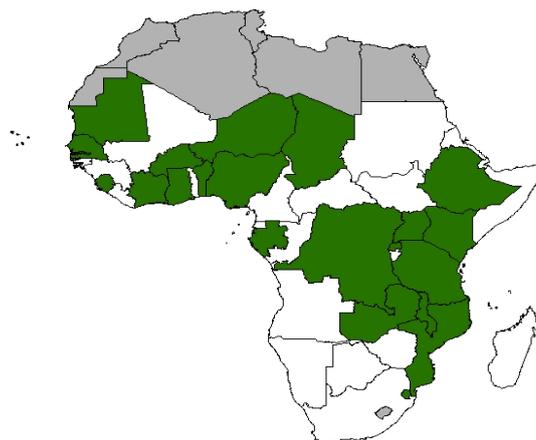
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Countries need to work comprehensively with all stakeholders to overcome both the Malaria and NTD challenges.

End Malaria Councils and Funds

H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta, Chair of ALMA's call for the establishment of fifteen End Malaria (or and NTD) Councils (EMCs) and End Malaria (or and NTDs) Funds (EMFs) by the end of 2021 recognizes the importance of this collaboration. These councils and funds are country-led and country-owned initiatives that convene senior leaders from across the public, private, and community sectors to support the fight against malaria. They are strong commitments of political will and are a best practice to support the "Zero Malaria Starts with Me" campaign and the "High Burden to High Impact" initiative.

Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign



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In keeping with this campaign, four EMCs and EMFs were announced on World Malaria Day 2021:

- The Republic of South Africa fund is a public-private partnership * between the Government and Goodbye Malaria and will convene leaders across all sectors to mobilise financial and in-kind resources.
- The Republic of Cameroun reconstituted the national Roll Back Malaria Committee as a national End Malaria Council to support advocacy, action and resource mobilisation.
- Burkina Faso submitted a plan to establish a national End Malaria Council & Fund.
- The Democratic Republic of the Congo's Office of the President and PNLDP held a series of validation workshops with national stakeholders and development partners to gather feedback on a draft proposal to establish national and subnational End Malaria Councils and Funds.

Established EMCs and EMFs already in countries across the region are making significant contributions at the national level:

- In the Republic of Mozambique, financial and in-kind pledges exceeding \$3.5 million USD have been committed to the Fund. The Board's Chair, the Rt. Rev. Felicidad, and several other members of the Fund's Board of Directors also participated in a social & behavioural change communications campaign to raise the visibility of malaria.
- In the Republic of Zambia; the End Malaria Council & Fund placed donation boxes in airports and shopping malls and engaging new partners (e.g., the Zambia Football Association. The EMC also sustained its national media campaign to raise the visibility of malaria.
- In the Kingdom of Eswatini; the End Malaria Fund successfully replenished the stock following a procurement process that began in Q1 2021 and hosted national roundtables with private sector executives and Youth to sensitise them to importance of ending malaria.

- In the Republic of Kenya, the Council's members supported a landscaping analysis of manufacturers that could manufacture malaria and other health commodities in Kenya.
- In the Republic of Uganda; Malaria Free Uganda, the national EMC, launched a communications campaign including billboard and other advertising; and a bike race in partnership with the Hon. Minister of Health, NMCD, and Rotarian Malaria Partners to promote awareness of malaria; with private sector businesses conducting trainings on how to contribute to malaria control and elimination.

ALMA Scorecard Hub

The governments, councils, funds, and youth Army rely on the national and subnational level scorecards for accountability and action, to identify and trigger action to resolve the bottlenecks.

ALMA has developed a hub dedicated to the strengthening and use of these country scorecards, "the ALMA Scorecard Hub". It was launched on 10th February 2021 by His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Chair of ALMA, as part of his digitalisation agenda. Since the launch, 6,000 people have visited the website (65% of visitors are from AU member states) and viewed over 44,000 webpages. The hub:

- is a Public directory of scorecards, and currently 9 digitalization pioneering countries are sharing 114 scorecards.
- offers Country support; and has become a key tool to support countries to improve health interventions and achieve impact – utilising the hub's online course content (video training and written materials). The hub has supported 11 country training workshops.
- offers Online courses, guides and toolkits, and recently launched a toolkit on End Malaria Councils and Funds to help countries establish their own EMCs. Over 250 people around the continent have received a certificate for completing a course on the hub.
- supports Country best practices; and in the last quarter, has added a video on Tanzania's malaria scorecard, and a video on Rwanda's RMNCAH scorecard.
- promotes Partner engagement through a series of partner content such as case studies on the Commonwealth Malaria Tracker and APLMA (Asia Pacific Leaders' Malaria Alliance) Dashboard.
- hosts Webinars, and the latest was a co-hosted End Malaria Councils and Funds webinar with the Gates Foundation in July 2021, attended by 140 people.

Engagement with RECs

The ALMA Chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta is driving collaboration with Africa's Regional Economic Communities and Heads of State and Government to support the prioritization of malaria within the African Union framework through intensified partnership with the Regional Economic Communities to drive the malaria response at the sub-regional level. To accelerate progress, the ALMA Chair has officially appointed 2 ALMA Special Ambassadors: Ambassador Professor Sheila Tlou, and Ambassador Anthony Okara; to be the ALMA malaria political liaison and high-level focal persons to the RECs; and the AUC.

- The East African Community has established the Great Lakes Malaria Initiative (GLMI). The GLMI Malaria scorecard for accountability and action, a monitoring, accountability, and action mechanism to track progress in the fight against malaria will support Member States to address bottlenecks stalling progress towards malaria elimination systematically has been prepared.
- In the Southern Africa Development Community, building on the success of the SADC E8 Malaria Elimination Scorecard, work is also underway to produce the SADC Malaria Scorecard for Accountability and Action that will support Member States to act systematically to address bottlenecks stalling progress towards malaria elimination.
- In the ECOWAS Region, WAHO has started work on developing the SAHEL Malaria Scorecard for accountability and Action with the support of ALMA.
- In the ECCAS Region, ALMA, in collaboration with RBM, is supporting developing the Regional Malaria strategy that will guide cross-borders interventions in the region. A tripartite workplan between ALMA, RBM and ECCAS is under finalization.
- In IGAD region, a meeting has been held between ALMA and the IGAD Secretariat on modalities to implement the tripartite workplan and prioritize activities to be implemented in 2021/2022.

Conclusion

The fight against malaria on the African continent has been seriously challenged by the COVID 19 pandemic. It is time that we all walked the talk together; political and civil society, private & public sectors, traditional & religious leaders, local & international NGOs, Young & Older, and formal & informal sectors. There is strength in our unity. That combined strength is what will defeat malaria.

Zero malaria starts with me.