Malaria is present throughout Burkina Faso, with transmission most intense in the southern part of the country. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 7,036,835 with 1,060 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.

WHO underlines the critical importance of sustaining efforts to prevent, detect and treat malaria during the COVID-19 pandemic. For Burkina Faso, it was of vital importance to ensure that the delivery of seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) planned for 2020 went ahead as planned, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the recent guidance and recommendations from WHO. The country is congratulated for successfully implementing the SMC as planned. Without the SMC campaign, coupled with the need to sustain essential health services including malaria case management, there was a prediction of an increase in malaria cases and deaths. Under the worst-case scenario, WHO estimated that there could be a 10.3% increase in malaria cases, and a 73.9% increase in malaria deaths in Burkina Faso. 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
Burkina Faso has scaled up coverage of iCCM and has procured sufficient LLINs to achieve universal operational coverage of the targeted at risk population. The country has sufficient stocks of ACTs and RDTs for 2021. Burkina Faso has a high rating in public sector management systems (CPIA cluster D). The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO and has recently completed the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. The country is also showing leadership in malaria control through participation in the High Burden High Impact approach.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Burkina Faso has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Scorecard and this has been updated regularly and is shared on the ALMA scorecard knowledge hub. The country is in process of launching its End Malaria Council and Fund.

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 7,036,835 with 1,060 deaths.

Key Challenges
- Insecticide resistance threatens vector control effectiveness.
- 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 Action

<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 Impact</td>
<td></td>
<td>The continuity of routine services after a decline in supply and use has gradually resumed. Awareness-raising activities and the implementation of distribution campaigns have been maintained by taking measures to protect the staff involved and beneficiaries. There were some delays in the delivery of some essential commodities but there were no stock outs at health facility or community level and there are now sufficient stocks in-country and in the delivery pipeline. PPE for campaigns has been covered by partners or requested in the C19RM proposal for future years. The 2021 IRS campaign was successfully completed and the first round of SMC has been successfully implemented</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress
Burkina Faso has also made good progress in tracer RMNCAH interventions, including DPT3, exclusive breastfeeding and skilled birth attendants. Burkina Faso has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of the Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Burkina Faso is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis and trachoma. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Burkina Faso is high for trachoma (100%), schistosomiasis (83%), onchocerciasis (82%), and for lymphatic filariasis (80%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Burkina Faso in 2019 is 86 with a slight decrease compared with the index in 2018 (89).
Previous Key Recommended Actions

<table>
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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>The Ministry of Health of Burkina Faso has trained field workers on COVID-19, and has set up triage posts in all university, regional and health district hospitals. PPE has been provided to health staff including masks, gloves, gowns, and hydroalcoholic gels. Technical guidelines for maintaining the provision of services and care for RMNCAH in the context of COVID-19 have been prepared and their implementation is being monitored. Health indicators deteriorated during 2020. For example, the rate of skilled birth attendance declined from 79 percent in 2019 to 77.2 percent and ANC4 decreased from 39.2 to 38 percent, whilst the in-hospital maternal mortality rate has increased from 50.3 per thousand to 64.2 per thousand.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Burkina Faso has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing the low coverage of ARTs in children, and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

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

1 RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO