Malaria transmission occurs year-round in Cameroon and is most intense in the south of the country. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 4,266,648 with 4,510 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.

In 2020, for Cameroon, it was of vital importance that the delivery of seasonal malaria chemoprevention as well as the completion of the long-lasting insecticidal net (LLIN) universal coverage campaign in the remaining three regions went ahead as planned, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the guidance and recommendations from WHO and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria. The country is congratulated for successfully implementing the SMC in 2020. Without this SMC campaign, coupled with the need to sustain essential health services including malaria case management, there would have been an increase in malaria cases and deaths.

Under the worst-case scenario, in which all ITN campaigns are suspended and with a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could have been a 13.4% increase in malaria cases, and a 74.6% increase in malaria deaths in Cameroon. 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
Cameroon secured the resources to cover the costs of the LLINs, ACTs and RDTs needed in 2021 and has more than 6 months of ACT commodity stocks. Cameroon has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO and has completed the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. The country is also showing leadership in malaria control through its participation in the High Burden High Impact approach.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Cameroon has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Control Scorecard. The country is also planning the launch of the End Malaria Council and Fund in quarter 3 2021.

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 4,266,648 with 4,510 deaths.

Key Challenges
- Insecticide resistance.
- Delays in the completion of the universal coverage campaign.
- 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>Cameroun has sufficient stocks of ACTs but has faced stock outs of RDTs and artemisate, due to delayed delivery of commodities linked to the impact of COVID-19. All malaria control interventions are going on as planned and take into account COVID-19 guidelines. The country has some funding gaps for the acquisition of PPEs for community health workers involved in the funded SMC campaign and this is being addressed through the Global Fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RMNCAH and NTDs

**Progress**

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Cameroon is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Cameroon is very low for trachoma (0%); low for lymphatic filariasis (33%) and for onchocerciasis (49%), good for soil transmitted helminths (76%) and high for schistosomiasis (98%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Cameroon in 2019 is 16 and this represents substantial decrease compared with the 2016 index value (50).

### 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: 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>No progress reported</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
### Objective

NTDs

### Action Item

Given the high coverage of Preventive Chemotherapy (PC) for Schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminths, implement preventive chemotherapy for trachoma and work to increase the preventive chemotherapy coverage for lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis including by putting in place the necessary waivers for the donated medicines. 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.

### Suggested completion timeframe

Q4 2021

### Progress

By using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines, Cameroon maintained the NTD case detection and treatment in the health facilities. In October - November 2020, the country organized a transmission assessment; in December 2020 the country organized MDA for Onchocerciasis, Schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminths and Yaws. The MDA for trachoma was conducted in March 2021. The country is also working on the MDAs reports and will be shared with WHO once completed.

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The country has responded positively to previous recommended action on accelerating coverage of ARTs in the total population and in children under 14 years of age, with a 2% increase reported in the last year.

### Key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Action achieved</th>
<th>Some progress</th>
<th>No progress</th>
<th>Deliverable not yet due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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**Note:** The table above contains information on the objectives, action items, suggested completion timeframe, progress, and comments for NTDs. Each row details the steps taken to address preventive measures and the implementation of necessary interventions. The key at the bottom explains the color coding used to indicate the status of each action item.