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 country has sufficient funds to procure the necessary ACTs, RDTs and 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 the support from WHO in January 2021. It is also noted that due to the reported HRP2 deletions, the support from WHO has also included the provision of new RDTs to address this new threat. As the country grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic, the country has procured the insecticide and is on track to spray in August/September 2021. The country has also ordered PBO nets for distribution in 2022.</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).
<table>
<thead>
<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>Green</td>
<td>The country confirms that Mass Drug Administration was not conducted in Djibouti between 2015-2019. The country 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. The country is also conducting investigations and follow up of leishmaniasis cases and is working on the stock inventory of leishmaniasis medicines.</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>Red</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>Grey</td>
<td>Deliverable not yet due</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.

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1 RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO