Malaria transmission is confined to the north-east part of Namibia where malaria is endemic and about 72% of the population of the country is at risk. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 3,416 with 7 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 of COVID-19. 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.

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
Namibia secured sufficient funding for the required number of ACTs, RDTs and IRS for 2021. The country has recently reported the insecticide resistance data to WHO.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Namibia has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Elimination Scorecard, however this is not yet shared to the ALMA Scorecard Knowledge Hub. The country has established End Malaria Councils at sub-national level.

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 3,416 with 7 deaths.

Key Challenges
- Maintaining malaria high on the political and funding agenda.
- There is a need to strengthen cross border collaboration with neighbouring countries.
- 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>There are currently no stock outs of RDTs and ACTs, but a shortage of primaquine has been reported. However, the country had insufficient insecticide for the 2020 IRS campaign resulting in an overall IRS coverage of just 45%. Insecticide has been procured by the Global Fund and is in process for the Government, however, there remain large gaps in resources to fully cover the required IRS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Namibia has responded positively to the recommended action on addressing the lack of data on iCCM and continues to strengthen access to treatment of malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea.
New Key Recommended Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Action Item</th>
<th>Suggested completion timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vector Control</td>
<td>Ensure the IRS commodities are procured in time for the 2021 IRS campaigns</td>
<td>Q3 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

Namibia has good coverage of the tracer RMNCAH intervention skilled birth attendants and ART coverage in the total population. The country has enhanced tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Namibia is shown using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminths. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Namibia is low for both schistosomiasis (0%), and soil transmitted helminths (0%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Namibia in 2019 is 0, with no change compared with the 2018 index value (0). The country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of the NTD scorecard.

Previous Key Recommended Actions

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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>Green</td>
<td>The country reports that stock outs have been experienced due to delayed commodity delivery, including ARTs for PMTCT. Essential health service guidelines are currently being finalized.</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>Green</td>
<td>The country did not organize MDA in 2020 due to the WHO recommendation of waiting for a taeniasis prevalence survey, and is waiting for WHO support. NTD case management activities are being conducted at health facility level by respecting COVID-19 preventive measures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Namibia has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing the low coverage of vitamin A, which has recently increased.

Key

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

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO