The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 359,246 and 260 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, Neglected tropical Diseases and malaria.

For Senegal, it will be of vital importance that the country sustains essential health services including malaria case management. Without the 2020 SMC campaign, coupled with sustained malaria case management, there would be an increase in malaria cases and deaths. The country is commended for rolling out SMC in 2020. Under the worst-case scenario, in which there is a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could be a 19.5% increase in malaria cases, and a 79.9% increase in malaria deaths in Senegal. 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

Senegal has implemented iCCM country wide. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. The country has recently finalised the insecticide resistance management and monitoring plan. Senegal has secured sufficient resources to sustain universal coverage of essential malaria control interventions in 2021 and has distributed sufficient LLINs to achieve universal operational coverage in the targeted at-risk population. Senegal has put in place strong public sector management systems and has achieved a rating of 3.5 for Cluster D CPIA. Senegal was the first country to launch the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign. The country is applauded for loaning RDTs to The Gambia to address the country’s stockout during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Senegal has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control and Elimination Scorecard, although the scorecard has not yet been posted to the ALMA Scorecard Knowledge Hub.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 359,246 and 260 deaths.

Key Challenge

- 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</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country has sufficient stocks of essential antimalarial commodities. Planning is on track for the SMC campaign and the IRS campaign has been planned for later in the year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RMNCAH and NTDs

**Progress**

Senegal has achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH interventions DPT3 and postnatal care, and has recently increased coverage of ARTs in children and the total population, as well as skilled birth attendants. The country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Senegal 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 Senegal is high for trachoma (100%), good for schistosomiasis (76%), for soil-transmitted helminths (70%), for lymphatic filariasis (68%) and low for onchocerciasis (26%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Senegal in 2019 is 62, which represents a big increase compared with the 2018 index value (17).

### 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></td>
<td>The country worked to ensure that services were maintained during the pandemic period. The Directorate of Maternal and Child Health used WHO COVID-19 guidelines. A situational analysis of services in health facilities has helped the development of a contingency plan to ensure the continued availability and use of services during this period. The effectiveness of RMNCAH services in the 14 regions of Senegal has been monitored. There has been a good availability of RMNCAH essential products and no stockouts of RMNCAH essential commodities have been noted since the beginning of March 2020. Integrated supervision in all the health structures of the country is planned for the month of August</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
<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>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>Senegal is conducting the NTD prevention and control interventions by using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. The country organized an MDA for LF, SCH and STH in 24 health districts for schistosomiasis with a coverage of 102% and in 3 health districts for STH with a coverage of 86.5%. Also, the country carried out the following activities during the COVID-19 pandemic: The pre-Transmission Assessment Surveys were conducted in 14 health districts, the trichiasis screening campaign, the trichiasis surgery camps and the active leprosy screening; the development and validation of a sustainability plan for the achievements in the fight against NTDs. The country organized the integrated supervision for NTDs and is working on the new Country strategic plan. The country continues NTD prevention and control interventions by using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key**

- Green: Action achieved
- Yellow: Some progress
- Red: No progress
- Grey: Deliverable not yet due

Senegal responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing low coverage of ARTs in children, with increased coverage recently achieved.