

## ALMA QUARTER 1 SUMMARY REPORT 2021

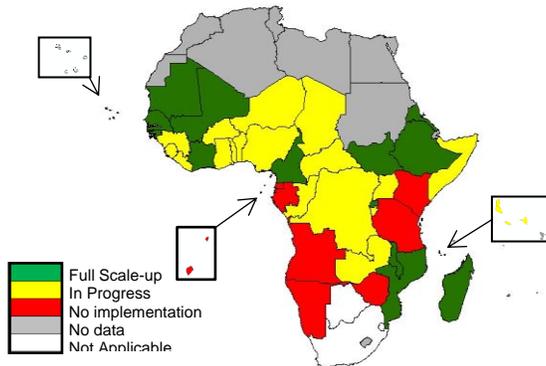
### Introduction

On World Malaria day this year, the UN Secretary General, and WHO had a clear message to the malaria endemic countries. Do not stop focusing on Malaria elimination because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Every hour 24,543 new infections occur and 44 children in Africa die of Malaria; a sobering yet avoidable loss of productivity, learning and life. Indeed, a five-point strategy was integral to all the key messages from Malaria leaders around the globe.

Political commitment at every level; sustained funding from both domestic and international stakeholders; an integrated health service delivery system effectively addressing prevention, early detection, treatment and care; that leaves no one behind; a strong health information system anchored by strong surveillance; as well as effective community engagement and ownership. Countries that have launched the Zero Malaria Starts with me campaigns, are seeing more positive uptake of integrated Community Case Management.

- MEMBERS
- Angola
  - Benin
  - Botswana
  - Burkina Faso
  - Burundi
  - Cameroon
  - Cape Verde
  - Chad
  - Comoros
  - Republic of Congo
  - Democratic Republic of Congo
  - Côte d'Ivoire
  - Djibouti
  - Egypt
  - Equatorial Guinea
  - Eritrea
  - Eswatini
  - Ethiopia
  - Gabon
  - Ghana
  - Guinea
  - Kenya
  - Lesotho
  - Liberia
  - Madagascar
  - Malawi
  - Mali
  - Mauritania
  - Mauritius
  - Mozambique
  - Namibia
  - Niger
  - Nigeria
  - Rwanda
  - Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic
  - São Tomé and Príncipe
  - Senegal
  - Seychelles
  - Sierra Leone
  - Somalia
  - South Africa
  - South Sudan
  - Sudan
  - The Gambia
  - Togo
  - Uganda
  - United Republic of Tanzania
  - Zambia
  - Zimbabwe

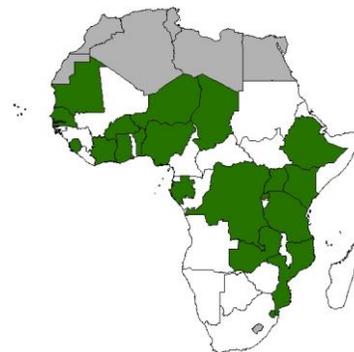
Scale of Implementation of iCCM



Source: Quarter 1 2021 ALMA Scorecard

*The designation employed and the presentation of material in these maps does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of ALMA concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area of its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries*

Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign



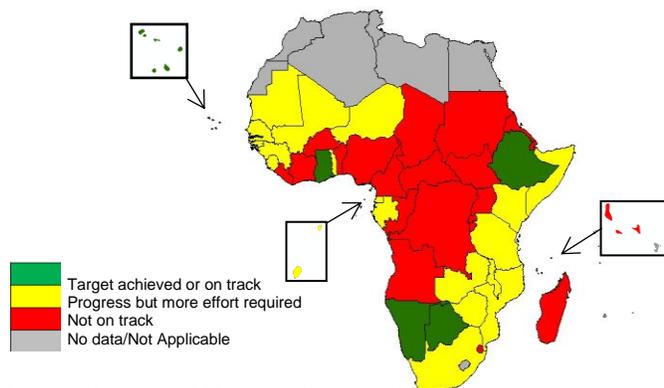
Source: Quarter 1 2021 ALMA Scorecard

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## Political leadership

The Chair of ALMA, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, has written to the heads of state and government of all malaria endemic countries in Africa, urging them to sustain malaria programmes and continue to push towards elimination. His Excellency has addressed the five key messages in his letter. The poor progress towards the 2030 goal makes this call for action all the more urgent.

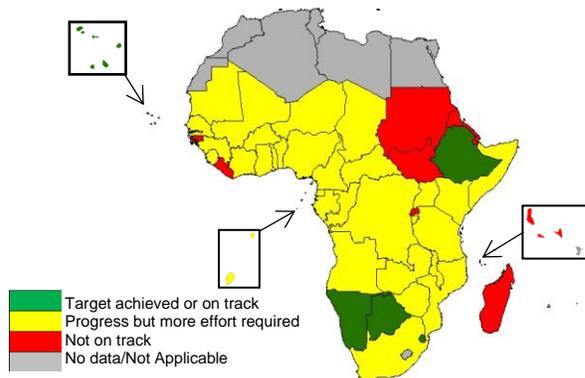
### On track to reduce case incidence by $\geq 40\%$



Source: Quarter 1 2021 ALMA Scorecard

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### On track to reduce case mortality by $\geq 40\%$ by 2020



Source: Quarter 1 2021 ALMA Scorecard

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## Sustaining and increasing domestic funding

In urging Heads of state and government to sustain investments, the ALMA chair encourages countries to create multi sectoral multi stakeholder national end malaria councils and funds. These councils and funds are country-led and country-owned initiatives that convene senior leaders from across the public, private, and community sectors to support the fight against malaria. The members work to mobilize the advocacy, action, resources, and accountability necessary to close the resource gaps under national malaria strategic plans. These councils and funds demonstrate strong political will and are a best practice to support the “Zero Malaria Starts with Me” campaign and the “High Burden to High Impact” initiative. The resources mobilized support the national malaria strategy and operational plan.

Five countries; Kenya, Zambia, Mozambique, Eswatini, and Uganda have created these councils and funds, and South Africa, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the DRC, Gabon and Rwanda will have achieved this milestone by the end of the second quarter.

## An integrated health service delivery system

End Malaria Councils and Funds use the national and district scorecards to monitor performance and identify potential areas of financial, technical, logistic and other support. The engagement of the community is further enhanced by the use of community scorecards, and the engagement of young people as partners in the fight against malaria, NTDs and Universal Health Coverage.

## **ALMA Youth Armies**

The ALMA chair urges heads of state and government to engage young people. Following the launch of the ALMA Youth Strategy 2020-2030 and the ALMA Youth Advisory Council (AYAC) in February this year, the eleven member Council has developed its yearly work-plan at continental level while providing support to youth led movements at national and regional levels aimed at ending malaria and promoting universal health coverage. The Kenya Youth Army, composed of young people from all 47 counties, has started operations. ALMA countries are urged to establish national malaria youth armies to drive community ownership and engagement.

AYAC members have been involved in the commemoration of World Malaria Day by raising awareness on the increased role of young people in the fight against malaria at regional and continental levels, promoting the Youth Strategy and highlighting the opportunities for establishment of national malaria youth armies and their engagement in country end-malaria actions. The activities have included “A Voice A Day Campaign”; “A Video Collage”; Hosting a Youth Webinar; A feature/ blog article, with high levels of social media engagement.

## **Digitalization – effective surveillance and a strong health information system**

Accurate, real-time data and Information are key to decision making, advocacy, and resource mobilization. It is for this reason that His Excellency President Kenyatta has chosen to prioritize data collection and its transparent sharing and use. At his instigation, ALMA has developed a knowledge hub dedicated to scorecards, the ALMA Scorecard Hub, which he launched on 10 February 2021. The Hub platform, the first portal dedicated to scorecard management tools for health, enhances use of real-time, subnational data including transparent sharing of country scorecards for action and accountability, allowing all citizens in all spheres of life and at all levels to be aware of their health situation and empowered to act.

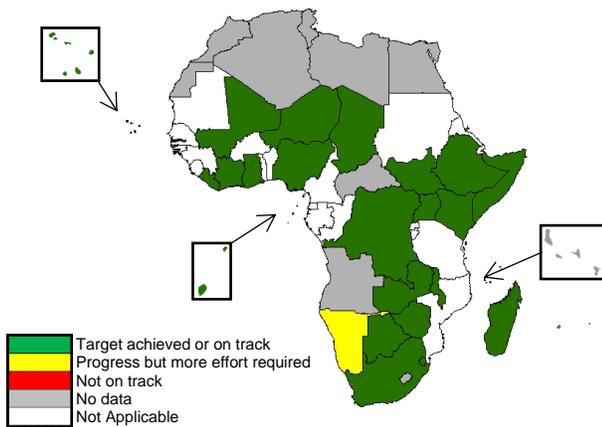
The Scorecard Hub is the first portal dedicated to scorecard management tools for health. From the launch to the end of March 2021, over 1,600 users have visited the Hub, including users from 23 African countries. It comprises of several elements:

- A public directory of scorecards 8 countries have already shared their scorecards: Zambia (Malaria and RMNCAH), Ghana (Malaria, RMNCAH and Community), Kenya (Malaria, Nutrition and Malaria) Rwanda (Malaria and RMNCAH), Burkina Faso (Malaria), Eswatini (Malaria), Mali (RMNCAH) and Mozambique (malaria) so all citizens can have access to the latest health data. His Excellency has urged all countries to share their scorecards.
- Country best practices
- Guides and toolkit and online courses
- Events and webinars

## **Interrupting Malaria and NTDs**

Since the turn of the century, twelve countries have been certified malaria free by WHO. Two of these countries are in Africa. Morocco was certified in 2010, and Algeria in 2019. WHO has identified that Botswana, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Eswatini, Sao Tome and Principe and South Africa have the potential to eliminate malaria by 2025. The 2021-2030 NTD roadmap aims for each country to have eliminated at least one NTD and for the world to eradicate two NTDs by 2030.

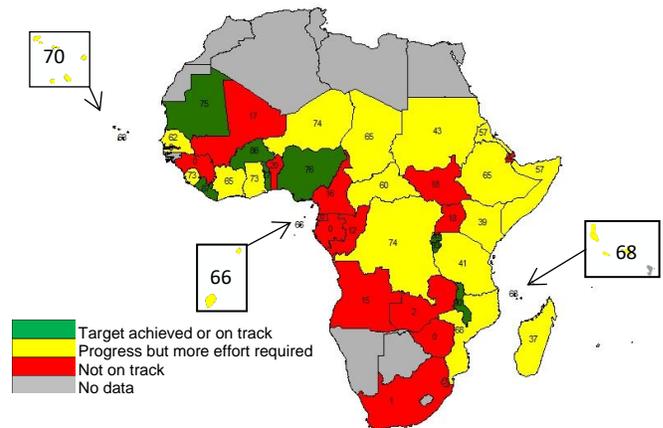
### LLIN/IRS campaign on track



Source: Quarter 1 2021 ALMA Scorecard

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### Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index. %)(2019)



Source: Quarter 1 2021 ALMA Scorecard

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### Conclusion

What countries are demonstrating is that with concerted effort, it is possible to eliminate malaria and NTDs with the current tools available to us. The data shows that most countries still have room for improvement, to achieve universal coverage with vector control, and prevention interventions for both Malaria and NTDs. The five point agenda above offers a promising path for countries to eliminate these preventable and treatable diseases once and for all!