THE PEOPLE’S HEALTH DATA

INTRODUCTION

The timely and appropriate use of accurate quality real time data by individuals, communities, service providers, managers, political leaders and other stakeholders; to inform policies, laws and regulations as well as the design, implementation and management and evaluation of health programmes is pivotal to overall health and well-being.

For this to happen effectively this timely quality data must be available to every stakeholder. It enhances democracy by enabling universal access, equity and participation. Data Democratization is key to building an effective primary health care system.

DATA AND THE THREATS OF MALARIA, COVID 19 AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Using data to monitor progress, through the ALMA regional scorecard, the subregional scorecards, country scorecards and community scorecards and action tracking mechanisms; has helped identify bottlenecks, and assess the effectiveness of the bottleneck resolution, keeping malaria, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) high on the political agenda in Africa, and building ownership and protecting progress made over the last ten years, even in the midst of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: Quarter 3 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.
His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, the Chair of ALMA and Kenyan environment advocate Elizabeth Wathuti spoke at COP 26 of the devastation that an increase in temperatures was having on people’s lives. They echoed the alarm bell raised by Rwanda 4 years ago. The increased temperatures in highland areas are contributing to increasing malaria cases, just as they were leading to extreme shortages of portable water.

“Kenya has come to this conference with high expectations. We must reboot our economies. We would like to see an increase in climate finance and ambition on adaptation and loss and damage,” HE President Uhuru Kenyatta said. Indeed, the African Development Bank has stated that the continent will need some $3 trillion “in mitigation and adaptation by 2030” to enable us to implement our nationally determined contributions. The global mitigation actions will arrest further rises in temperature and even more intense and widespread malaria outbreaks; whilst the adaptation measures entail increased investments in malaria interventions at country level.

The Malaria and NTD scorecards have been able to track the increases in both diseases cases and actions to control them, district by district. As well as the impact of climate change on malaria and NTDs, we are also facing the threat of widespread insecticide resistance, and the detection of Artemisinin resistance, making malaria control and elimination even more difficult. The NTD preventive treatment data, reveals massive gaps across the continent.

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The words of the UN Secretary General are a reality for the African communities when he says "Either we stop it, or it stops us. And it's time to say, enough. Enough of killing ourselves with carbon. Enough of treating nature like a toilet. Enough of burning and drilling and mining our way deeper. We are digging our own graves."

The use of data has also been able to track the impact of COVID-19 on malaria and other essential health service provision at district level and in communities.

Stockouts have increased, due to long delivery times, and disruptions in manufactures, making it more difficult to deliver treatment at health facilities as well as Integrated Community Case Management where it is needed most in up to 18 countries around the continent.

**DATA AND EMCS AND EMFs**

Access to data using the national, district, and facility level scorecards has been pivotal to the success of the multistakeholder national and community owned End Malaria Councils in identifying the gaps in the implementation of the national strategic plan.

The bottleneck analysis has enabled the End Malaria Funds to properly target funding investments for maximum impact.
Countries have been able to keep their LLIN /IRS campaigns on track with this multistakeholder engagement and ownership of the fight against malaria.

**THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF DATA - AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE**

ALMA congratulates the countries that are sharing scorecards, and best practices and lessons learnt on the Scorecard Knowledge hub. The hub is a centre of South-South learning that has been embraced across across the continent with the participation of hundreds of health workers and youth advocates in courses and webinars on the learning portal as well as research to enhance performance.
In recognition of the significance that data plays in Malaria, RMNCAH and NTD service delivery and access, the Chair of ALMA will be introducing the first Joyce Kafanabo Excellence Awards on the 12th the December this year. The awards recognize countries who have made the most progress on digitalization, and the strengthening of country scorecard management tools through public sharing of the scorecard, capacity building and the use of the tool with the community to empower all citizens to improve health services and outcomes.

The Independent awards committee comprises:

- Leah Kibe, Director, Co-Funding & Partnerships, Head of Kenya Office, CIFF
- Yacine Djibo, Executive Director, Speak Up Africa.
- Pamela Amaka Onyiah, Data Manager, Reproductive Maternal Health, WHO AFRO
- Whitney Mwanghi, Advocacy Partnership and Communications, African Union and Member of the ALMA Youth Advisory Council
- Dr Daddi Jima Wayessa, CRSPC Manager, RBM Partnership to End Malaria
The annual awards will help build on the strong foundation the ALMA countries have built over the last 11 years, enhance access, sharing, use and quality of data across the continent.

Launching the Kenya youth army to fight malaria on the continent, HE President Uhuru Kenyatta; chair of ALMA urged youth to advocate for improved malaria surveillance and data sharing and for malaria decision making spaces to be more inclusive. “There has been no better time for the young generation to advocate for their own future – now is the time to own the malaria agenda.”