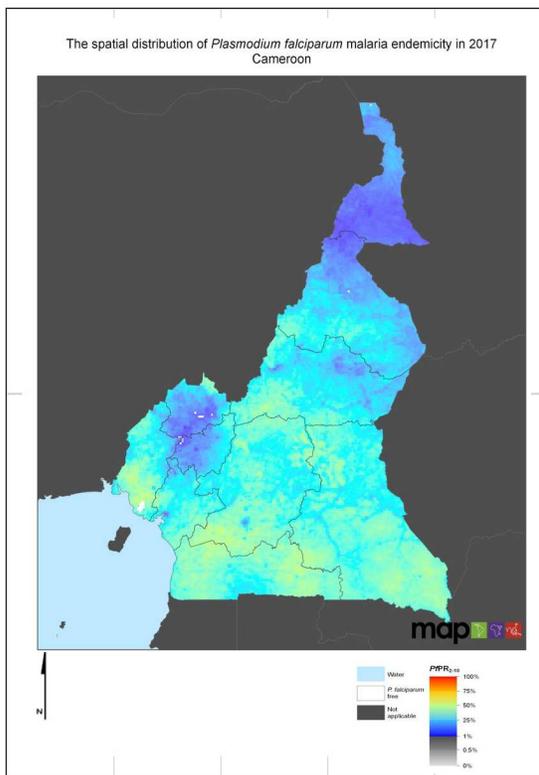


Cameroon ALMA Quarterly Report

Quarter Three, 2021



Scorecard for Accountability and Action



Malaria transmission occurs year-round in Cameroon and is most intense in the south of the country. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 4,266,648 with 4,510 deaths.

Metrics

Commodities Financed and Financial Control	
LLIN financing 2021 projection (% of need)	100
Public sector RDT financing 2021 projection (% of need)	100
Public sector ACT financing 2021 projection (% of need)	100
World Bank rating on public sector management and institutions 2020 (CPIA Cluster D)	3.1
Insecticide Resistance Monitoring, Implementation and Impact	
Insecticide classes with mosquito resistance in representative sentinel sites confirmed since 2010	4
Insecticide resistance monitored since 2015 and data reported to WHO	
National Insecticide Resistance Monitoring and Management Plan	
RDTs in stock (>6 months stock)	
ACTs in stock (>6 months stock)	
LLINIRS campaign on track	
Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign	
Scale of Implementation of iCCM	
Operational LLINIRS coverage (% of at risk population)	100
On track to reduce case incidence by ≥40% by 2020 (vs 2015)	
On track to reduce case mortality by ≥40% by 2020 (vs 2015)	
Tracer Indicators for Maternal and Child Health and NTDs	
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2019)	16
Estimated % of Total Population living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)	74
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)	35
% deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant	65
Postnatal care (within 48 hrs)	65
Exclusive breastfeeding (% children < 6 months)	28
Vitamin A Coverage 2018 (2 doses)	47
DPT3 coverage 2020 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)	69

Key

	Target achieved or on track
	Progress but more effort required
	Not on track
	No data
	Not applicable

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, Neglected Tropical Diseases and malaria.

In 2020, for Cameroon, it was of vital importance that the delivery of seasonal malaria chemoprevention as well as the completion of the long-lasting insecticidal net (LLIN) universal coverage campaign in the remaining three regions went ahead as planned, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the guidance and recommendations from WHO and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria. The country is congratulated for successfully implementing the SMC in 2020. Without this SMC campaign, coupled with the need to sustain essential health services including malaria case management, there would have been an increase in malaria cases and deaths. Under the worst-case scenario, in which all ITN campaigns are suspended and with a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could have been a 13.4% increase in malaria cases, and a 74.6% increase in malaria deaths in Cameroon. 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

Cameroon secured the resources to cover the costs of the LLINs, ACTs and RDTs needed in 2021 and has more than 6 months of ACT commodity stocks, with RDTs currently under procurement to replenish stocks. Cameroon has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO and has completed the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. The country is also showing leadership in malaria control through its participation in the High Burden High Impact approach.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Cameroon has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Control Scorecard. The country is also planning the launch of the End Malaria Council and Fund.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 4,266,648 with 4,510 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Insecticide resistance.
- Delays in the completion of the universal coverage campaign.

- 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

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
Impact	Ensure that malaria services including case management and vector control are sustained and implemented whilst using COVID-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic	Q4 2020		Cameroon has sufficient stocks of ACTs and RDTs, although there have been some delivery delays experienced. All malaria control interventions are going on as planned and take into account COVID-19 guidelines. The country had some funding gaps for the acquisition of PPEs for community health workers involved in the SMC campaign funded by PMI but this has been addressed through the Global Fund and the campaign has been implemented as planned

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Cameroon 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 Cameroon is very low for trachoma (0%); low for lymphatic filariasis (33%) and for onchocerciasis (49%), good for soil transmitted helminths (76%) and high for schistosomiasis (98%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Cameroon in 2019 is 16 and this represents substantial decrease compared with the 2016 index value (50).

Previous Key Recommended Actions

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
RMNCAH ¹ : Impact	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	Q4 2020		No progress reported

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
NTDs	Given the high coverage of Preventive Chemotherapy (PC) for Schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminths, implement preventive chemotherapy for trachoma and work to increase the preventive chemotherapy coverage for lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis including by putting in place the necessary waivers for the donated medicines. 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	Q4 2021		By using COVID-19 sensitive guidelines, Cameroon maintained the NTD case detection and treatment in the health facilities. The country conducted targeted MDA for 2021 and Transmission assessment surveys. Other routine activities are being conducted as planned.

The country has responded positively to previous recommended action on accelerating coverage of ARTs in the total population and in children under 14 years of age, with a 2% increase reported in the last year.

Key

	Action achieved
	Some progress
	No progress
	Deliverable not yet due