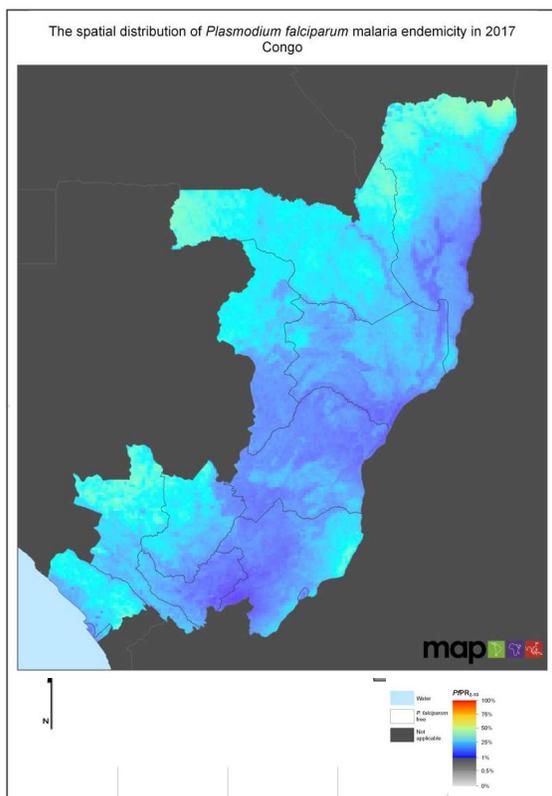


Scorecard for Accountability and Action



The entire population of the Republic of the Congo is at high risk of malaria and transmission is intense all year round. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 581,980 with 107 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)	▼	2.5
Insecticide Resistance Monitoring, Implementation and Impact		
Insecticide classes with mosquito resistance in representative sentinel sites confirmed since 2010		3
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)	▲	
LLIN/IRS campaign on track		
Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign		
Scale of Implementation of iCCM		
Operational LLIN/IRS 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)		12
Estimated % of Total Population living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)		24
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)		13
% deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant		91
Postnatal care (within 48 hrs)		80
Exclusive breastfeeding (% children < 6 months)		33
Vitamin A Coverage 2018 (2 doses)		8
DPT3 coverage 2020 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)		73

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, Adolescent and Child health, Neglected Tropical Diseases and malaria.

WHO underlines the critical importance of sustaining efforts to prevent, detect and treat malaria during the COVID-19 pandemic. Congo was encouraged to sustain the delivery of essential health services including malaria case management, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Without this, there would be an increase in malaria cases and deaths. Under the worst-case scenario, in which there is a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimated that there could be a 10.3% increase in malaria cases, and a 61.4% increase in malaria deaths in Congo. 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

Congo secured sufficient resources to cover the required needs for ACTs, RDTs and LLINs required in 2021 and has procured the ACTs and RDTs needed for 2021. Congo has distributed sufficient LLINs to achieve 100% operational coverage of the targeted at risk population in the forthcoming campaign. The country has scaled up iCCM coverage. The country has recently reported the results of insecticide resistance monitoring to WHO.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Congo has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Scorecard, however this scorecard has not yet been shared through the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The NTD country scorecard has been shared through the Scorecard Hub.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 581,980 with 107 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Low coverage of essential interventions due to lack of external and domestic resources.
- 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		The country has developed a contingency plan that supported the acceleration of programming to get back on track following the COVID-19 lockdown. The country carried out SBC including with tv and radio spots and posters as part of awareness-raising activities to enhance treatment seeking. The country is scaling up case management in 2021 through the new Global Fund grant with delivery of ACTs and RDTs leading to sufficient stocks

Congo has responded to the recommended actions addressing financing of anti-malarial commodities and continues to track progress as this action is implemented. The country is working on a multisectoral investment plan.

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

Congo has made good progress in tracer RMNCAH interventions including skilled birth attendants and vitamin A. The country has enhanced the 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 Congo is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminths. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Congo is high for onchocerciasis (82%), good for lymphatic filariasis (52%), low for soil transmitted helminths (47%) and very low for schistosomiasis (0%) and for schistosomiasis (0%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Congo in 2019 is 12 and this represents a substantial decrease compared with the 2018 index value (44).

The country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of the NTD scorecard.

Previous Key Recommended Actions

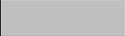
Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
RMNCAH ¹ : Impact	Ensure that essential RMNCAH services are sustained and implemented whilst using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. Address any stock-outs of essential RMNCAH commodities	Q4 2020		Congo reports that although services have continued during the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been reductions in coverage for ANC, and disruptions to routine and campaign vaccination and Vitamin A distribution. The country is working to assess the full impact of COVID on reproductive health services

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 onchocerciasis, implement the preventive chemotherapy for schistosomiasis and work to increase the preventive chemotherapy coverage for Lymphatic Filariasis and for Soil transmitted helminthiasis, including through enhanced government resource commitments. 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 respecting COVID-19 preventive measures, the 2021 MDA for schistosomiasis was conducted alongside the deworming of school-age children. The country is working to secure ESPEN support to organize mapping of Schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminths, but this was delayed due to COVID-19. In 2021, the geographical coverage for the lymphatic filariasis campaign has been high but the country is still working to improve the therapeutic coverage for both Lymphatic filariasis and soil transmitted helminths in some districts. The country is trying to mobilize funds for morbidity management and disability prevention. Also, with the technical and financial support of ALMA, the country decentralized the NTD scorecard up to departmental and district level and is now documenting the NTD best practices. Currently, the country is conducting the mapping of productive blackfly breeding sites as part of onchocerciasis elimination mapping

Congo has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing low coverage of ARTs, and coverage has recently increased, and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

Key

	Action achieved
	Some progress
	No progress
	Deliverable not yet due