Malaria transmission occurs all year round throughout Côte d’Ivoire, although it is more seasonal in the north of the country. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 5,950,336 with 1,693 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. 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.

WHO underlines the critical importance of sustaining efforts to prevent, detect and treat malaria during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was of vital importance to ensure the continuity of malaria prevention and treatment services including distribution of insecticide-treated nets and indoor residual spraying, as well as chemoprevention for pregnant women and young children (intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy and seasonal malaria chemoprevention). Under the worst-case scenario, in which all ITN campaigns were suspended and with a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimated that there could have been a 23.2% increase in malaria cases, and a 111.4% increase in malaria deaths in Côte d’Ivoire. 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

Côte d’Ivoire has successfully raised resources for the financing of LLINs, RDTs, and ACTs in 2021 and has procured enough LLINs to achieve 100% operational coverage of the targeted at risk population with LLINs. The country has also scaled up implementation of iCCM, There are sufficient stocks of ACTs and RDTs and the IRS and LLIN campaigns have been successfully completed. Côte d’Ivoire has recently reported the results of insecticide resistance testing to WHO. The country has achieved a high rating in terms of public sector management systems (CPIA cluster D). The country has launched the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Côte d’Ivoire has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Scorecard, however the scorecard is not yet shared through the ALMA Scorecard Hub.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 5,950,336 with 1,693 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 NTDs.
## 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>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 accelerated ACT deliveries and has adequate stocks of both RDTs and ACTs. Both the IRS campaign and the LLIN campaign were successfully completed. The COVID-19 crisis led to reduced use of health care facilities and of community health workers in 2020 as due to a lack of training and PPE, community health workers were unable to ensure the continuity of the basic essential services. This was reflected in a reduction in suspected malaria cases and in suspected cases tested and in the number of cases treated in the community. The reduction in cases tested and treated was also linked to disruptions in the supply of RDTs and ACTs 2020, related to general difficulties in the supply chain. PPE and awareness-raising of COVID-19 has been integrated into community-based malaria service delivery.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## RMNCAH and NTDs

**Progress**

The country has made progress on the tracer RMNCAH intervention of postnatal care and has recently increased coverage of vitamin A and of ARTs. Côte d'Ivoire has enhanced 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 Côte d'Ivoire is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths, lymphatic filariasis and trachoma. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Côte d'Ivoire is high for onchocerciasis (95%) and soil transmitted helminths (92%). Coverage for lymphatic filariasis is 74%, 54% for schistosomiasis and 33% for trachoma. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Côte d'Ivoire in 2019 is 65 and this represents substantial increase compared with the 2018 index value (21).
### Previous Key Recommended Actions

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RMNCAH(^1): Optimise quality of care</td>
<td>a) Address the falling coverage of vitamin A</td>
<td>Q1 2021</td>
<td>No progress reported</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) 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>The country reports that health services use and demand decreased significantly in the first half of 2020 (15 to 30 percent reduction in ANC1, family planning activities, treatment consultations, hospitalizations and surgical interventions; 20 percent reduction in vaccination coverage for the third dose of the Pentavalent vaccine). Demand for and use of health services has since increased. NGOs and CBOs carried out outreach and mass-communication awareness-raising activities on COVID-19 (designing and distributing communication materials, radio ads, illustrated fact sheets, illustrated guides, posters, posts on social media and digital platforms, etc.). PPE has been distributed to community health workers with additional PPE funded through the C19RM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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>No progress reported</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Côte d'Ivoire has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing low coverage of exclusive breastfeeding, and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.

### Key

- **Action achieved**
- **Some progress**
- **No progress**
- **Deliverable not yet due**

\(^1\) RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WH