Malaria transmission is seasonal in almost all areas of Mozambique. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 11,781,516 with 734 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.

For Mozambique, it was of vital importance that the universal coverage campaigns for long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) scheduled for 2020 went ahead in the targeted provinces, 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 rolling these campaigns out in 2020. Without the LLIN campaigns, planned indoor residual spraying and sustained 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 there is a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could be a 24.8% increase in malaria cases, and a 100.1% increase in malaria deaths in Mozambique. 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
Mozambique secured sufficient financing to sustain universal coverage of LLINs, RDTs and ACTs in 2020 and has sufficient stocks. The country has carried out sufficient IRS and procured sufficient LLINs to achieve 100% operational coverage of vector control in the targeted at risk population. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. Mozambique has also completed the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. Mozambique has also scaled up implementation of iCCM. Mozambique has launched its Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign. 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, the country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control and Elimination Scorecard and has posted the scorecard to the ALMA Scorecard Hub. Additionally, Mozambique launched the End Malaria Fund in Q3 2020.

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 9,320,557 with 968 deaths.

Key Challenges
- There is a need to strengthen cross border collaboration with neighbouring countries.
- 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

<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>Mozambique has adequate stocks of ACTs and RDTs. The country is awaiting delivery of some insecticides for the IRS campaign. Early in the pandemic, the country observed that the community were afraid to go to health facilities for fear of catching COVID-19 and so trained community health workers to continue to provide services at community level for malaria treatment. PPE is available for health workers. There are some gaps in IRS funding and resource mobilisation is underway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vector Control</td>
<td>Ensure the IRS commodities are procured in time for the 2021 IRS campaigns</td>
<td>Q3 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country has some insecticide quantities which were ordered as part of the 2020/2021 spraying season. However, there are delays in the shipping of the Global Fund insecticides and the country is awaiting delivery.</td>
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</table>

### RMNCAH and NTDs

**Progress**

Mozambique has recently increased coverage of ARTs in children as well as skilled birth attendants. The country has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent and Child Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Mozambique is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Mozambique is high for schistosomiasis (96%) and for trachoma (80%), but below WHO targets for soil-transmitted helminthiasis (56%) and for lymphatic filariasis (49%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Mozambique in 2019 is 68, which represents a substantial increase compared with the 2018 index value (47).
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<td>RMNCAH(^1): Impact</td>
<td>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>Overall, RMNCAH services have been maintained, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. National lockdown measures initially caused disruptions, but services resumed. Precautions put in place to protect health workers and patients include physical distancing; Mandatory mask usage (and masks available at hand washing locations) and to reduce the risk of exposure, the health sector has used appointment scheduling (since April 2020) and reduced medication dispensing to quarterly (as opposed to monthly) where possible. Family planning services continued, but with modifications, including prioritisation of long-term family planning methods to reduce patient turnover. Child health services have continued without significant changes. The public remains afraid, which is reflected in a decline in health seeking but there is an active communications campaign ongoing to correct this. Specific messages have been developed and distributed through radio and TV. Telemedicine and other digital platforms have also been used to offer services without having to leave home. There are no identified stockouts of life-saving commodities at this time. Current stock levels are forecast to be sufficient for the remainder of the year. There was an increase in the quantity of commodities that are considered “normal” to account for the risk of supply disruptions due to global trade or factories shutting down because of the pandemic.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NTDs</td>
<td>Given the high coverage of Preventive Chemotherapy (PC) for schistosomiasis and trachoma, work to increase the preventive chemotherapy coverage for soil-transmitted helminthiasis and for lymphatic filariasis and reach WHO targets.</td>
<td>Q4 2021</td>
<td>In April 2021, the country received the information about the funding cuts for the 2021 NTD activities, this has negatively impacted the implementation of the planned activities. With the short shelf life of the medicines in stock, the country carried out a mass treatment campaign in 22 districts and treated 1,911,374 people and consumed 3,943,799 tablets of paraziquantel. For Lymphatic Filariasis, only 4 districts were treated and there is still a stock of ivermectin. For medicines with a short shelf life, the country worked with 2 provinces, specifically Zambézia and Cabo Delgado to distribute them through fixed posts (Health Units) as there were no funds to carry out MDA. All the expiring medicines have been used and no NTD drugs expired. MDA will resume in November 2021 if funds are available.</td>
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</table>

\(^1\) RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
Mozambique has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing the lack of data on postnatal care and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

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