Malaria transmission ranges from unstable and epidemic in Puntland and Somaliland to moderate in central Somalia to high in the south. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 65,375 and 20 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 Somalia, it was of vital importance to ensure that the rolling universal coverage campaign for long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) scheduled for 2020 went ahead, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the recent guidance and recommendations from WHO and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria. The country is congratulated for rolling out the campaign in quarter 3. Without this campaign, coupled with the need to sustain essential health services including malaria case management, there could be 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 an 8.6% increase in malaria cases, and a 25.2% increase in malaria deaths in Somalia. 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
Somalia has secured sufficient resources to cover the procurement and distribution of the LLINs, ACTs and RDTs required in 2021. The country also has sufficient stocks of ACTs and RDTs.

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 65,375 and 20 deaths.

Key Challenges
- A weak health system and relatively few partners limit scale up of core malaria interventions.
- 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.
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

While there were some delays in the delivery of vector control commodities (insecticides and LLINs) due to COVID-19, implementation of IRS and LLINs were completed at the end of January 2021 and at the end of December 2020, respectively. Insecticide for IRS was received in March and spraying has been completed in Puntland and in South Central Somalia. Due to some challenges, spraying has not begun in Somaliland and it is not known when this will happen. There are currently no stock outs of ACTs and RDTs.

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Somalia is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminths. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Somalia is high for schistosomiasis (100%) and below WHO targets for soil transmitted helminths (32%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index in 2019 is 57, which represents a decrease compared with the 2018 index value (65).

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>RMNCAH1: 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>The country continues to provide lifesaving health services to emergency-affected populations in Somalia. The country is working to sustain coverage of ANC, SBA, routine outpatient care, and vaccination for measles and Penta.</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>Deliverable not yet due</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
Somalia has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing low coverage and lack of data for a number of key interventions including skilled birth attendants, exclusive breastfeeding and postnatal care and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

**Key**

- Green: Action achieved
- Yellow: Some progress
- Red: No progress
- Gray: Deliverable not yet due