In Cabo Verde, 58% of the population lives in areas where there is a low risk of malaria; the rest of the country is malaria-free. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 10 with zero deaths.
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 of COVID-19. 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 estimates that there were an additional 47,000 malaria deaths globally in 2020 due to service disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to an estimated 7.5% increase in deaths.

It is essential to ensure the continuity of malaria, RMNCAH and NTD services in 2022 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.

The country has been affected by the continent-wide restriction of access to COVID-19 vaccines but has been able to cover 43% of their population by the end of 2021.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 10 with zero 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 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 2022</td>
<td>The country has adequate stocks of ACTs and RDTs for 2021. During Q4 2021 the country continued the implementation of activities specific to malaria elimination including passive and active case-based surveillance and adequate management of each case. A multisectoral coordination mechanism was implemented for community-based activities. In terms of case management, the IRS was completed as planned</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

The country has achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH interventions, DPT3 vaccination, skilled birth attendants, exclusive breastfeeding and coverage of ARTs in the total population.
Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Cabo Verde is measured using preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for soil transmitted helminths. Preventive chemotherapy coverage for soil transmitted helminths in Cabo Verde in 2020 was below the WHO targets. The overall NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Cabo Verde is 55 in 2020, which represents a decrease compared with the 2019 index value (63).

### Previous Key Recommended Actions

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</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 2022</td>
<td>RMNCAH services were affected at the beginning of the pandemic, with a reduction in the demand for primary health care by the population due to the fear of contracting the disease, financial duress and lack of transport options. The country responded by task-shifting health technicians to COVID-19 related activities and requiring spacing of appointments to maintain social distancing. In this reorganization, essential RMNCAH services were not neglected. The Ministry of Health released an official decree for health facilities to ensure a continuation of priority care in sexual and reproductive health services, child health and vaccination, antenatal and postnatal care, family planning, and services for patients with chronic diseases, and emergencies. The country developed procedures to assist health facilities impose a series of prevention and protection measures, to be strictly complied with by users and health professionals during COVID. Guidelines have also been developed for caring with confirmed COVID cases in pregnant women, during child birth, children and adolescents. Additionally, TV and radio spots have been amplified during COVID promoting reproductive health services of mothers, new-borns, children and adolescents, respecting individual prevention and protection measures.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<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 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country is conducting all planned NTD interventions by respecting COVID-19 measures. MDA was conducted in March 2021 and planning is underway for the 2022 campaigns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cabo Verde has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing lack of data on postnatal care, ART coverage in children and vitamin A and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

**Key**

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