Malaria transmission in Chad is intense in the south of the country. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 1,890,264 with 2,955 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. 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. For Chad, it was of vital importance to ensure that the universal coverage campaign for long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) and Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC) was completed in 2021. The country is congratulated for rolling out the LLIN campaign and completing the SMC. Under the worst-case scenario, in which the LLIN campaign was suspended and there was a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could have been a 21.5% increase in malaria cases, and a 39.5% increase in malaria deaths in Chad. This scenario would have represented a complete reversal in the substantial progress in malaria mortality reductions seen over the last 2 decades.

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 and had only been able to cover 1% of their population by the end of 2021.

Malaria Progress

The ACTs, RDTs and LLINs needed for 2021 are fully financed. Chad has procured sufficient LLINs to achieve operational universal coverage of the targeted at-risk population. Chad has also successfully rolled out the LLIN campaign, distributing nets door to door to ensure social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Current stocks of ACTs and RDTs are low but additional commodities are under procurement.

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

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 1,890,264 with 2,955 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Weak health information system.
- 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.
Chad has responded positively to the recommended actions for the reporting of insecticide resistance to WHO.

**RMNCAH and NTDs**

**Progress**
Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Chad is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage in Chad was very good for lymphatic filariasis (78%) and for onchocerciasis (68%) but was low for schistosomiasis (15%) and for soil-transmitted helminths (26%) and very low for trachoma (0%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Chad in 2020 is 12 with a very substantial decrease compared with the index value of 2019 (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>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>ITN distribution was completed as planned. There were stock outs of drugs for the treatment of severe malaria and delays in the delivery of ACTs and RDTs for the treatment of uncomplicated malaria. There was no interruption in delivery of malaria interventions at community level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
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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>In Chad, reductions in service utilization related to COVID-19 were observed at the beginning of the pandemic. Currently, service users are accessing RMNCAH services as normal. The country is fundraising for more resources to equip health facilities with resuscitation facilities, drugs and other essential health materials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTDs</td>
<td>Recognising the negative impact of COVID-19 on the 2020 MDA coverage, ensure that NTD interventions including MDAs, vector control and Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention are sustained and implemented whilst using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. This includes prioritizing key necessary</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td>No Progress Reported</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
catch up activities including working to increase the coverage of all the preventive chemotherapy NTDs

Chad has responded positively to the recommended actions for skilled birth attendants, exclusive breastfeeding, ART coverage in children, with a 3% increase reported over the last year, and postnatal care coverage and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

**New Key Recommended Action**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Action Item</th>
<th>Suggested completion timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optimise quality of care</td>
<td>Address the falling coverage of vitamin A</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key**

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