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 2020 was 4,980,640 with 1,316 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. 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 Cote d’Ivoire. This scenario would represent 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 8% of their population by the end of 2021.

Malaria

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 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 2020 was 4,980,640 with 1,316 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 Action**

<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></td>
<td>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the utilisation of health care services decreased but sensitization was strengthened. The national mass distribution campaign of LLINs and the Indoor Residual Spraying were completed as planned. The country faced some stock outs of drugs and tests at health facility and community level but this has been addressed through urgent orders and re-distribution among health facilities</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. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage in Côte d'Ivoire was very good for schistosomiasis (100%), onchocerciasis (74%) and for soil transmitted helminths (82%). Coverage for lymphatic filariasis (48%) and trachoma (25%) was low. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Côte d'Ivoire in 2020 is 59 and this represents substantial decrease compared with the 2019 index value (65).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RMNCAH1: Optimise quality of care</td>
<td>a) Address the falling coverage of vitamin A</td>
<td>Q1 2021</td>
<td><img src="green" alt="" /></td>
<td>The country achieved high coverage of Vitamin A in both campaigns in 2020</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><img src="yellow" alt="" /></td>
<td>The country reports that health services use and demand decreased significantly in the first half of 2020 but that the 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 including designing and distributing communication materials, radio ads, illustrated fact sheets, illustrated guides, posters, posts on social media and digital platforms. PPE has been distributed to community health workers with additional PPE funded through the Global Fund</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 2022</td>
<td><img src="red" alt="" /></td>
<td>No progress reported</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](image)
- ![Some progress](image)
- ![No progress](image)
- ![Deliverable not yet due](image)

1 RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WH