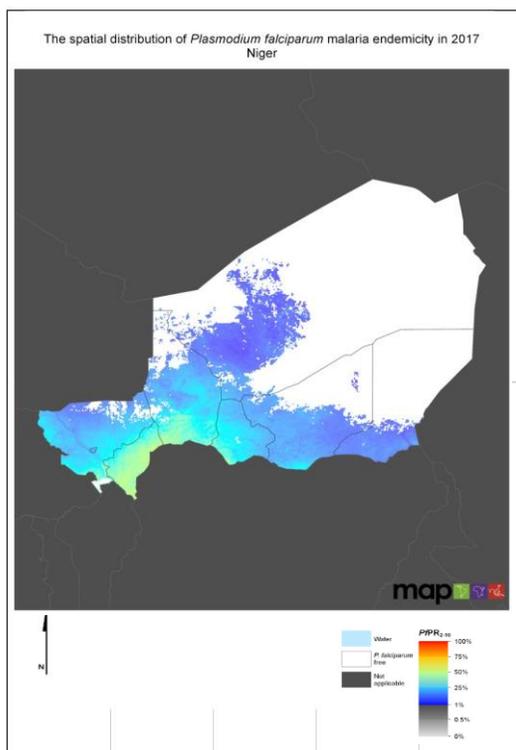


Scorecard for Accountability and Action



Malaria transmission is most intense in the south whilst the desert areas in the north are malaria-free. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 4,377,938 with 5,849 deaths.

Metrics

Commodities Financed		
LLIN financing 2021 projection (% of need)		100
Public sector RDT financing 2021 projection (% of need)		100
Public sector ACT financing 2021 projection (% of need)		100
Insecticide Resistance Monitoring, Implementation and Impact		
Insecticide classes with mosquito resistance in representative sentinel sites confirmed since 2010		4
Insecticide resistance monitored since 2015 and data reported to WHO		
National Insecticide Resistance Monitoring and Management Plan		
RDTs in stock (>6 months stock)		
ACTs in stock (>6 months stock)		
LLIN/IRS campaign on track		
Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign		
Scale of Implementation of iCCM		
Operational LLIN/IRS coverage (% of at risk population)		100
On track to reduce case incidence by ≥40% by 2020 (vs 2015)		
On track to reduce case mortality by ≥40% by 2020 (vs 2015)		
Tracer Indicators for Maternal and Child Health, NTDs and Covid 19		
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2020)		61
Estimated % of Total Population living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)		68
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)		35
% deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant		40
Postnatal care (within 48 hrs)		37
Exclusive breastfeeding (% children < 6 months)		23
Vitamin A Coverage 2020 (2 doses)		6
DPT3 coverage 2020 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)		81
% Population Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19		4

Key

	Target achieved or on track
	Progress but more effort required
	Not on track
	No data
	Not applicable

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 Niger, we commend the Ministry of Health, in the decision to go ahead with the rolling out of Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention, in accordance with the guidance and recommendations from WHO and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria. WHO modelling suggests that this decision, allied with sustained malaria case management through the health system, and seasonal malaria chemoprevention campaigns will prevent a significant increase in cases and deaths. The country is commended for this commitment to the fight against malaria. 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 17.6% increase in malaria cases, and a 100.7% increase in malaria deaths in Niger. 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 4% of their population by the end of 2021.

Malaria Progress

Niger mobilised the required financing to procure and distribute LLINs, ACTs and RDTs required for 2021. The country has procured sufficient LLINs to achieve universal operational coverage of the targeted population. The country has adequate stocks of ACTs and RDTs. Niger has completed the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan and has recently reported the results of insecticide resistance testing to WHO. The country is also showing leadership in malaria control through its participation in the High Burden High Impact approach. Niger has launched its Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign.

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 the Malaria Control Scorecard, although the scorecard is not yet posted to the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The country is developing a concept note for the End Malaria Council.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 4,377,938 with 5,849 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Insufficient resources to achieve high coverage of essential 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.

Previous Key Recommended Actions

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
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 2022		Although some delay in drugs and tests deliveries were experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, the country implemented the key malaria interventions as planned. The ITN mass distribution and the SMC campaign were implemented whilst respecting COVID-19 sensitive guidelines. The country implemented a pilot on the digitalisation of the SMC campaign in 3 health districts. The country also linked SMC with malnutrition screening

Niger has responded positively to the recommended action addressing resource mobilisation and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

The country has achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH intervention vitamin A. The country 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 Niger is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 78% for lymphatic filariasis, 59% for schistosomiasis, 100% for soil transmitted helminths and 30% for trachoma. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Niger in 2020 is 61, which represents a decrease compared with the 2019 index value of 74.

Previous Key Recommended Actions

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/ accomplishments since last quarterly report
RMNCAH ¹ : Impact	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	Q4 2022		No progress reported
NTDs	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 catch up activities including the tracking of leftover stocks at district level to retrieve all expired drugs after MDA for incineration and accountability purposes and ensure the First-Expire-First-Out (FEFO) method is effectively implemented at the national level	Q4 2022		In Niger, the NTD interventions are being conducted whilst respecting COVID-19 preventive measures. The country organized the MDA and the praziquantel at risk of expiration was given to districts. Some districts are still distributing the remaining medicines in order to improve the treatment coverage and the NTD Programme is assessing the remaining stock at decentralized level. The country conducted Post MDA evaluation. The decentralization of the NTD scorecard up to district level was completed in seven regions out of eight of the country and the remaining region, Zinder was trained in this December 2021. The country is also working on onchocerciasis elimination dossier

Niger has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing low coverage of skilled birth attendants, postnatal care and exclusive breastfeeding, and ARTs coverage in children (with recent increases in coverage reported) and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO

New Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
Optimise quality of care	Address the falling coverage of vitamin A	Q4 2022

Key

	Action achieved
	Some progress
	No progress
	Deliverable not yet due