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 2020 was 27,333 and 5 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.

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.

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**

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 27,333 and 5 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.
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>Whilst there were some initial delays in the delivery of vector control commodities (insecticides and LLINs) due to COVID-19, implementation of IRS and LLINs were completed in all the areas in Puntland and in South Central Somalia. Whilst these delays affected the IRS campaign in Somaliland, the insecticide for IRS has been received and spraying started in December 2021. There are currently no stock outs of ACTs and RDTs in the country</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 100% for schistosomiasis and 81% for soil transmitted helminths and not reported for trachoma. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index in 2020 is 90, which represents a significant increase when compared with the 2019 index value of 1.

Previous Key Recommended Actions

<table>
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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></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>
</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></td>
<td>The country achieved high coverage of PC for Schistosomiasis and Soil transmitted helminths in 2020</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
- Action achieved
- Some progress
- No progress
- Deliverable not yet due