The entire population of Togo is at high risk of malaria. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 2,406,091 and 1,275 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, Adolescent and Child health, Neglected Tropical Diseases and malaria.

For Togo, it was of vital importance to ensure that the Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention campaign went ahead, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the guidance and recommendations from WHO and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria. Without this campaign, coupled with the need to sustain essential health services including malaria case management, there could be an increase in malaria cases and deaths. The country is congratulated for completing this campaign and carrying out the necessary SMC. Under the worst-case scenario, in which all ITN campaigns were suspended and with a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could have been a 38% increase in malaria cases, and a 327% increase in malaria deaths in Togo. 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 12% of their population by the end of 2021.

Malaria

Progress
Togo has secured sufficient resources to fund the LLINs, RDTs and ACTs required in 2021. The country has distributed sufficient LLINs to achieve 100% operational coverage of the targeted at risk population. Togo has finalised the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan and has reported the results of insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan.

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

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 2,406,091 and 1,275 deaths.

Key Challenge
- Sustaining the delivery of essential life-saving interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic.
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>Malaria control activities continue in Togo while respecting COVID-19 preventive measures. Malaria case management at health facilities and at community level is ongoing. Awareness-raising and counselling led to the improvement of the attendance at health facilities. The Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention campaign was completed, with the support of partners including the Global Fund, UNICEF and Malaria Consortium.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Togo has responded positively to the recommended action on monitoring national insecticide resistance and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.

**RMNCAH and NTDs**

**Progress**

Togo achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH intervention exclusive breastfeeding and DPT3 vaccination and has recently increased vitamin A coverage.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Togo is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, and soil transmitted helminths. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 100% for the three diseases (lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis and trachoma). The coverage was 84% for onchocerciasis and 57% for soil transmitted helminths. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Togo in 2020 is 86, which represents an increase compared with the 2019 index value (77).

**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>No progress reported</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<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>NTD activities are being conducted in Togo whilst respecting COVID-19 preventive measures. In addition to routine activities, the country conducted the formative supervision of Regional and District Focal Points to be involved in post - elimination surveillance of Guinea worm. In total, 39 district focal points and 6 regional focal points were involved in post surveillance. MDA preparatory activities were conducted including a press conference on MDA and training of community health workers. The MDA was conducted in September-October 2021 in 6 regions of the country. The remaining regions are organizing the Schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminths impact survey and will organize the MDA once the survey is completed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Togo has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing low coverage of ARTs in children, with a 6% increase in coverage recently observed, and skilled birth attendants and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

**Key**

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