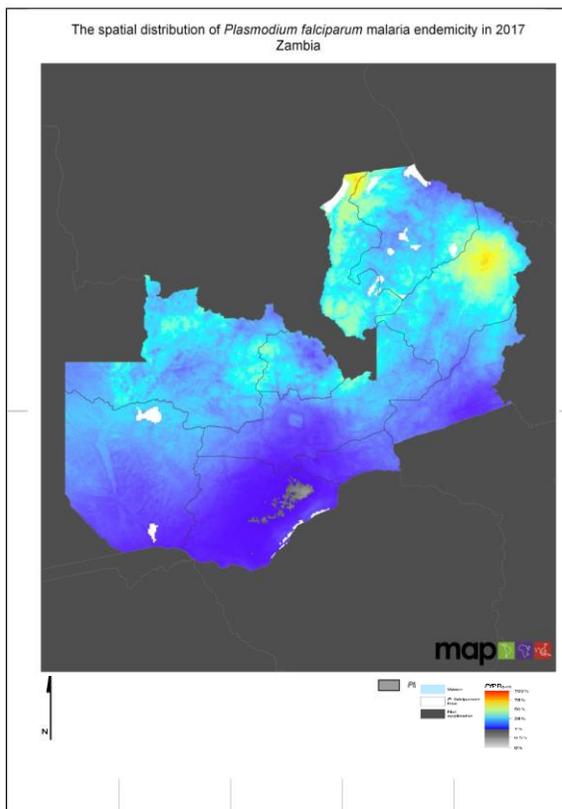


Scorecard for Accountability and Action



Malaria is endemic in all parts of Zambia and transmission is seasonal. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 8,698,304 with 1,972 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)		
LLINIRS campaign on track		
Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign		
Scale of Implementation of icCM		
Operational LLINIRS coverage (% of at risk population)		99
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)		9
Estimated % of Total Population living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)		81
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)		58
% deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant		80
Postnatal care (within 48 hrs)		70
Exclusive breastfeeding (% children < 6 months)		70
Vitamin A Coverage 2020 (2 doses)		98
DPT3 coverage 2020 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)		84
% Population Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19		8

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 Zambia, it was of vital importance to ensure that the Indoor Residual Spraying 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 the planned indoor residual spraying (IRS) and sustained malaria case management, there could be an increase in malaria cases and deaths. The country is commended for prioritizing malaria with the IRS and LLIN campaigns going ahead. 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 have been a 42% increase in malaria cases, and a 124% increase in malaria deaths in Zambia. 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**

Zambia has secured most of the required financing to fund the ACTs, LLINs and IRS required for 2021, including with significant domestic resource commitments. The country has also distributed sufficient LLINs and carried out sufficient IRS to achieve universal operational coverage of the targeted at risk population. Zambia carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and reported the results to WHO and has completed the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. Zambia has scaled up the implementation of iCCM and achieved 100% operational coverage of LLINs. Zambia has launched the Malaria Ends with Me campaign.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Zambia has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Control and Elimination Scorecard and the sharing of the country scorecards through the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The country has also launched the multisectoral high level End Malaria Council and Malaria Fund.

### **Impact**

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 8,698,304 with 1,972 deaths.

## Key Challenges

- The country has documented mosquito resistance to four insecticide classes.
- There is a need to strengthen cross border collaboration with neighbouring countries.
- The country has significant resource gaps.
- 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		The malaria directorate and partners continued to implement interventions and campaigns whilst following the COVID-19 guidelines. Additional Community Health Worker training and deployment is rolling out in two provinces through Rotary Malaria Partners and World Vision with the aim to saturate coverage of 1 CHW per 500 population. All malaria trainings and orientations are being conducted following Covid 19 guidelines. The malaria directorate meetings with all local partners is held monthly with review of selected indicators using the malaria scorecard. This also covers vector control, commodity supply (vector control and case management) and pipeline. The country had low stocks of one particular pack size of ACTs

## RMNCAH and NTDs

### Progress

Zambia has achieved high coverage in the tracer RMNCAH interventions of exclusive breastfeeding, vitamin A and DPT3. The country has also increased coverage of ARTs in children. Zambia has enhanced accountability mechanisms with the development of a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Zambia 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 65% for schistosomiasis, 51% for lymphatic filariasis, 23% for soil transmitted helminths and 0% for trachoma. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index in 2020 is 9 which represents an increase compared to the 2019 index value (2).

## Previous Key Recommended Actions

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
NTDs	Work to increase the preventive chemotherapy for soil transmitted helminths, trachoma and for schistosomiasis along with lymphatic filariasis to reach WHO targets	Q4 2022		Since the end of 2020, the country has organised MDA targeting Soil Transmitted Helminths, Schistosomiasis and Lymphatic Filariasis and the geographical coverage was improved at about 90%. This has likely utilised the expiring drugs but the reports are currently in preparation
RMNCAH <sup>1</sup> : 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		RMNCAH Services have continued to be implemented while following Covid 19 guidelines. Round one of the Child Health Week took place in June while round 2 is planned to be held in November. There was full involvement of provincial and district leadership with high coverage of all services and general availability of Covid 19 prevention logistics and messaging and adherence across all the provinces. Adolescent Unit of MOH partnered with social media platforms and other line ministries. National level provided guidance to facilities to comply with the Covid 19 restrictions e.g. adolescent advised to limit numbers at a particular time to maintain physical distance
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	Q4 2022		Since the end of 2020, the country has organised MDA targeting Soil Transmitted Helminths, Schistosomiasis and Lymphatic Filariasis and the geographical coverage was improved at about 90%. Schistosomiasis MDA in the remaining 49 implementation units was extended to 2021. Mobilizing funds for MDA has been a priority and all MDAs were supported by WHO. The country also conducted the 5th round of Lymphatic Filariasis MDA in 79 implementation units with ASCEND support and reports are under compilation. Also, Trachoma MDA has been just completed with the support of ASCEND and reports are also under compilation. The NTD programme are identifying 'hot spots' in the districts and implementing targeted interventions; strengthening WASH NTD, Integrated Vector Management and Vet Public Health

<sup>1</sup> RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO

## Key

	Action achieved
	Some progress
	No progress
	Deliverable not yet due