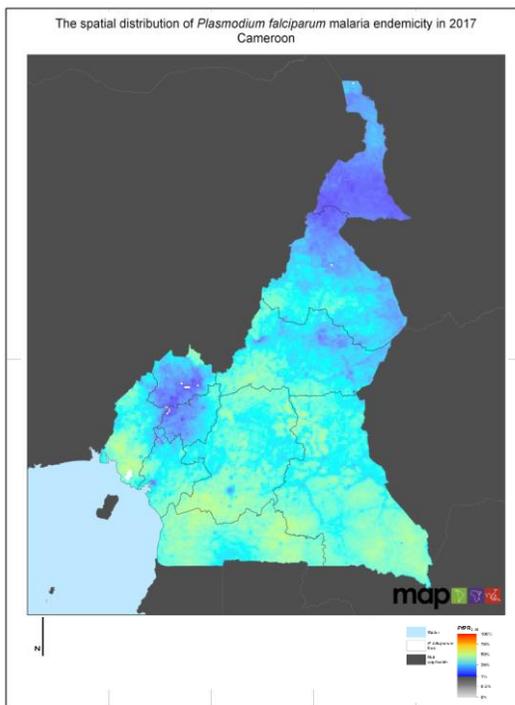


Cameroon ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter One, 2022



Scorecard for Accountability and Action



Malaria transmission occurs year-round in Cameroon and is most intense in the south of the country. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 2,974,819 with 4,121 deaths.

Metrics

Commodities Financed	
LLIN financing 2022 projection (% of need)	97
Public sector RDT financing 2022 projection (% of need)	100
Public sector ACT financing 2022 projection (% of need)	100
Policy	
Signed, ratified and deposited the AMA instrument at the AUC	
Malaria activities targeting refugees in Malaria Strategic Plan	
Malaria activities targeting IDPs in Malaria Strategic Plan	
Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign	
Resistance Monitoring, Implementation and Impact	
Drug Resistance Monitoring Conducted (2018-2020) and data reported to WHO	
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	
Operational LLINIRS 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	
Scale of Implementation of iCCM	
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2020)	4
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)	35
Vitamin A Coverage 2020 (2 doses)	14
DPT3 coverage 2020 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)	69
% 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.

In 2021, for Cameroon, it was of vital importance that the delivery of seasonal malaria chemoprevention as well as the completion of the long-lasting insecticidal net (LLIN) universal coverage campaign in the remaining three regions went ahead as planned, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the guidance and recommendations from WHO and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria. The country is congratulated for successfully implementing the SMC in 2021. Without this SMC campaign, coupled with the need to sustain essential health services including malaria case management, there would have been an increase in malaria cases and deaths. Under the worst-case scenario, in which all ITN campaigns are suspended and with a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could have been a 13.4% increase in malaria cases, and a 74.6% increase in malaria deaths in Cameroon. 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.

Given the difficulties in securing essential health commodities in Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is of vital importance that countries sign, ratify and deposit the African Medicines Agency (AMA) instrument with the AUC in order to improve access to quality, safe and efficacious medical products in Africa. The country is congratulated for doing this.

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 April 2022. The country, working with partners, should invest in education and behaviour change communication to increase the uptake of COVID vaccines and therapeutics.

Malaria Progress

Cameroon secured the resources to cover the costs of the LLINs, ACTs and RDTs needed in 2022 and has more than 6 months of ACT and RDT commodity stocks. Cameroon has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO and has completed the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. and has carried out drug resistance testing since 2018 and has reported the results to WHO. The national strategic plan includes activities targeting

refugees and IDPs. The country is also showing leadership in malaria control through its participation in the High Burden High Impact approach.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Cameroon has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Control Scorecard. The country is also planning the launch of the End Malaria Council and Fund.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 2,974,819 with 4,121 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Insecticide resistance.
- Delays in the completion of the universal coverage campaign.
- 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

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		Malaria control interventions are continuing as planned whilst taking into account COVID-19 guidelines. The SMC campaign planned in 2022 will target 1,968,661 children in 4 cycles, with planning on track. The country has adequate stocks of ACTs and RDTs for 2022. There are some delays in the planning of the LLIN campaign. The country successfully launched the Stop Palu campaign in Q1 2022

New Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
Monitoring	Ensure that drug resistance monitoring is conducted and the data are reported to WHO	Q1 2023

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Cameroon is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Cameroon is very low for trachoma (0%) and for lymphatic filariasis (0%). It is low for onchocerciasis (36%) and for soil transmitted helminths (36%) and high for schistosomiasis (99%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Cameroon in 2020 is 4 and this represents substantial decrease compared with the 2019 index value (16)

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. 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 conducting stock reconciliation following a national and subnational physical inventory count tracking of leftover stocks at district level and retrieving all expired drugs after MDA for incineration and accountability	Q4 2022		Cameroon is conducting NTD control and elimination activities whilst respecting COVID-19 preventive measures. The NTD case detection and treatment in health facilities are being conducted. Other routine activities are being conducted as planned
Optimise quality of care	Address the falling coverage of vitamin A	Q4 2022		Deliverable not yet due

The country has responded positively to previous recommended action on accelerating coverage of ARTs in children under 14 years of age, with a 2% increase reported in the last year.

Key

	Action achieved
	Some progress
	No progress
	Deliverable not yet due

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO