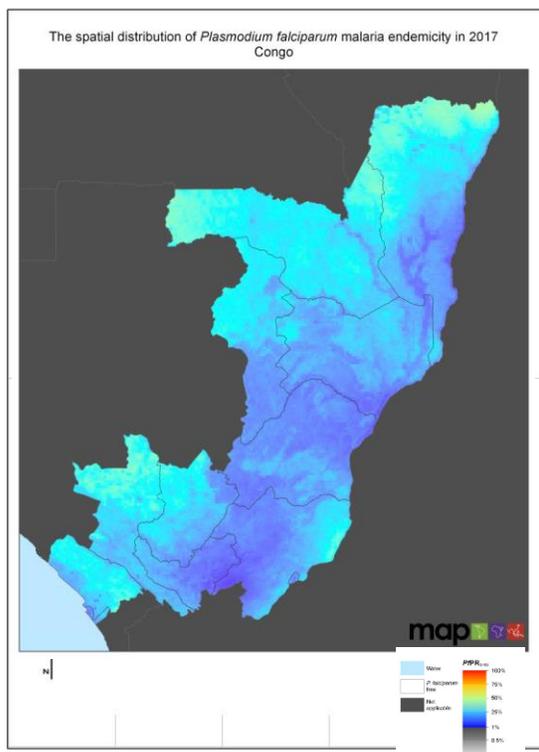


### Scorecard for Accountability and Action



The entire population of the Republic of the Congo is at high risk of malaria and transmission is intense all year round. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 103,692 with 99 deaths.

#### Metrics

Commodities Financed		
LLIN financing 2022 projection (% of need)		100
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		3
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		
Operational LLIN/IRS coverage (% of at risk population)	▼	19
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)		34
Estimated % of children (0-14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)		13
Vitamin A Coverage 2020 (2 doses)		
DPT3 coverage 2020 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)		73
% Population Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19		12

#### 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, Adolescent and Child health, Neglected Tropical Diseases and malaria.

WHO underlines the critical importance of sustaining efforts to prevent, detect and treat malaria during the COVID-19 pandemic. Congo is encouraged to sustain the delivery of essential health services including malaria case management, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Without this, there would be an increase in malaria cases and deaths. Under the worst-case scenario, in which there is a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimated that there could be a 10.3% increase in malaria cases, and a 61.4% increase in malaria deaths in Congo. 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 encouraged to complete this process.

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 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**

Congo secured sufficient resources to cover the required needs for ACTs, RDTs and LLINs required in 2022. The country has scaled up iCCM coverage. The country has recently reported the results of insecticide resistance monitoring to WHO and has carried out drug resistance testing since 2018 and has reported the results to WHO.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Congo has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Scorecard, however this scorecard has not yet been shared through the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The NTD country scorecard has been shared through the Scorecard Hub.

### **Impact**

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 103,692 with 99 deaths.

### **Key Challenges**

- Low coverage of essential interventions due to lack of external and domestic resources.

- 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		There were no major interruptions in malaria intervention implementation during the COVID-19 context. Diagnosis and treatment were implemented at all levels. The country is planning the ITN mass distribution planned for 2023 with a possibility of the digitalization of the campaign

Congo has responded to the recommended actions addressing financing of anti-malarial commodities and continues to track progress as this action is implemented. The country is working on a multisectoral investment plan.

### New Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
Policy	Work to incorporate activities targeting refugees and or IDPs in the Malaria Strategic Plan	Q1 2023
Address vector control coverage	Address falling vector control coverage	Q4 2022

## RMNCAH and NTDs

### Progress

The country has enhanced the 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 Congo is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminths. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Congo in 2020 was low for onchocerciasis (30%), lymphatic filariasis (33%), soil transmitted helminths (41%) and for schistosomiasis (33%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Congo in 2020 is 34 and this represents a substantial increase compared with the 2019 index value (12).

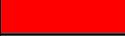
The country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of the NTD scorecard.

## Previous Key Recommended Actions

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
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		Congo reports that although services have continued during the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been reductions in coverage for ANC, and disruptions to routine and campaign vaccination and Vitamin A distribution. The country is working to assess the full impact of COVID on reproductive health services
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		NTD prevention and control activities are being conducted whilst using COVID-19 preventive measures. In Q1 2022, the country conducted the formative supervision on the use of their NTD scorecard for accountability and action in 2 departments. The country is also conducting a mapping for onchocerciasis elimination and the Lymphatic Filariasis MDA in 7 departments and 13 districts is ongoing. Other routine activities are being conducted as planned

Congo has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing low coverage of ARTs in children, and lack of data on vitamin A and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

### Key

	Action achieved
	Some progress
	No progress
	Deliverable not yet due

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