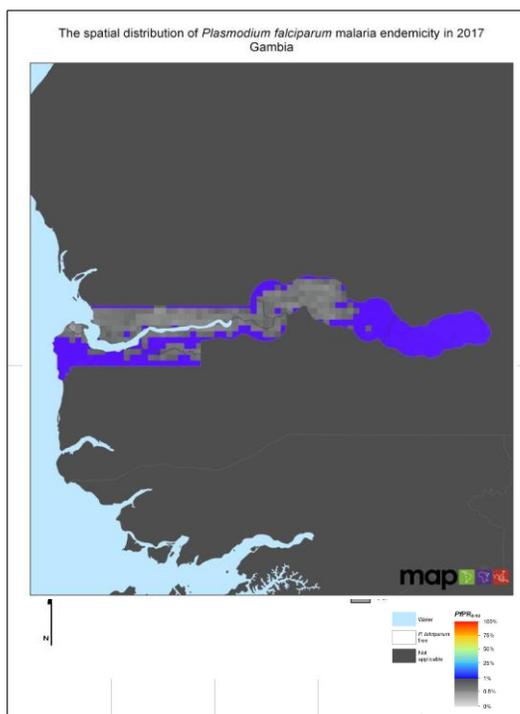


Scorecard for Accountability and Action



The entire population of The Gambia is at high risk of malaria and transmission is intense for most of the year. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 75,801 with 73 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)		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)		1
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)		27
Vitamin A Coverage 2020 (2 doses)		33
DPT3 coverage 2020 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)		
% Population Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19		13

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 The Gambia, it was of vital importance that the indoor residual spraying (IRS) campaign planned for 2021 went ahead, in accordance with the guidance and recommendations from WHO. Without this IRS campaign, coupled with the need to also continue to deliver seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC), and to sustain essential health services including malaria case management, there would have been an increase in malaria cases and deaths. The country is congratulated for completing SMC and rolling out the IRS campaign. Under the worst-case scenario, in which there is a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could have been a 31.2% increase in malaria cases, and a 148.2 increase in malaria deaths in the Gambia. 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 do this.

The country has been affected by the continent-wide restriction of access to COVID-19 vaccines and had only been able to cover 13% 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

The Gambia secured sufficient resources to finance the malaria commodities required for 2022 and has sufficient stocks in-country. The country has procured sufficient LLINs and carried out IRS to sustain 100% operational coverage of the targeted at risk population. The country has recently submitted the results of insecticide resistance monitoring to WHO and has carried out drug resistance testing since 2018 and has reported the results to WHO. The national strategic plan includes activities targeting refugees. The Gambia has decreased the estimated malaria incidence by more than 40% since 2015.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, the Gambia has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control and Elimination Scorecard, although this has not yet been shared to the ALMA Scorecard Hub.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 75,801 with 73 deaths.

Key Challenge

- 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		During this quarter, the country has implemented all malaria interventions as planned. The diagnosis and treatment of malaria were implemented at health facility and community levels through the support of community health workers. The COVID-19 committee is working in collaboration with the NMCP to ensure the implementation of activities in line with all preventive measures. The country faced a stock out of ACTs due to the increase of cases and also due to the quantification which use morbidity data instead of consumption data. Senegal has loaned some quantities to the Gambia whilst the GF is urgently procuring additional commodities through WAMBO whilst the country is investigating the reason for the stock out of all planned 2022 quantities. The NMCP is also developing surveillance guidelines as a means to support the elimination of malaria in the Gambia

New Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
Policy	Sign, ratify and deposit the AMA instrument at the AUC	Q1 2023

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in The Gambia is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths, and trachoma. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 100% for trachoma and 0% for soil-transmitted helminths and schistosomiasis. The NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Gambia in 2020 is 1, which represents a decrease compared with the 2019 index value (8).

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 during the pandemic. Address any stock-outs of essential RMNCAH commodities	Q4 2022		The Ministry of Health established a committee to oversee the implementation of activities to ensure continuity of Health Services in the country. In Q1 2022, RMNCAH routine activities continued as planned including the monitoring of Reproductive Health services in the health facilities, training of health care providers on Emergency Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health, monitoring on Kabulo bama implementation at community level which is a model of cluster supporting reproductive health at community level.
NTDs	Given the high coverage of Preventive Chemotherapy (PC) for trachoma, work to increase the preventive chemotherapy coverage for soil transmitted helminthiasis and implement preventive chemotherapy for schistosomiasis, including mobilizing the necessary resources and community surveillance systems. 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	Q4 2022		The country is conducting the NTD related activities whilst respecting COVID-19 preventive measures. In Q1 2022, in addition to NTD routine activities, the country is working to finalize the NTD Master plan for 2022-2026 and is working on the 2021 MDA reports

The Gambia has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing the low coverage of ARTs and vitamin A, and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

Key

	Action achieved
	Some progress
	No progress
	Deliverable not yet due

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO