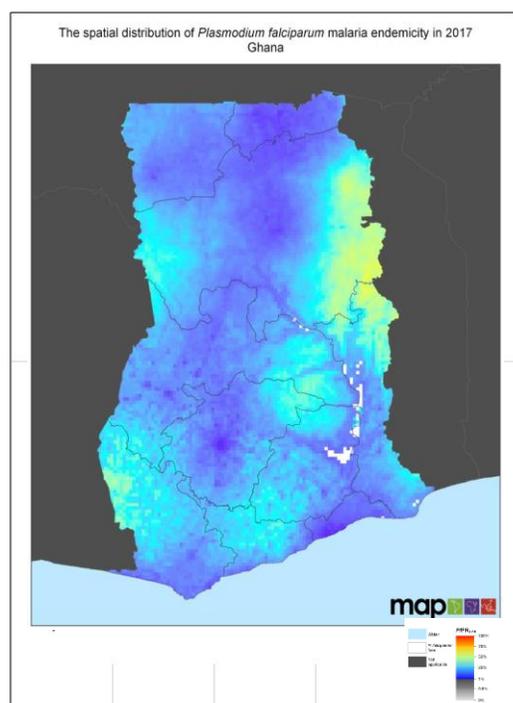


## Scorecard for Accountability and Action



The entire population of Ghana is at risk of malaria. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 5,879,506 with 308 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	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)		
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)	0	
Estimated % of children (0-14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)	33	
Vitamin A Coverage 2020 (2 doses)	31	
DPT3 coverage 2020 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)	94	
% Population Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19	17	

### 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 Ghana, it was of vital importance to ensure that the planning for the universal coverage campaign for long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) scheduled for 2021 went ahead, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the recent guidance and recommendations from WHO and the RBM partnership to End Malaria. Without this 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 be an increase in malaria cases and deaths. Ghana is congratulated for completing the SMC and LLIN campaigns as planned. Under the worst-case scenario, in which there is a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could be a 19.5% increase in malaria cases, and a 129.4% increase in malaria deaths in Ghana. 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 17% 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**

Ghana has secured sufficient resources for the essential anti-malarial commodities required to sustain coverage in 2022 and has distributed sufficient numbers of LLINs and carried out IRS sufficient to achieve 100% operational coverage of the targeted at risk population. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO and has carried out drug resistance testing since 2018 and has reported the results to WHO. Ghana has scaled up coverage of iCCM. The country is also showing leadership in malaria control through its participation in the High

Burden High Impact approach. Ghana has also launched its Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign. Ghana has decreased the estimated malaria incidence and mortality rates by more than 40% since 2015.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Ghana has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Elimination Scorecard and has posted the scorecard to the ALMA Scorecard Hub.

### Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 5,879,506 with 308 deaths.

### Key Challenges

- Insecticide resistance threatens vector control effectiveness.
- 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		The country has low stocks of ACTs but a strong delivery pipeline which means there will not be any stock outs. The IRS and SMC planning is on track. The malaria programme has expanded Outreach, Training and Supportive Supervision (OTSS) at sub-regional level to enhance quality improvement in malaria case management whilst ensuring that facility staff implement malaria control activities according to policy recommendations. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the costs of campaigns, creating some gaps in funding for the operational costs

### New Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
Policy	Work to incorporate activities targeting refugees in the Malaria Strategic Plan	Q1 2023

## RMNCAH and NTDs

### Progress

The country has achieved high coverage of tracer RMNCAH interventions, in particular exclusive breastfeeding, DPT3 and postnatal care. Ghana has also recently increased coverage of skilled birth attendants and vitamin A. The country has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Scorecard, including with the introduction of community level scorecards. The country has also published the RMNCAH and community scorecards on the ALMA Scorecard Hub.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Ghana is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved

for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 100% for trachoma and 0% for schistosomiasis, onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis and soil-transmitted helminths. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Ghana in 2020 is 0, which represents a very substantial decrease compared with the 2019 index value (73).

### 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		Ghana reports there have been reductions in RMNCAH services for ANC, PNC and EPI during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many staff responsible for providing RMNCAH services have been re-assign to support the COVID-19 response, especially at the primary care level. In addition, fears of becoming infected with COVID have increased among communities, making them reluctant to access services. Despite the challenges, Ghana continues to offer essential service the population and data suggest that health service coverage is improving in the last few quarters . For instance, child health services have improved significantly: Penta 3 coverage remains high with 95% in Q1 2021 to 100% in Q4 2021. Measles Rubella increased from 77% Q1 2021 to 83% Q4 2021, and meningitis A experienced a slight decrease from 79% Q1 2021 to 72% Q4 2021. In terms of Maternal Health Service, ANC 4 visits have decrease from 83% in Q1 2021 to 77% in Q4 2021; PNC remains high with 96% in Q1 2021 to 98% Q4 2021. Ghana have offered continuous trainings and rolled out vaccination among health staff. These have boosted the staff confidence to render essential services across all levels of service delivery. To mitigate for the impact on RMNCAH services, Ghana has adopted COVID-19 protocols and guidelines for paediatric and obstetric care. The guidelines establish special arrangements for COVID-19 prevention and service delivery in the context of COVID-19 with key messages for service providers and communities. The guidelines aim to enhance trust in the capacity of the health system and ensure appropriate care-seeking behaviour. The COVID-19 pandemic has also affected the regular in-flow of essential commodities to render effective RMNCAH services at the service delivery point

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

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
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		Deliverable not yet due
Optimise quality of care	Address the falling coverage of vitamin A	Q4 2022		Deliverable not yet due

Ghana has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing the low coverage of ARTs in children, with recent increases reported, and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

### Key

	Action achieved
	Some progress
	No progress
	Deliverable not yet due