The entire population of Guinea is at risk of malaria. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 2,008,976 with 1,119 deaths.
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.

The country is encouraged to sustain the delivery of essential health services including malaria case management, coupled with the planned delivery of seasonal malaria chemoprevention, during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the whole of the continent learning lessons from your country’s experience during the Ebola outbreak. The country is congratulated for completing SMC. Without this sustained health system delivery, there will 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 estimate that there could be a 6.2% increase in malaria cases, and a 30.9% increase in malaria deaths in Guinea. 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 19% 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

Guinea has secured sufficient resources for the majority of the RDTs and LLINs required in 2022. The country has completed the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan, 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. Guinea has procured sufficient LLINs to achieve universal operational coverage of the targeted at-risk population and has sufficient stocks of ACTs and RDTs.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, the country has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Scorecard, although this
scorecard is not yet shared on the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The country has also recently developed their NTD scorecard. Guinea is working on the launch of the End Malaria Council and Fund.

**Impact**
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 2,008,976 with 1,119 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Action Item</th>
<th>Suggested completion timeframe</th>
<th>Progress</th>
<th>Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>Ensure that malaria services including case management and vector control are sustained and implemented whilst using COVID-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td>Guinea is preparing for the ITN mass campaign planned for April 2022, however the NMCP has a gap of 850,000 ITN which needs to be procured with the Government. The NMCP is facing also some delayed delivery of ACTs and RDTs. Other malaria activities are implemented as planned whilst respecting COVID-19 prevention measures</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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### RMNCAH and NTDs

**Progress**
Guinea has achieved high coverage of vitamin A.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Guinea 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 91% for trachoma, 87% for soil-transmitted helminths, 65% for onchocerciasis, 64% for lymphatic filariasis and 61% for schistosomiasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Guinea in 2020 is 73, which represents a very substantial increase compared with the 2019 index value of 0.

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

### Previous Key Recommended Actions

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RMNCAH¹: Optimise quality of care</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td>Guinea is working to protect health workers at all levels and has developed a mitigation plan which is being implemented. There have been some reports of decreased attendance at health facilities due to COVID-19, and this has impacted treatment seeking in the capital</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Guinea has responded on the recommended actions on low coverage of ARTs in children, with recent data indicating coverage of this intervention has increased.

Key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Action achieved</th>
<th>Some progress</th>
<th>No progress</th>
<th>Deliverable not yet due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1 RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO