The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 452,984 and 373 deaths.
Malaria
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 of COVID-19. 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 Senegal, it will be of vital importance that the country sustains essential health services including malaria case management. Without the 2021 SMC campaign, coupled with sustained malaria case management, there would be an increase in malaria cases and deaths. The country is commended for rolling out SMC in 2021. 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 79.9% increase in malaria deaths in Senegal. 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 6% 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
Senegal has implemented iCCM country wide. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. The country has recently finalised the insecticide resistance management and monitoring plan. Senegal has secured sufficient resources to sustain universal coverage of essential malaria control interventions in 2022 and has distributed sufficient LLINs to achieve universal operational coverage in the targeted at risk population. The country has sufficient stocks of ACTs and RDTs. Senegal was the first country to launch the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign. The country is applauded for loaning RDTs to The Gambia to address the country’s stockout during the COVID-19 pandemic.
In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Senegal has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control and Elimination Scorecard, although the scorecard has not yet been posted to the ALMA Scorecard Hub.

**Impact**
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 452,984 and 373 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>Green</td>
<td>The country has sufficient stocks of ACTs and RDTs and continues the implementation of malaria control activities at health facilities and community level. The NMCP is developing a new MSP for the elimination of malaria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RMNCAH and NTDs**

**Progress**
Senegal has achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH interventions DPT3. The country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Senegal 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, 88% for onchocerciasis, 70% for lymphatic filariasis, 69% for schistosomiasis and 3% for soil-transmitted helminths. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Senegal in 2020 was 42, which represents a decrease compared with the 2019 index value (62).
### Previous Key Recommended Actions

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<tr>
<td>RMNCAH¹: Impact</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>Yellow</td>
<td>The country worked to ensure that services are maintained during the pandemic. The Directorate of Maternal and Child Health used WHO COVID-19 guidelines whilst implementing essential services. A situational analysis of services in health facilities informed the development of a contingency plan to ensure the continued availability and use of services during the pandemic. Integrated supervision and monitoring visits showed there is a good availability of RMNCAH commodities, with good stocks. A review of the joint action plan and performances is being scheduled. It will also provide an opportunity to share best practices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTDs</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Senegal is conducting the NTD control activities whilst respecting COVID-19 preventive measures. Currently the country is working to finalize the new NTD Master plan and is conducting supervision of Trachomatous Trichiasis (TT) surgeries in the health district of Bambey. The country also conducted the region orientations of MDA in different targeted regions for the upcoming MDAs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optimise quality of care</td>
<td>Address the falling coverage of vitamin A</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td>Deliverable not yet due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Senegal responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing low coverage of ARTs in children, with increased coverage recently achieved.

**Key**

- Green: Action achieved
- Yellow: Some progress
- Red: No progress
- Gray: Deliverable not yet due

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO