Malaria is endemic throughout Benin. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 2,632,324 with 2,336 deaths.
Sustaining Essential Health Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted routine health services considerably, and the economic impacts continue to hamper health systems recovery. It is vitally important that we focus on recovering lost ground in delivering essential life-saving interventions during this difficult time, sustaining progress towards the SDG targets for Malaria, Neglected Tropical Diseases and Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent health.

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. Early procurement of essential health commodities is also highly recommended whilst long delivery times persist.

The country has been affected by the continent-wide restriction of access to COVID-19 vaccines and had only been able to cover 21% of their population by July 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

Benin has distributed sufficient LLINs to achieve universal operational coverage of the targeted at-risk population. The country successfully raised resources for the financing of the required number of ACTs, RDTs and LLINs in 2022 and has good stocks of essential malaria commodities. Benin has scaled up implementation of iCCM. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. Benin has successfully launched the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Benin has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Scorecard, but this is not yet shared on the ALMA Scorecard Knowledge Hub.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 2,632,324 with 2,336 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 Actions

<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></td>
<td>The country started the planning of the 2023 ITN mass campaign distribution. Health professionals were trained on the malaria treatment guidelines and QC/QA of diagnosis were implemented. The country continued the implementation of the IPTp at community level. The first round of the SMC campaign was conducted from 24 to 26 June 2022 in the targeted regions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>Ensure that drug resistance monitoring is conducted and the data are reported to WHO</td>
<td>Q1 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country developed the protocol for the drug efficacy survey which was submitted for approval to the ethical committee.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RMNCAH Progress

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Benin is measured by 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 in Benin was 59% for Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis, 69% for schistosomiasis, 82% for onchocerciasis, 83% for lymphatic filariasis and 100% for trachoma. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Benin in 2020 is 77 and shows a big increase compared to 2019 index value (20).

### Previous Key Recommended Actions

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<tbody>
<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></td>
<td>No progress reported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTDs</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country is conducting NTD prevention and control interventions whilst respecting COVID-19 preventive measures. In Q2 2022, the country conducted MDA for schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminths and the MDA impact survey was conducted in 10 municipalities. Trachoma confirmatory mapping was also conducted in Banté and Ouessè and entomological surveillance is ongoing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
Key
- Action achieved
- Some progress
- No progress
- Deliverable not yet due