The entire population of Guinea-Bissau is at risk of malaria. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 497,916 with 288 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. 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 17% 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

Guinea-Bissau secured sufficient resources to sustain coverage of LLINs, ACTs, RDTs and LLINs in 2022. The country has scaled up iCCM implementation and has procured sufficient LLINs to achieve operational universal coverage of the at risk population. The country has submitted data to WHO on the insecticide resistance status.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 497,916 with 288 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 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>Malaria activities including case management and prevention are being implemented as planned at health facilities and community level. The SMC campaign planning is ongoing and the first round is planned from 01 to 06 August 2022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>Investigate and address the reasons for the increase in estimated malaria incidence and mortality between 2015 and 2020, which means that the country did not achieve the 2020 target of a 40% reduction in malaria incidence</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td>The country is drafting Terms of Reference for Technical Assistance for the support of the assessment of the malaria burden and the adjustment of the GF performance framework</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>Sign, ratify and deposit the AMA instrument at the AUC</td>
<td>Q1 2023</td>
<td>Deliverable not yet due</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Monitoring
Ensure that drug resistance monitoring is conducted and the data are reported to WHO
Q1 2023
The country conducted drug resistance testing in 2015. The country is planning in collaboration with the research institute to implement testing in the future though funds are not secured.

RMNCAH and NTDs
Progress
Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Guinea-Bissau 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 87% for trachoma, 70% for onchocerciasis, 22% for lymphatic filariasis, 19% for soil-transmitted helminths and 0% for schistosomiasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Guinea-Bissau in 2020 is 12, which represents a small increase compared with the 2019 index value of 11.

Previous Key Recommended Actions

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RMNCAH1: Optimise quality of care</td>
<td>Address the falling coverage of vitamin A</td>
<td>Q1 2021</td>
<td>The country achieved 54% coverage in the first vitamin A campaign of 2020 but the second campaign was impacted by COVID-19.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>No progress reported</td>
<td></td>
<td></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>The country is conducting NTD prevention and control interventions whilst ensuring COVID-19 safety measures. A workshop was organized to review and validate the protocols for confirmatory mapping (Pre-Transmission and transmission assessments: pre-AS and TAS). The country also organized a coordination meeting between partners to ensure the NTD activities in country are well oriented and coordinated. Training of MDA supervisors on how to organize MDA during COVID-19 pandemic was also conducted. The MDA took place as planned and the medicines with risk of expiry will all be used before the expiry date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
Guinea Bissau has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing low coverage of ARTs in children and continues to track progress as actions are implemented.

**Key**
- Action achieved
- Some progress
- No progress
- Deliverable not yet due