Malaria transmission ranges from unstable and epidemic in Puntland and Somaliland to moderate in central Somalia to high in the south. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 27,333 and 5 deaths.
Somalia ALMA Quarterly Report
Quarter Two, 2022

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 encouraged to do 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 10% 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

Somalia has secured sufficient resources to procure the ACTs and RDTs required in 2022. The country has carried out drug resistance monitoring since 2018, and insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. The national strategic plan includes activities targeting refugees and IDPs.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 27,333 and 5 deaths.

Key Challenges

- A weak health system and relatively few partners limit scale up of core malaria interventions.
- 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>Somalia has low stocks of ACTs and RDTs, expected to last for only two months. UNICEF is currently working towards securing these commodities before stock outs are reported. Additionally, WHO through its Emergency program is securing some quantities in the interim. Distribution of 2,732,284 nets is currently ongoing in the country and will be completed in October 2022. As IRS is implemented to respond to potential malaria outbreaks, there are plans to carry out this intervention in Q3/4 of 2022.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Somalia is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for schistosomiasis, and soil transmitted helminths. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 100% for schistosomiasis and 81% for soil transmitted helminths and not reported for trachoma. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index in 2020 is 90, which represents a significant increase when compared with the 2019 index value of 1.

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>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>No progress reported</td>
<td></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>Deliverable not yet due</td>
<td></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