Malaria is present in the three northern provinces of South Africa bordering Mozambique and Eswatini. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 8,126 with 38 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 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 but has been able to cover 31% 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

South Africa has sufficient financing to cover the malaria commodity needs for 2022 and has good stocks of ACTs. The country has finalised the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan and has reported insecticide resistance data to WHO. WHO has identified South Africa as being a country with the potential to eliminate local transmission of malaria by 2025.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, South Africa has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Elimination Scorecard, although it is not yet shared on the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The country is also planning to launch and End Malaria and NTD Council and Fund.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 8,126 with 38 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Risk of re-introduction of malaria from neighbouring countries.
- There is a need to strengthen cross border collaboration with neighbouring countries.
- 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><strong>Impact</strong></td>
<td>Ensure that malaria services including case management and IRS are sustained and implemented whilst using COVID-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td>While there are currently no stockouts of ACTs and RDTs, the country is yet to award the tender for the supply of these commodities. If not done quickly, the programme may experience low stocks of RDTs. There are sufficient DDT stocks from 2021 for the upcoming IRS season. Provinces are currently finalizing their microplans for the IRS campaign with plans to finalize recruitment of IRS personnel in July and commencing their training in August. The NMCP has engaged with the senior management of Mpumalanga to ensure that IRS personnel are recruited timely to avoid the repeat of last season which resulted in compromised operations and reported low IRS coverage (53%).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy</strong></td>
<td>Sign, ratify and deposit the AMA instrument at the AUC</td>
<td>Q1 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td>Deliverable not yet due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monitoring</strong></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 National Institute of Communicable Diseases is monitoring resistance, receiving samples from the provinces and the country is working on an action plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Address vector control coverage</strong></td>
<td>Address falling vector control coverage</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td>There are sufficient DDT stocks from 2021 for the upcoming IRS season. Provinces are finalizing their microplans for the IRS campaign with plans to finalize recruitment of IRS personnel in July and commencing their training in August. The NMCP has engaged with the senior management of Mpumalanga to ensure that IRS personnel are recruited timely to avoid the repeat of last season which resulted in compromised operations and reported low IRS coverage (53%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in South Africa is shown using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminthiasis. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 0 % for both soil transmitted helminths and for schistosomiasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for South Africa in 2020 is 0, which represents a decrease compared with the 2019 index value (2).

Previous 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>RMNCAH services, especially preventive and promotive services which are provided at clinics and community health centres, were disrupted by the COVID-19. However, all Primary Health Care services should now be providing all essential services, and each of the nine provinces has been requested to ensure that catch-up plans for RMNCAH as well as HIV/TB services are in place</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 in the process of updating the NTD Master plan in line with the WHO Roadmap, in collaboration with the WHO Country Office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optimise quality of care</td>
<td>Address the falling coverage of vitamin A</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td>Deliverable not yet due</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key

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

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO