Malaria transmission is seasonal in Zimbabwe with about 60% of the population at risk. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 447,381 and 400 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, but were 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
Zimbabwe secured the resources required for ACTs, RDTs, LLINs and IRS in 2022 and has achieved high coverage of vector control. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO, and has finalised the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. Zimbabwe has sufficient stocks of ACTs and RDTs.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Zimbabwe 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 Hub. Zimbabwe is exploring whether to establish an End Malaria Council.

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 447,381 and 400 deaths.

Key Challenges
- 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.
<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 implemented strict COVID-19 guidelines during the IRS campaigns by avoiding mass gathering, conducted door-to-door LLIN distribution and managed malaria cases innovatively by using community health workers who were provided with protective equipment and who reported using cell phones. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the country continues to report no stockouts of RDTs and ACTs. This was possible through the use of an efficient logistics and supply management tracking system. There are enough insecticides (DDT and Actellic) from the last spraying season to be used as procurement is underway. Planning and preparations for the upcoming spraying campaign, including training and pre-positioning of IRS commodities has already begun.</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>Green</td>
<td>The country recognizes routine monitoring of drug resistance as an important activity in ensuring that malaria is treated appropriately. The Programme in partnership with PMI has collected data from 8 sentinel sites county-wide until 2017. However, due to financial constraints, this has not been possible since 2017. The country is working to mobilise resources with a plan to collect data from 5 sites (from the original 8 sites) due to reduction in malaria transmission in the 3 sites. This data will be reported to WHO as required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vector Control</td>
<td>Ensure the IRS commodities are procured in time for the 2021 IRS campaigns</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>There are sufficient insecticides (DDT and Actellic) from the previous spraying season to allow the IRS campaign to commence whilst awaiting the 2022/2023 procurement. Planning and preparations for the upcoming spraying campaign, including training and pre-positioning of IRS commodities has already begun.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RMNCAH and NTDs**

**Progress**

Zimbabwe has enhanced tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard.
Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Zimbabwe is shown using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 44% for trachoma, 16% schistosomiasis, and 0% for both soil-transmitted helminths and lymphatic filariasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Zimbabwe in 2020 is 2 which represent an increase compared with the 2019 index value (0).

### Previous Key Recommended Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</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>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. Work to mobilize funds and stakeholders to quickly distribute 5.6 million of Praziquantel expiring in 2022 and other huge stock of Diethylcarbamazine (DEC) and Albendazole tablets currently available in the country. Engage with WHO/ESPEN and partners to address any potential funding gaps</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td>The country is conducting NTD prevention and control interventions whilst using COVID-19 prevention measures. In Q2 2022, in addition to NTD routine activities, the country has been carrying out the MDA for Schistosomiasis (SCH) in 40 districts and Soil Transmitted Helminths (STH) in 6 districts. The country has been supported by Higherlife foundation, and all of the praziquantel has been used before the expiry date of 30 April 2022.</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