In Burundi, about 24% of the population is at high risk for malaria and nearly 22% live in malaria-free highland areas. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 4,732,339 with 2,276 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 complete this process. 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 0.2% of their population by October 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
Burundi procured sufficient LLINs to achieve universal coverage of the targeted at risk population. The country secured sufficient resources to procure the ACTs and RDTs required in 2022 and has good stocks of ACTs and RDTs. The country has carried out drug resistance monitoring since 2018, and insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. The country has also developed an insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. The national strategic plan includes activities targeting refugees and IDPs.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, Burundi has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control Scorecard. This scorecard tool has recently been updated and is being decentralized but has not yet been shared on the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The country RMNCAH scorecard has been shared through the Scorecard Hub.

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 4,732,339 with 2,276 deaths.

Key Challenges
- The country has experienced a malaria upsurge from 2015.
- Gaps to further scale up IRS.
- 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>Malaria control and elimination activities are being conducted in Burundi whilst respecting COVID-19 preventive measure. The LLIN campaign was completed. Community Case Management has been expanded to the over fives. The IRS campaign is planned for Q4 2022. The country has sufficient stocks of ACTs and RDTs with a good supply pipeline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address vector control coverage</td>
<td>Work to accelerate the LLIN campaign</td>
<td>Q4 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country faced some delays in the implementation of the ITN campaign but the campaign was completed in September 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### New Key Recommended Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Action Item</th>
<th>Suggested completion timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>Work to address the low stocks of ACTs</td>
<td>Q1 2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RMNCAH and NTDs

**Progress**

Burundi has achieved high coverage of tracer RMNCAH interventions, including DPT3 and vitamin A coverage. Burundi enhanced the 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 Burundi is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage in Burundi is high for trachoma (100%), schistosomiasis (100%), soil-transmitted helminths (98%) and for onchocerciasis (82%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Burundi in 2020 is 95 and this represents an increase over the 2019 index value (93).
## Previous Key Recommended Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
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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><img src="#" alt="Green" /></td>
<td>Burundi is conducting RMNCAH interventions whilst respecting COVID-19 prevention measures. The country conducted a mid-term review of the RMNCAH strategy. In Q3 2022, the country conducted a training of trainers on maternal deaths surveillance in Gitega province. Formative supervision training on RMNCAH services was conducted for health professionals. Training on maternal deaths verbal autopsy was also conducted. Religious leaders were sensitized on family planning</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 2021</td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Green" /></td>
<td>Burundi is conducting NTD prevention and control interventions whilst respecting COVID-19 safety measures. Between July and August 2022, the country conducted MDA for Onchocerciasis and is now working on the report. The country submitted the trachoma elimination dossier and is waiting for WHO feedback. The country is also working to mobilize funding to conduct onchocerciasis elimination mapping.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Burundi has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing low coverage of ART coverage in children, with a 2% increase in coverage reported in the last year.

### Key

- ![Green](#): Action achieved
- ![Yellow](#): Some progress
- ![Red](#): No progress
- ![Gray](#): Deliverable not yet due

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO