There is intense malaria transmission all year round in the Central African Republic and the entire population of the country is at high risk. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 1,980,804 with 1,779 deaths.

Key

- Target achieved or on track
- Progress but more effort required
- Not on track
- No data
- Not applicable
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 28% 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

Central African Republic has procured sufficient LLINs to achieve universal operational coverage of the targeted at-risk population. Central African Republic has recently submitted insecticide resistance monitoring data to WHO and has carried out drug resistance testing since 2018 and has reported the results to WHO. The ACTs, RDTs and LLINs needed for 2022 are fully financed, and the country reports good stocks of ACTs and RDTs. The national strategic plan includes activities targeting IDPs.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 1,980,804 with 1,779 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Limited access to some at-risk populations is hampering coverage of malaria control interventions.
- Limited resources to further scale-up 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>The country has sufficient stocks of ACT and RDT and no stock outs were observed during the quarter. ITNs were distributed through the mass campaign in Bangui. Cases were diagnosed and treated at health facility level, however some activities were not implemented due to the stock out of fuel. Additional resources were secured through the Global Fund to over the gaps in ITNs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy</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>
</tbody>
</table>

Central African Republic has responded positively to the recommended action on development and implementation of a national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan and reporting on the status of insecticide resistance monitoring to WHO.

**RMNCAH and NTDs**

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Central African Republic is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Central African Republic is zero for schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths, onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis and is low for trachoma (16%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Central African Republic in 2020 is 0 and this represents substantial increase compared with the 2019 index value.
### Previous Key Recommended Actions

<table>
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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>Green</td>
<td>The country reports that there have not been major interruptions in health services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The MOH has sustained EPI services. Some activities have been decentralised to community health worker level</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 conducting stock reconciliation following a national and subnational physical inventory count tracking of leftover stocks at district level and retrieving all expired drugs after MDA for incineration and accountability</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>By respecting COVID-19 preventive measures, the country is conducting key NTD interventions. In Q3 2022, the country conducted trachoma MDA and has been working to mobilize funds to increase the coverage of NTD prevention and control interventions. NTD routine activities have been conducted as planned despite security issues.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Central African Republic has responded positively to the recommended action on reporting NTD data to WHO. The country has also responded to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing low coverage of ARTs in children, with a resulting increase in coverage; and the lack of data for vitamin A and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.

#### 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