In Cabo Verde, 58% of the population lives in areas where there is a low risk of malaria; the rest of the country is malaria-free. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 10 with zero 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 55% 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

Cabo Verde secured sufficient resources to sustain universal coverage of ACTs, RDTs and IRS in 2022. The country has completed the insecticide resistance management and implementation plan and has submitted insecticide resistance data to WHO. Cabo Verde has more than six months of stocks of ACTs and RDTs. WHO identified Cabo Verde as being a country with the potential to eliminate local transmission of malaria by 2025.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, the country has developed a Malaria Elimination Scorecard but this is not up to date or posted to the ALMA Scorecard Knowledge Hub.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 10 with zero deaths.

Key Challenge

- 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 adequate stocks of ACTs and RDTs. The IRS campaign was completed in September</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>
### RMNCAH and NTDs

**Progress**
The country has achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH intervention DPT3 coverage.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Cabo Verde is measured using preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for soil transmitted helminths. Preventive chemotherapy coverage for soil transmitted helminths in Cabo Verde in 2020 was below the WHO targets. The overall NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Cabo Verde is 55 in 2020, which represents a decrease compared with the 2019 index value (63).

### 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>RMNCAH services were affected at the beginning of the pandemic, with a reduction in the demand for primary health care by the population due to the fear of contracting the disease, financial duress and lack of transport options. The country responded by task-shifting health technicians to COVID-19 related activities and requiring spacing of appointments to maintain social distancing. Essential RMNCAH services were not neglected. The Ministry of Health released an official decree for health facilities to ensure a continuation of priority care in sexual and reproductive health services, child health and vaccination, antenatal and postnatal care, family planning, and services for patients with chronic diseases, and emergencies, whilst adhering to COVID-19 safety protocols. TV and radio spots have been amplified promoting reproductive health services of mothers, newborns, children and adolescents, respecting individual prevention and protection measures. Guidelines have been developed for caring with confirmed COVID cases in pregnant women, during child-birth, children and adolescents, and COVID-19 vaccination's ongoing with 55% coverage obtained to date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
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<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></td>
<td>The country is conducting all planned NTD interventions whilst respecting COVID-19 measures. Planning is underway for the 2022 MDA campaigns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cabo Verde has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing ART coverage in children and vitamin A and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

**Key**

- ![Action achieved](image)
- ![Some progress](image)
- ![No progress](image)
- ![Deliverable not yet due](image)