Nearly 50% of the population of Djibouti is at low risk of malaria, while the remaining in the desert is free of malaria. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 73,535.
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 22% 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

The country has sufficient funds to procure the necessary ACTs, RDTs and has good stocks. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO and has completed the insecticide resistance management and monitoring plan. The national strategic plan includes activities targeting refugees.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 73,535.

Key Challenges

- Increases in malaria cases have been experienced in the country since 2015.
- 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>Djibouti has continued to report no stock outs of ACTs and RDTs because of the continued support from WHO. While the plan was to distribute PBO nets in Q3 in all the targeted areas, the country has not been able to receive all the nets they needed. This forced the country to also deploy standard LLINs for their mass campaign</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>
The country has responded to the recommended action on finalising the insecticide resistance management and monitoring plan and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.

**RMNCAH and NTDs**

**Progress**

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Djibouti is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for soil transmitted helminths. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Djibouti in 2020 was low for soil transmitted helminths (0%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Djibouti in 2020 is 0, with no change compared with the 2019 index value (0).

**Previous Key Recommended Actions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RMNCAH**: 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 2020</td>
<td>No Progress Reported</td>
<td>Djibouti did not conduct any Mass Drug Administration between 2015-2022. The country is still waiting for a consultant to support in the mapping of endemic NTDs and submitted a request to WHO. MDAs will be conducted once the mapping is done and based on the country prevalence. The country is conducting leishmaniasis and leprosy case management and is working to mobilize resources for NTD interventions including for mapping.</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 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Djibouti has also responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing lack of data on vitamin A coverage and low coverage of ARTs in children, with recent increases in coverage and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

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1 RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
Key
- Action achieved
- Some progress
- No progress
- Deliverable not yet due