The entire population of Equatorial Guinea is at high risk of malaria and the transmission is intense all year round. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 83,396 and 15 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 17% 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

Equatorial Guinea has made progress with malaria control on Bioko Island and is working to extend this success to the mainland. The country has completed the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan and has reported the results of insecticide resistance monitoring to WHO and has carried out drug resistance testing since 2018 and has reported the results to WHO. The country has procured adequate stocks of RDTs and ACTs.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 83,396 and 15 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>Address funding</td>
<td>Ensure that sufficient domestic resources are committed to malaria control</td>
<td>Q4 2014</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country is working to mobilise resources to address funding gaps, with some of the funding gaps reduced</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Equatorial Guinea has responded positively to the previous recommended actions addressing low coverage of iCCM and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.

**RMNCAH and NTDs**

**Progress**

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Equatorial Guinea is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminths. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Equatorial Guinea was zero for all the preventive chemotherapy targeted diseases in 2020. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Equatorial Guinea in 2020 is zero, which represents no change compared with the 2019 index value (0).

**Previous Key Recommended Actions**

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RMNCAH¹:</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></td>
<td>The country reports there have been no interruptions in delivery of health services. Equatorial Guinea has adapted its workplans to the context of COVID-19, having developed a manual for providing safe care for pregnancy, childbirth and how to keep health workers safe. The country reports it is maintaining services for family planning, ANC and vaccines, among other interventions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td>Deliverable not yet due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Equatorial Guinea has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing lack of data on vitamin A and low coverage, ARTs and DPT3. The country continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

**Key**

- **Action achieved**
- **Some progress**
- **No progress**
- **Deliverable not yet due**