The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 75,756 with 3 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. The country, working with partners, should invest in education and behaviour change communication to increase the uptake of COVID vaccines and therapeutics.

**Malaria Progress**

Eritrea secured sufficient financing to maintain universal coverage of key anti-malarial interventions in 2022. The country has scaled up implementation of iCCM. Eritrea has increased coverage of vector control with 100% operational coverage of the targeted at risk population. Eritrea has recently reported the results of the insecticide resistance monitoring to WHO and has completed the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. Eritrea has carried out drug resistance testing since 2018 and has reported the results to WHO. The national strategic plan includes activities targeting refugees.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, Eritrea has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Control Scorecard, however this scorecard is not yet publicly shared on the ALMA Scorecard Hub.

**Impact**

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 75,756 with 3 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 NTDs.
### 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 completed the universal ITN coverage campaign, with nearly 2 million PBO nets distributed. Women’s action groups (groups of 20 households) are monitoring ITN ownership and utilization as well as supporting environmental management. Community health workers tested all febrile cases with RDTs and treated positive cases according to the guidelines. Communities were sensitized to conduct weekly environmental sanitation activities. Laboratory technicians were accredited for malaria microscopic diagnosis.</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**

Eritrea has achieved good coverage of the tracer RMNCAH intervention of DPT3.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Eritrea is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, and trachoma. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 72% for trachoma, 51% for lymphatic filariasis and 8% for schistosomiasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Eritrea in 2020 is 31, which represents a decrease compared with the 2019 index value (57).

### Previous Key Recommended Actions

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</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 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>No progress reported</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 prioritizing key necessary catch up activities</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td>Deliverable not yet due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
Eritrea has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing low coverage of ARTs in children under 14 years of age (with a recent 5% increase in coverage), as well as lack of data on vitamin A coverage. The country continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

Key

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