Malaria is endemic in Ethiopia with differing intensity of transmission, except in the central highlands which are malaria-free. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 1,848,231 with 173 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 finalise the deposition that is already ongoing. 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 31% 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
Ethiopia has scaled up iCCM and secured sufficient resources to sustain coverage of LLINs in 2022. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO and has completed the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan and has carried out drug resistance testing since 2018 and has reported the results to WHO. The national strategic plan includes activities targeting refugees and IDPs. The country has launched its Zero Malaria Starts with me campaign. Ethiopia has decreased the estimated malaria incidence and mortality rates by more than 40% since 2015.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, Ethiopia has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control and Elimination Scorecard, although this has not yet been shared to the ALMA Scorecard Hub.

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 1,848,231 with 173 deaths.

Key Challenges
- Ethiopia has documented insecticide resistance to 4 insecticide classes.
- 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>Ethiopia continues to take measures to sustain essential malaria services during the COVID-19 pandemic, whilst ensuring safety measures. Delays in procurement and delivery of malaria commodities, increases in the price of commodities, the lack of containers for international shipments as well as decreased health seeking behaviour during the pandemic has affected programme implementation. The LLIN and IRS campaigns were carried out whilst considering the COVID-19 safety protocols. The country intensified systematic tracking and monitoring of the stock status for RDTs and ACTs and now has adequate supplies. The community were mobilised to ensure early diagnosis and treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>Work to fill funding gaps for ACTs</td>
<td>Q4 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country has secured adequate stocks of ACTs and has a strong pipeline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address vector control coverage</td>
<td>Address falling vector control coverage</td>
<td>Q2 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td>Over 11 million ITNs were shipped to Ethiopia in the last 2 quarters - which one distributed will get and the country completed the IRS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## RMNCAH and NTDs

### Progress

Ethiopia has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of the Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard, including with the introduction of community level scorecards.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Ethiopia is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 73% for onchocerciasis, 33% for soil-transmitted helminthiasis, 29% for lymphatic filariasis, 24% for trachoma and 0% for schistosomiasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Ethiopia in 2020 is 11, which represents a very substantial decrease compared with the 2019 index value (65). The country has recently rolled out the NTD scorecard management tool.
<table>
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<tr>
<td>RMNCAH(^1) : 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></td>
<td>Despite the security challenges in some part of the county, key RMNCAH programs are regularly delivered. The fear for COVID-19 which at the height of the pandemic affected the use of services have now normalized. To further contain the impact of the pandemic, the ministry started administering COVID-19 vaccination in Djibouti for long-distance truck drivers. Furthermore, preparatory activities are completed to administer 4th round of COVID-19. The directorate have completed preparatory works for supportive supervision on the maternal health programme and call to action monitoring framework. In the area of Family Planning, the ministry has developed a concept note for the Motion Tracker Start-up and Implementation, an accountability framework that is customized to complement existing monitoring and evaluation tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTDs</td>
<td>Recognising the negative impact of COVID-19 on the 2020 MDA coverage, ensure that NTD interventions are sustained and implemented whilst using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines. This includes ensuring the use of 12.4 million tablets of praziquantel issued to districts and expiring in September 2022 and track the leftover stocks and retrieve all expired drugs after MDA for incineration and accountability purposes. Ensure First Expire First Out (FEFO) method is effectively implemented at the national level</td>
<td>Q4 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country is conducting NTD prevention and control interventions as planned by respecting COVID-19 measures. Currently the county is in the preparations of the remapping of Onchocerciasis and is conducting the remapping for Schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminths in the targeted areas. The country is also working to ensure that all NTD interventions are fully integrated in the existing health systems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
Key

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