The entire population of Gabon is at high risk for malaria. Transmission is intense throughout the year in the northern part of the country and more seasonal in the south. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 127,500 with 224 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, Newborn, 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 congratulated for doing 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 13% 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**

Gabon has recently submitted the results of insecticide resistance testing to WHO. The country reports that the majority of the population access RDTs and ACTs through the health insurance scheme.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, the country has planned for the launch of the Gabon End Malaria Fund

**Impact**

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 127,500 with 224 deaths.

**Key Challenges**

- Insufficient resources to achieve high coverage of essential malaria interventions.
- 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.
<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>Optimise quality of care</td>
<td>Provide data on the scale up iCCM implementation country wide</td>
<td>Q1 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country plans to scale up iCCM with the training of 2,000 CHWs countrywide, however, there is a need to mobilise 2.9 million Euros in order to implement this. The country is hoping that the End Malaria Fund will contribute to filling some of the identified gaps including for iCCM. The launch of the EMF was placed on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however once the national strategic plan update is completed, the plans for the launch will be put in place.</td>
</tr>
<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 made available tests and drugs for the treatment of malaria with the support of the private sector. IPTp and ITN distribution to pregnant women were implemented at health facility level. The country celebrated the WMD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>Ensure that drug resistance monitoring is conducted and the data are reported to WHO</td>
<td>Q1 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country conducted drug resistance testing in 2017-2018.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gabon has responded to the recommended actions addressing financing of anti-malarial commodities and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

**RMNCAH and NTDs**

**Progress**

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Gabon is shown using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, and soil transmitted helminths. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 41% for soil-transmitted helminths and 0% for schistosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis, and onchocerciasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Gabon in 2020 is zero, with no change compared with the 2019 index value of 0.
<table>
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<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</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td>No progress reported</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMNCAH¹: Optimise quality of care</td>
<td>Investigate and address the reasons for the lack of reported data on vitamin A coverage</td>
<td>Q2 2019</td>
<td>No progress reported</td>
<td></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 including mobilizing resources for NTDs including for community based distribution</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td>The country is conducting NTD routine activities whilst respecting COVID-19 preventive measures. MDA preparations are ongoing and the country is mobilizing funds to have Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis MDA conducted before the end of 2022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key**

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

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO