The entire population of Guinea-Bissau is at risk of malaria. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 497,916 with 288 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. 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 20% 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
Guinea-Bissau secured sufficient resources to sustain coverage of LLINs, ACTs, RDTs and LLINs in 2022. The country has scaled up iCCM implementation and has procured sufficient LLINs to achieve operational universal coverage of the at-risk population. The country has submitted data to WHO on the insecticide resistance status.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, Guinea-Bissau is planning the roll out of the Malaria Scorecard and is also planning for the launch of the End Malaria Council.

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 497,916 with 288 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>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>Yellow</td>
<td>The country completed the SMC campaign as planned. The programme implemented supervision and IEC activities as planned. Diagnosis and treatment were implemented at health facility level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>Investigate and address the reasons for the increase in estimated malaria incidence and mortality between 2015 and 2020, which means that the country did not achieve the 2020 target of a 40% reduction in malaria incidence</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Technical assistance is ongoing to support the assessment of the quantification and targets to address stock-outs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>Sign, ratify and deposit the AMA instrument at the AUC</td>
<td>Q1 2023</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td>Deliverable not yet due</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>Yellow</td>
<td>The country conducted drug resistance testing in 2015. The country is planning in collaboration with the research institute to implement testing in the future though funds are not secured.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## RMNCAH and NTDs

### Progress

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Guinea-Bissau 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 87% for trachoma, 70% for onchocerciasis, 22% for lymphatic filariasis, 19% for soil-transmitted helminths and 0% for schistosomiasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Guinea-Bissau in 2020 is 12, which represents a small increase compared with the 2019 index value of 11.
### Previous Key Recommended Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RMNCAH¹: Optimise quality of care</td>
<td>Address the falling coverage of vitamin A</td>
<td>Q1 2021</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>The country achieved 54% coverage in the first vitamin A campaign of 2020 but the second campaign was impacted by COVID-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></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>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>The country conducted NTD prevention and control activities by respecting COVID-19 measures. Schistosomiasis MDA was conducted in Cacheu and in Bafata with a geographical coverage of 100%. Lymphatic Filariasis MDA was also conducted in Cacheu. Post MDA evaluation were also conducted. In addition, surveillance activities were conducted where confirmatory surveys were done in the regions of Farim, Tombali, Bolama, Biombo and SAB. Pre-transmission assessment surveys were conducted in the regions of Bijagós and Gabu and Transmission Assessment 1 conducted in the region of Bafata. Regarding Morbidity management and disability prevention, the coordination meeting was organized to prepare the morbidity management plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Guinea Bissau has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing low coverage of ARTs in children and continues to track progress as actions are implemented.

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### Key

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

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO