The entire population of Guinea is at risk of malaria. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 2,008,976 with 1,119 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 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 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 has secured sufficient resources for the ACTs, RDTs and LLINs required in 2022. The country has completed the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan, carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO, and has carried out drug resistance testing since 2018 and has reported the results to WHO. Guinea has procured sufficient LLINs to achieve universal operational coverage of the targeted at-risk population.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, the country has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Scorecard, although this scorecard is not yet shared on the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The country has also recently developed their NTD scorecard. Guinea is working on the launch of the End Malaria Council and Fund.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 2,008,976 with 1,119 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 Action

<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 finalized the digitalized ITN mass campaign distribution. The SMC campaign was completed as planned. ACT and RDT stocks are available at health facility level there was a redistribution of RDTs between districts to avoid stock-outs. ITNs are being distributed at health facility through routine distribution and IPTp average coverage of 73%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RMNCAH and NTDs

**Progress**

Guinea has achieved high coverage of vitamin A.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Guinea 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 91% for trachoma, 87% for soil-transmitted helminths, 65% for onchocerciasis, 64% for lymphatic filariasis and 61% for schistosomiasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Guinea in 2020 is 73, which represents a very substantial increase compared with the 2019 index value of 0.

The country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of the NTD scorecard.

### Previous Key Recommended Actions

<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RMNCAH(^1): Optimise quality of care</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>Guinea is working to protect health workers at all levels and has developed a mitigation plan which is being implemented. There were reports of decreased attendance at health facilities due to COVID-19, which impacted treatment seeking in the capital but this has since normalised</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>NTDs</td>
<td>Ensure that NTD interventions including Mass Drug Administration, vector control and Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention are sustained and implemented whilst using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. This includes prioritising key necessary catch-up activities.</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>The country is conducting NTD prevention and control interventions as planned whilst using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. In Q3 2022, the country has been working on the MDA reports and is in the preparation of Pre-Transmission Assessment Surveys for trachoma and Lymphatic Filariasis to be conducted before the end of 2022. Other routine activities are being conducted as planned</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guinea has responded on the recommended actions on low coverage of ARTs in children, with recent data indicating coverage of this intervention has increased.

Key

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

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1 RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO