Malaria transmission in Kenya ranges from intense in lowland areas to unstable epidemic-prone in the highlands. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 6,875,369 and 742 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 process which 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 18% 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

Kenya secured the resources required to sustain universal coverage of essential malaria control interventions in 2022. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. Kenya has completed the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. Kenya has launched the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign. The country is implementing iCCM.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, Kenya has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control and Elimination Scorecard and has posted the scorecard to the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The country has also launched the End Malaria Council in Q1 2021. The Kenya malaria youth army has also been launched.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 6,875,369 and 742 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.
<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>Malaria service delivery at facility and community level have resumed fully with no anticipated disruptions in service delivery expected for the rest of 2022. Programme activities including in-person engagements are ongoing and no disruption is expected. The procurement of commodities has been carried out early to ensure delivery schedules in good time. A major concern is the increase in commodity prices and also elongated lead times. In order to address the inadequate financing to fully implement the national strategic plan, the programme in conjunction with stakeholders is working on securing additional financing with a focus on domestic resource mobilization at national and county levels.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RMNCAH and NTDs**

**Progress**

Kenya has achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH intervention vitamin A and DPT3. The country has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard and has published it on the scorecard hub.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Kenya is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 25% for trachoma. No data was reported for lymphatic filariasis, for soil transmitted helminths and for schistosomiasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Kenya in 2020 was 0, which represents a substantial decrease compared with the 2019 index value of 39. The country has rolled out the NTD Scorecard for Accountability and Action.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
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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. Address any stock-outs of essential RMNCAH commodities</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td>The MoH developed and circulated guidelines on the continuation of service delivery to all counties. Health facility attendance improved following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. CHVs have provided more services than in the pre-COVID-19 period. Kenya was affected by the disruption of international supply chains leading to interrupted supply of commodities including PPE, but the situation has normalised. Kenya enhanced COVID-19 surveillance through testing, contact tracing and reporting of COVID-19 cases in all counties. The country has also rolled out COVID-19 vaccination. All counties have been supported by the national government to strengthen their emergency preparedness for COVID-19 including expanding ICU services, hospital bed capacity and oxygen production. The government intensified outreaches to improve immunization coverage, vitamin A supplementation and deworming for children; ensured cold chain equipment were adequately maintained; and stocking of adequate doses of EPI vaccines and vitamin A in the counties.</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 prioritizing key necessary catch up activities including achieving high coverage from all MDAs</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country is conducting NTD prevention and control activities whilst using COVID-19 preventive measures. The elaboration of the new NTD Master plan is ongoing and the country is in preparation of Paediatric Praziquantel roll out in Nyanza (Homa Bay) and in Coast Region (in Kwale). The country has rolled out the Lymphatic Filariasis Transmission assessment. Schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis MDA are being conducted in the targeted implementation units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optimise quality of care</td>
<td>Work to accelerate coverage of ARTs in the total population and in children under 14 years of age</td>
<td>Q2 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td>Deliverable not yet due</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