Malaria transmission in Madagascar occurs all year round in the north of the country. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 1,950,471 with 674 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 complete this process. The country is encouraged to do 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 5% 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

Madagascar has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. The country has finalised the insecticide resistance management and monitoring plan and has carried out drug resistance testing since 2018 and has reported the results to WHO. Madagascar has secured the finances to sustain universal coverage of LLINs and has good stocks of ACTs and RDTs. The country has distributed sufficient LLINs to achieve universal operational coverage of vector control for the targeted at risk population.

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

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 1,950,471 with 674 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 including 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>The country did not face stock outs of RDTs and ACTs. The NMCP, in collaboration with WHO and partners, conducted the MPR which will lead to the development of the new generation of the Malaria Strategi Plan. Key malaria interventions were implemented including the ITN distribution through routine services.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RMNCAH and NTDs**

**Progress**

Madagascar has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Madagascar is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, and soil transmitted helminths. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 60% for schistosomiasis, 49% for soil-transmitted helminthiasis, and 13% for lymphatic filariasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Madagascar in 2020 is 34, which represents a decrease compared with the 2019 index value (37).
<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>A reference document for RMNCAH was developed in June to ensure the continuity of essential services. As with all interventions, there was a drop in coverage of MCH indicators during the peak of COVID-19 cases, which have since decreased. For the regions where the maximum number of COVID-19 cases were encountered, the MoH in collaboration with its partners worked to strengthen services. This included support by UNFPA in setting up buses to transport women for ANC, PNC, and delivery from their homes to the hospital. This approach is being evaluated. Mobile clinics for Family Planning with support from Marie Stopes Madagascar were also implemented. Mobile clinics also rolled out offering Reproductive Health and Family Planning packages and information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTDs</td>
<td>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 prioritising key necessary catch-up activities</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country is conducting NTD routine activities whilst respecting COVID-19 safety measures. In November 2021, the country conducted the first round of MDA targeting Schistosomiasis and another MDA was conducted between April and May 2022. During the last week of May 2022, the country started the MDA for Lymphatic Filariasis and Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis MDA was integrated with Schistosomiasis MDA in some regions and with Lymphatic Filariasis MDA in other regions. The country is also managing morbidity cases and is working to use the medicines with the risk of expiration before the expiry date. Currently the country is working on all the MDA reports and on other routine activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optimise quality of care</td>
<td>Address the falling coverage of DPT3</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. The country has responded to the recommended action to increase coverage of ARTs, with small increases noted in coverage, but continues to track progress as key actions are implemented.
Key
- Action achieved
- Some progress
- No progress
- Deliverable not yet due