Malaria transmission is confined to the north-east part of Namibia where malaria is endemic and about 72% of the population of the country is at risk. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 13,636 with 16 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. 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 12% 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

Namibia secured sufficient funding for the required number of ACTs and RDTs for 2022 and has sufficient stocks of ACTs and RDTs. The country has reported the insecticide resistance data to WHO. Namibia has recently launched the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, Namibia has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Elimination Scorecard, however this is not yet shared to the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The country has established End Malaria Councils at sub-national level.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 13,636 with 16 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Maintaining malaria high on the political and funding agenda.
- There is a need to strengthen cross border collaboration with neighbouring countries.
- 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></td>
<td>Namibia has sufficient insecticides for the IRS campaign for 2022/2023. Namibia has sufficient stocks of ACTs and RDTs. The only stock-out experienced was at Health Facility level due to poor stock management. Regarding the planned 2022/2023 IRS campaign, the programme has sufficient supplies of insecticides, field teams have been trained, communities sensitized and the campaign launched this week (last week of September)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vector Control</td>
<td>Ensure the IRS commodities are procured in time for the 2021 IRS campaigns</td>
<td>Q3 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>Namibia has sufficient insecticides for the IRS campaign for 2022/2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Namibia has responded positively to the recommended action on addressing the lack of data on iCCM and continues to strengthen access to treatment of malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea.

### RMNCAH and NTDs

**Progress**

Namibia has recently increased coverage of ARTs in children 0-14. The country has enhanced 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 Namibia is shown using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminths. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage in Namibia was 0% for the two diseases. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Namibia in 2020 is 0, with no change compared with the 2019 index value of 0.

### Previous Key Recommended Actions

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RMNCAH: 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>WHO guidelines for continuity of essential services are currently being reviewed and revised in the context of the current circumstances relating to the pandemic. These are expected to be completed at the end of the financial year.</td>
</tr>
<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</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country is conducting only NTD routine activities including NTD case management at health facility level whilst respecting COVID-19 preventive measures. Since 2020, the country has not organized MDA due to the WHO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. This includes prioritising key necessary catch-up activities. The country is waiting for WHO support recommendation to wait for the taeniasis prevalence survey. The country is waiting for WHO support

Namibia has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing the lack of data on vitamin A coverage.

**Key**
- Green: Action achieved
- Yellow: Some progress
- Red: No progress
- Gray: Deliverable not yet due