The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 2,043,392 with 149 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, but have been able to cover 77% 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

Rwanda has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO and has completed the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan and has carried out drug resistance testing since 2018 and has reported the results to WHO. The national strategic plan includes activities targeting refugees. The country has rolled out iCCM countrywide and has secured sufficient resources to distribute the required LLINs, ACTs and most of RDTs in 2022. The country has sufficient stocks of ACTs and RDTs. The country has launched the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, Rwanda has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Control Scorecard and posting this scorecard to the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The country is planning the launch of a Health Fund including malaria and NTDs.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 2,043,392 with 149 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Reported malaria upsurges from 2015.
- 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.
RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

Rwanda has achieved high coverage of tracer RMNCAH interventions, including DPT3 vaccination. The country has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard and has published the scorecard on the ALMA Scorecard Hub.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Rwanda is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for schistosomiasis, and soil transmitted helminths. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 94% for soil-transmitted helminths and 78% for schistosomiasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Rwanda in 2020 is 86, which represents an increase compared with the 2019 index value of 83.
### 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>
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<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>RMNCAH activities continued in Q3 2022 as planned whilst using COVID-19 safety measures. Activities include RMNCAH Technical Working Group activities, routine activities such as immunization, Antenatal care (ANC), Postnatal care (PNC), Family Planning and growth monitoring. The country is now in the preparation of extending COVID-19 vaccination to the remaining population including school-age children.</td>
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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></td>
<td>The country is conducting the NTD control and elimination activities by respecting COVID-19 preventive measures. In Q3 2022, in addition to NTD routine activities, the country conducted Podoconiosis management activities in the new treatment centres and launched the guidelines for podoconiosis treatment. MDA for schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis in school age children and in adults was conducted in July 2022. The country is also working to develop the new monitoring and evaluation tools and conducted a workshop on integrated malaria-NTD scorecard indicator review where more NTD indicators were added into the scorecard; and, a scorecard will be produced with the data from the sector level. Rwanda NTD best best practices documentation is also being conducted, report to be available in Q4 2022.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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