Malaria transmission in South Sudan is generally perennial, with moderate to high intensity. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 1,805,371 and 244 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 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 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

The country secured the resources needed to achieve universal coverage of RDTs and ACTs in 2022. The country has also distributed sufficient LLINs to achieve universal operational coverage of the targeted at risk population. South Sudan has completed the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. The country has also recently launched the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 1,805,371 and 244 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 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>South Sudan has had no stock outs of ACTs and RDTs. The country is reporting good progress in the accelerated implementation plan of the Global Fund Grant with other partners of the Ministry of Health. LLIN distribution in Jonglei has been completed and distribution in Central Equatorial State will begin in October. Distribution in Unity State will begin as soon as LLINs are delivered from UNICEF warehouse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>Sign, ratify and deposit the AMA instrument at the AUC</td>
<td>Q1 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td>Deliverable not yet due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
South Sudan has responded positively to the recommended action on insecticide resistance monitoring.

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in South Sudan 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 31% for soil transmitted helminthiasis, 11% for both schistosomiasis and trachoma, and 0% for both onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for South Sudan in 2020 is 2, which represents a decrease compared with the 2019 index value (18).

Previous Key Recommended Actions

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</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>The health pool Fund (HPF) and The World Bank funded COVID-19 and Health system preparedness project remain the main mechanisms for the provision of essential lifesaving health services for the women, Children and Adolescents in South Sudan. The country concluded the BHI evaluation in the reporting period. The evaluation report and recommendations will be validated to inform further roll out of the BHI strategy and improve quality of health services at community level. After protracted flash floods since 2019, a cholera outbreak was declared in the Unity State of South Sudan in May 2022. At the end of this reporting period, a total of 363 cases were reported with no deaths. In addition to other control measures, 498,000 cholera vaccines were deployed, and 455,497 persons vaccinated (91% vaccine consumption). The country also witnessed multiple outbreaks of measles. Measles outbreaks were reported in 15-20 of the 80 Counties of South Sudan. The response includes reactive measles vaccination campaigns in which over 300,000 children aged 6months to 15 years were vaccinated. The country also targeted 34 high prevalent counties with low TT vaccination coverage with MNTE campaign to eliminate maternal and new-born tetanus with 800,000 women vaccinated out of the target of 1,000,000.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NTDs</td>
<td>Recognising the negative impact of COVID-19 on the 2020 MDA coverage, 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 prioritizing key necessary catch up activities</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country has been conducting NTD prevention and control interventions by respecting covid-19 measures. Between May and June 2022, the country conducted MDAs for onchocerciasis and Lymphatic Filariasis. Due to the side effects which have been reported in 2021 during the MDA for schistosomiasis, the country stopped those MDAs and has been working on advocacy and social mobilization on Schistosomiasis MDA to be able resume in the upcoming months. Stopping MDA for schistosomiasis led the country to lose about 2 millions of praziquantel tablets which expired in August 2022. Other activities conducted include a high-level advocacy meeting organized by the MoH in collaboration with different partners to increase the ownership and engage other line ministries in the fight against NTDs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

South Sudan has responded positively to the recommended actions addressing low coverage of DPT3 and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

**Key**

- [ ] Action achieved
- [ ] Some progress
- [ ] No progress
- [ ] Deliverable not yet due