Malaria transmission occurs all year round in most parts of Uganda. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 15,342,561 with 4,252 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 and had only been able to cover 26% 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

Uganda has procured sufficient LLINs to achieve operational universal coverage of vector control in the targeted at risk population. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. Uganda has also completed drug resistance monitoring since 2018 and has reported the data to WHO. Uganda has completed the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. Uganda has decreased the estimated malaria incidence and malaria mortality rate by more than 40% since 2010. The country is also showing leadership in malaria control through its participation in the High Burden High Impact approach.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, Uganda has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of the Malaria Control Scorecard, although the scorecard is not yet posted to the ALMA Scorecard Hub. Uganda has launched the Mass Action Against Malaria campaign and the End Malaria Fund.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 15,342,561 with 4,252 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>Malaria services continue to be provided whilst using COVID-19 and Ebola control measures as Uganda, particularly in high risk districts. With the emergence of an Ebola epidemic in September, national weekly meetings to monitor continuity of essential health services have been reinstated. Uganda continues to respond to malaria upsurges across the country. The overlap between symptoms of Ebola, Covid-19 and malaria is being highlighted to communities and health workers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address commodity gaps</td>
<td>Work to fill funding gaps for LLINs, ACTs and RDTs</td>
<td>Q4 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country has successfully secured an additional US$10 million towards ACT and RDT gaps from the Global Fund and the government has committed an additional US$500,000 annually.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The country has responded positively to the recommended action on removal of tariffs on private sector RDTs to enhance affordability in the private sector.

### RMNCAH and NTDs

#### Progress

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

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Uganda 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 100% for lymphatic filariasis, 85% for onchocerciasis, 62% for soil transmitted helminths, 57% for trachoma and 47% for schistosomiasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Uganda in 2020 was 68, which represents a high increase when compared to 2019 index value (18).
## Previous Key Recommended Actions

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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>Routine RMNCAH activities continue to be provided whilst using COVID pandemic measures. Uganda is facing an Ebola Epidemic which has triggered intensified infection control for health workers delivering services in health facilities and the community.</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 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. This includes prioritising key necessary catch-up activities.</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country is implementing NTD prevention and control activities whilst using COVID-19 pandemic measures. All routine activities are being conducted. The country conducted MDA for STH and Schistosomiasis and all the Praziquantel were used before the expiry date. The country is working on MDA reports, on the NTD surveillance activities and also on the mobilization of more resources to conduct all planned activities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The country has responded positively to the recommended action on the lack of data on vitamin A and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.

### Key

| Action achieved | Some progress | No progress | Deliverable not yet due |

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO