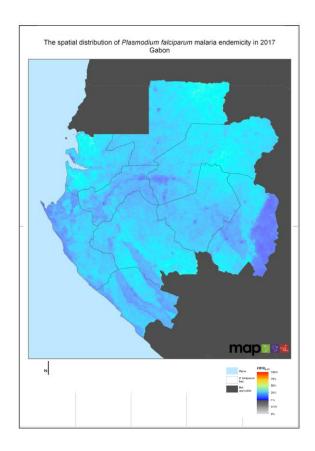
Gabon ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter Four, 2020



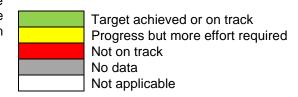
Scorecard for Accountability and Action



Commodities Financed and Financial Control		
LLIN financing 2020 projection (% of need)		
Public sector RDT financing 2020 projection (% of need)		
Public sector ACT financing 2020 projection (% of need)		8
World Bank rating on public sector management and institutions 2019 (CPIA Cluster D)		
Insecticide Resistance Monitoring, Implementation a	nd	Impact
Insecticide classes with mosquito resistance in representative sentinel sites confirmed since 2010		
Insecticide resistance monitored since 2015 and data reported to WHO		
National Insecticide Resistance Monitoring and Management Plan		
RDTs in stock (>9 months stock)		
ACTs in stock (>9 months stock)		
LLIN/IRS campaign on track	L	
Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign		
Scale of Implementation of iCCM		
Operational LLIN/IRS coverage (% of at risk population)		1
On track to reduce case incidence by ≥40% by 2020 (vs 2015)		
On track to reduce case mortality by ≥40% by 2020 (vs 2015)		
Tracer Indicators for Maternal and Child Health and I	NTI	Ds
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2019)		
Estimated % of Total Population living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2019)		5
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2019)		2
% deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant		8
Postnatal care (within 48 hrs)		6
Exclusive breastfeeding (% children < 6 months)		
Vitamin A Coverage 2018 (2 doses)		
DPT3 coverage 2019 (vaccination among 0-11		7

The entire population of Gabon is at high risk for malaria. Transmission is intense throughout the year in the northern part of the country and more seasonal in the south. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 142,848 with 314 deaths.

Key



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Malaria

Sustaining Essential Health Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic is putting an incredible strain on health systems across Africa. Health systems are required to maintain routine health services for other illnesses even as they handle the additional burden. In order to prevent widespread morbidity and mortality, it is of vital importance that we work to sustain the delivery of essential life-saving interventions during this difficult time including for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent health, Neglected Tropical Diseases and malaria.

For Gabon, the country is encouraged to sustain the delivery of essential health services including malaria case management, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the worst-case scenario, in which there is a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could be a 1.5% increase in malaria cases, and a 117% increase in malaria deaths in Gabon. This scenario would represent a complete reversal in the substantial progress in malaria mortality reductions seen over the last 2 decades.

It is essential to ensure the continuity of malaria, RMNCAH and NTD services in 2021 as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our continent. This may include the implementation of any necessary catch-up activities and ensuring timely planning to account for potential delays in procurement and delivery. Any intervention must ensure the safety of communities and health workers given the ease of transmission of COVID-19.

Progress

Gabon has recently submitted the results of insecticide resistance testing to WHO. The country reports that the majority of the population accesses RDTs and ACTs through the health insurance scheme.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 142,848 with 314 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Insufficient resources to achieve high coverage of essential malaria interventions.
- 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

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
Address vector control coverage	Address falling vector control coverage	Q1 2014		The country distributed 70,000 LLINs and Gabon has developed a resource mobilisation to fill vector control gaps including from the private sector
Optimise quality of care	Provide data on the scale up iCCM implementation country wide	Q1 2017		The country plans to scale up iCCM with the training of 2,000 CHWs countrywide. However, there is a need to mobilise a budget of 2.9 million Euros in order to implement this.

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
Impact	Investigate and address the reasons for the WHO estimated increase in the malaria incidence rate	Q4 2017		Gabon reports that coverage of essential malaria control interventions has declined since the loss of Global Fund financing in 2010. The lack of funding led to declines in coverage of all malaria interventions including LLINs. The country has revised the Malaria Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and is using it to assist in resource mobilization with support from the RBM partnership and is also exploring the creation of an End Malaria Fund. The country has decreased the malaria cases and deaths compared to 2015
Impact	Ensure that malaria services including case management and vector control are sustained and implemented whilst using COVID-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic	Q4 2020		The country has distributed RDTs and 70,000 LLINs including to pregnant women. Zero malaria starts with me was launched in November. The RBM partnership supported the country in the resource mobilisation strategy. Mapping of vectors has commenced.

Gabon has responded to the recommended actions addressing financing of anti-malarial commodities and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

Gabon has achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH interventions of skilled birth attendants, and has recently increased coverage of ARTs in children.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Gabon is shown using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, and soil transmitted helminths. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Gabon is 0% for schistosomiasis, 0% for lymphatic filariasis, 0% for onchocerciasis, and 0% for soil transmitted helminths. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Gabon in 2019 is 0, which represents a slight decrease compared with the 2018 index value (2).

Previous Key Recommended Actions

Previous Key Recommended Actions				
Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
RMNCAH ¹ : Impact	Ensure that essential RMNCAH services are sustained and implemented whilst using COVID-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic	Q4 2020		No progress reported
RMNCAH ¹ : Optimise quality of care	Investigate and address the reasons for the lack of reported data on vitamin A coverage	Q2 2019		No progress reported
NTDs	Submit data for Preventive chemotherapy for Lymphatic Filariasis and Onchocerciasis and work to increase Soil transmitted Helminths preventive chemotherapy to reach the WHO targets.	Q4 2020		The country organized the first round of MDA for Soil Transmitted Helminths in February 2020 and the MDA report is available. For Lymphatic Filariasis, the country is waiting for the PCR results and is mobilizing funds to resume mapping. For Onchocerciasis and Loasis, three out of nine hypoendemic districts have completed operational research in order to determine any side effects related to ivermectin. The country is mobilizing funds for the six remaining districts. The country organized the second round of MDA for Soil Transmitted Helminths in December 2020 and an MDA for LF is planned to take place in 2021

Gabon has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing low coverage of exclusive breastfeeding and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.

New Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
NTDs	Submit data for Preventive chemotherapy for Lymphatic Filariasis, Onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis and Soil transmitted Helminths preventive chemotherapy to WHO and mobilise resources for NTDs including for community based distribution.	Q1 2021

Key	_
	Action achieved
	Some progress
	No progress
	Deliverable not yet due

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO