# Malawi ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter Three, 2020



### Scorecard for Accountability and Action

Malawi	- 0
map	

The spatial distribution of Plasmodium falciparum malaria endemicity in 2017



#### Metrics

Commodities Financed and Financial Control		
LLIN financing 2020 projection (% of need)		100
Public sector RDT financing 2020 projection (% of need)		100
Public sector ACT financing 2020 projection (% of need)		100
World Bank rating on public sector management and institutions 2019 (CPIA Cluster D)	•	3.0

Insecticide Resistance Monitoring, Implementation and Impact

Insecticide classes with mosquito resistance in representative sentinel sites confirmed since 2010	3
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)	
LLINIRS campaign on track	
Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign	
Scale of Implementation of ICCM (2017)	
Operational LLINIRS coverage (% of at risk population)	100
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 NTDs	
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2018)	22
Estimated % of Total Population living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2019)	79
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with MV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2019)	74
% deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant	90
Postnatal care (within 48 hrs)	42
Exclusive breastfeeding (% children < 6 months)	59
Vitamin A Coverage 2018 (2 doses)	75
DPT3 coverage 2019 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)	95

#### Key

Malaria is endemic in all parts of Malawi. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 5,865,476 with 2,967 deaths.



Target achieved or on track Progress but more effort required Not on track No data Not applicable



## 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, Adolescent and Child health and malaria.

WHO underlines the critical importance of sustaining efforts to prevent, detect and treat malaria during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is of vital importance to ensure the continuity of malaria prevention and treatment services including distribution of insecticide-treated nets and indoor residual spraying, as well as chemoprevention for pregnant women (intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy). Any intervention must consider the importance of both lowering malaria-related mortality and ensuring the safety of communities and health workers given the ease of transmission of COVID-19.

For Malawi, it will be of vital importance to ensure that the planning for the universal coverage campaign for long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) campaign scheduled for 2021 and the indoor residual spraying campaign go ahead, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the recent guidance and recommendations from WHO and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria. Without this campaign, coupled with the need to also sustain essential health services including malaria case management, it is estimated by WHO that there will be an increase in malaria cases and deaths. 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 17.1% increase in malaria cases, and a 95.7% increase in malaria deaths in Malawi. This scenario would represent a complete reversal in the substantial progress in malaria mortality reductions seen over the last 2 decades.

### Progress

Malawi has secured sufficient resources to finance the ACTs, RDTs and LLINs required for 2020. Sufficient LLINs have been procured to achieve 100% operational coverage of the targeted at risk population. Malawi has scaled up iCCM. Malawi has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. The country has also developed an insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. Malawi has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Control Scorecard.

### Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2017 was 5,865,476 with 2,967 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 including malaria.

#### **Previous Key Recommended Action**

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
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		Malawi has adequate stocks of ACTs and RDTs but has experienced increases in cases. The IRS campaign is planned for Q4 2020, and the LLIN campaign for 2021

# **RMNCAH and NTDs**

### Progress

High coverage has been obtained for the tracer RMNCAH interventions, skilled birth attendants and exclusive breastfeeding. The country has recently increased coverage of ARTs in the total population. Malawi has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development and launch of the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Malawi is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Malawi is high for lymphatic filariasis (100%), schistosomiasis (100%), onchocerciasis (83%) and below WHO target for soil transmitted helminths (58%). Preventive chemotherapy for trachoma was not implemented (0%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Malawi in 2018 is 22, which represents a very substantial decrease compared with the 2017 index value (91).

The country is commended for reducing Trachoma prevalence to less than 5%, and beginning the trachoma elimination dossier. Malawi has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development and launch of the NTD Scorecard.

# Previous Key Recommended Actions

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
RMNCAH <sup>1</sup> : Impact	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	Q4 2020		Malawi has disseminated nationwide guidelines on sustaining essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic. PPEs have been distributed to health staff. There have been some shortages of drugs and supplies and the MOH and partners have fast tracked procurement to address this with distribution at health facility level ongoing. Capacity building to Healthcare workers on self-care FP methods has been expanded to reduce congestion at health facility levelMalawi has also conducted a Youth Friendly Health Services Assessment on provision of SRHR service provision during COVID -19

# Key

Action achieved
Some progress
No progress
Deliverable not yet due

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO