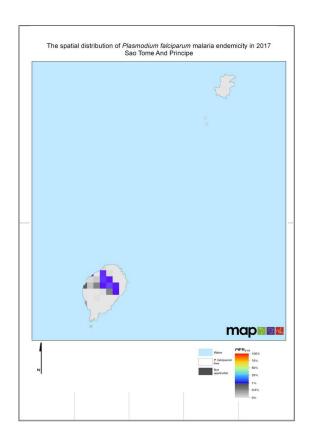
São Tomé and Príncipe ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter Three, 2021



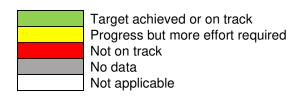
Scorecard for Accountability and Action



Commodities Financed and Financial Control		
LLIN financing 2021 projection (% of need)		10
Public sector RDT financing 2021 projection (% of need)		100
Public sector ACT financing 2021 projection (% of need)		100
World Bank rating on public sector management and institutions 2020 (CPIA Cluster D)		3.0
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 (>6 months stock)		
ACTs in stock (>6 months stock)		
LLIN/IRS campaign on track		
Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign		
Scale of Implementation of iCCM		
Operational LLIN/IRS coverage (% of at risk population)		5
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	NTE	Os
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2019)		60
Estimated % of Total Population living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)		
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)		
% deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant		9;
Postnatal care (within 48 hrs)		8
Exclusive breastfeeding (% children < 6 months)		7:
Vitamin A Coverage 2018 (2 doses)		33
DPT3 coverage 2020 (vaccination among 0-11		

In São Tomé and Príncipe, the annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 2,742 with zero 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 São Tomé and Príncipe, it was of vital importance that the indoor residual spraying (IRS) campaign went ahead, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the guidance and recommendations from WHO. The country is commended on rolling out the IRS campaign as planned. Without this IRS, coupled with the need to sustain essential health services including malaria case management, there will be an increase in malaria cases and deaths.

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

São Tomé and Príncipe secured sufficient resources to finance the ACTs, and LLINs/IRS required for 2021. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO, and has recently completed the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. The country has decreased the estimated malaria mortality rate by more than 40% since 2010.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, São Tomé and Príncipe has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Elimination Scorecard, although the scorecard has not yet been posted to the ALMA Scorecard Hub.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 2,742 with zero deaths.

Key Challenges

- Malaria upsurges observed.
- 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
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		STP reports there have been some reductions in malaria interventions including active case detection due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The country has also faced RDT stock outs but following a stock delivery now has sufficient stocks of both ACTs and RDTs. The IRS campaign is planned for Q4 2021

The country has responded positively to the recommended action addressing iCCM scale-up.

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

São Tomé and Príncipe has achieved high coverage in the tracer RMNCAH interventions DPT3 vaccination coverage, skilled birth attendants and exclusive breastfeeding and postnatal care.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Sao Tomé and Principé is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, and soil transmitted helminths. Preventive chemotherapy coverage is good for lymphatic filariasis (72%), soil transmitted helminths (65%) and schistosomiasis (61%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Sao Tomé and Principé in 2019 is 66, which represents a substantial decrease compared with the 2018 index value (89).

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. Address any stock-outs of essential RMNCAH commodities	Q4 2020		The country reports there have been interruptions to routine immunization and there are verified stockouts of BCG and yellow fever vaccines. The surveillance of vaccine-preventable diseases has also had disruptions, as surveillance focal points are dedicating much of their time to COVID-19. The country has adopted a framework to guide the emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
NTDs	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	Q4 2021		Deliverable not yet due

São Tomé and Príncipe has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing the lack of data for ARTs and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

