Malaria transmission is most intense in the south whilst the desert areas in the north are malaria-free. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2021 was 4,659,909 with 4,430 deaths.
Malaria

Global Fund Update

The Global Fund has announced that Niger will receive US$150.1 million for HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, and health systems strengthening as the country allocation for 2024-2026. The Global Fund has determined the total allocation amount based on Niger’s disease burden and income level, as well as several other factors. The malaria component is also allocated a specific proportion of the total, according to a formula developed by the Global Fund that takes into account several factors, including disease burden and the importance of sustaining life-saving essential services. For Niger this is calculated at US$120.7 million. The allocations to the individual disease components are not fixed, and can be adjusted according to decisions made at country level. Niger is urged to ensure that resources are allocated to malaria control from the overall Global Fund country allocation, as well as from domestic resources, to accelerate progress.

Progress

The country continues to work on strengthening and maintaining health services following the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, Niger mobilised the required financing to procure and distribute LLINs, and RDTs required for 2022. The country has procured sufficient LLINs to achieve universal operational coverage of the targeted population. The country has adequate stocks of ACTs and RDTs. Niger has completed the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan and has recently reported the results of insecticide resistance testing to WHO. The country is also showing leadership in malaria control through its participation in the High Burden High Impact approach. Niger has launched its Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, the country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Control Scorecard, although the scorecard is not yet posted to the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The country is developing a concept note for the End Malaria Council.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2021 was 4,659,909 with 4,430 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

<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>In collaboration with partners the process of MPR, NSP development, and retrospective assessment is ongoing. ITN distribution to PW and U1 at health facility level and through the community distribution in 1 pilot district was done.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>Work to incorporate activities targeting refugees in the Malaria Strategic Plan</td>
<td>Q1 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td>The NMCP is in the development process of the new MSP (at the stage of data collection for MPR external review) and the situation regarding refugees will be taken into consideration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Niger has responded positively to the recommended action addressing resource mobilisation and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.

**RMNCAH and NTDs**

**Progress**

Niger has achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH intervention vitamin A. The country has enhanced tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Niger is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. In 2021, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 100% for soil transmitted helminthiasis, 58% for schistosomiasis, 28% for trachoma and 0% for lymphatic filariasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Niger in 2021 is 11, which represents a very substantial decrease compared with the 2020 index value of 61.

**Previous Key Recommended Actions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RMNCAH(^1): 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>No progress reported</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
Recognising the negative impact of COVID-19 on the 2020 MDA coverage, ensure that NTD interventions are sustained and implemented whilst using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. This includes prioritizing key necessary catch up activities including the tracking of leftover stocks at district level to retrieve all expired drugs after MDA for incineration and accountability purposes and ensure the First-Expire-First-Out (FEFO) method is effectively implemented at the national level.

### New Key Recommended Action

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Action Item</th>
<th>Suggested completion timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NTDs</td>
<td>Recognising the negative impact of COVID-19 on the 2021 MDA coverage, ensure that NTD interventions including MDAs for trachoma and lymphatic filariasis are implemented. Track leftover stocks at district level to retrieve all expired drugs after MDA for incineration and accountability purposes and ensure the First-Expire-First-Out (FEFO) method is effectively implemented at the national level</td>
<td>Q4 2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key**

- **Action achieved**
- **Some progress**
- **No progress**
- **Deliverable not yet due**

The country is conducting NTD prevention and control interventions as planned. In Q4 2022, the country has been working to strengthen onchocerciasis surveillance while addressing the recommendations from the expert committee. Different coordination meetings with the Civil Society organizations working on NTD advocacy were organized and other routine activities are being conducted. The country organized MDA for trachoma in 4 targeted district's in October 2022 and is working on NTD sustainability plan. The country also completed the new NTD Master plan and is waiting for its validation. The NTD scorecard best practices documentation is ongoing.

The country significantly increased the coverage of vitamin A in 2021 to 93%.