The entire population of Sierra Leone is at high risk of malaria. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2021 was 2,043,818 with 2,107 deaths.
Malaria
Global Fund Update
The Global Fund has announced that Sierra Leone will receive US$126.4 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 Sierra Leone’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 Sierra Leone this is calculated at US$73.2 million. The allocations to the individual disease components are not fixed, and can be adjusted according to decisions made at country level. Sierra Leone 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, Sierra Leone secured sufficient resources to achieve universal coverage of LLINs, RDTs and ACTs in 2022, has good levels of commodity stocks and has distributed sufficient LLINs to achieve 100% operational coverage of the targeted at-risk population. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO and has finalised the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. Sierra Leone has launched the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, Sierra Leone has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control and Elimination Scorecard, although the scorecard has not yet been posted to the ALMA Scorecard Hub.

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2021 was 2,043,818 with 2,107 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 Action

<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>The country has enough stock of RDTs and ACTs and diagnosis and treatment were implemented at health facility and community levels. The 2023 ITN distribution campaign planning is ongoing with the support of partners. The NMCP started the planning of the 2023 IRS campaign</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress
Sierra Leone has achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH intervention of DPT3. The country enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Sierra Leone is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, and soil transmitted helminths. In 2021, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 78% for onchocerciasis, 74% for lymphatic filariasis, 67% for soil transmitted helminths and 0% for schistosomiasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Sierra Leone in 2021 is 14, which represents a substantial decrease compared with the 2020 index value (59).

Previous Key Recommended Actions

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</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>The country revised and extended the National RMNCHAHN Strategy. Sierra Leone has completed the training and deployment of national CHWs, out of the 8,622 recruited, 8,165 of them have completed training and qualified for the job. There will be mop-up recruitment and training in 2023 to reach the total number of 8,700 planned for Sierra Leone. All logistics needed for the training (printed and nonprinted) were made available at the training sites before the training. A 3 day National RMNCHN Quality of Care Conference was held attracting ministry of health directorates, programmes, national and district representatives as well us WHO, UNICEF, SAVE/MCGL, and other NGO and CSOs. A Primary Health Care District Summit for UHC was held in PHC optimisation model learning districts. The national CHW strategy has been costed and developed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTDs</td>
<td>Recognising the negative impact of COVID-19 on the 2020 MDA coverage, ensure that NTD interventions are implemented whilst using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic.</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td>The country is conducting NTD prevention and control interventions by respecting COVID-19 preventive measures. The country has put more efforts to work with the community especially the local leaders and traditional healers to get their support in the NTD community interventions including community mobilisation for patients with morbidities to consult the health facilities. From September to October 2022, the country conducted MDA for Onchocerciasis, Lymphatic Filariasis and Schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis in the remaining districts. The Lymphatic Filariasis transmission assessment is ongoing. The country is working to mobilize more funds to cover all the NTD planned interventions especially Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
Sierra Leone has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing low coverage of ARTs in children and continues to track progress as this action is implemented, with increases in coverage recently observed.

**New Key Recommended Action**

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NTDs</td>
<td>Work to implement preventive chemotherapy for schistosomiasis and reach WHO targets</td>
<td>Q4 2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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