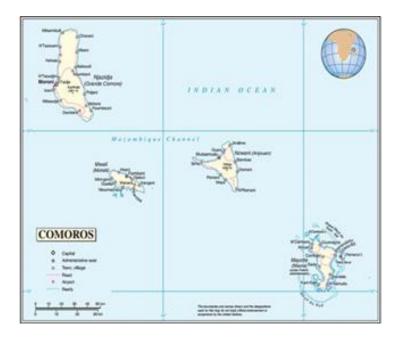
Comoros ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter One, 2022



Scorecard for Accountability and Action



Metrics

Commodities Financed	
LLIN financing 2022 projection (% of need)	
Public sector RDT financing 2022 projection (% of need)	100
Public sector ACT financing 2022 projection (% of need)	100
Policy	
Signed, ratified and deposited the AMA instrument at the AUC	
Malaria activities targeting refugees in Malaria Strategic Plan	
Malaria activities targeting IDPs in Malaria Strategic Plan	
Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign	
Resistance Monitoring, Implementation and Impact	
Drug Resistance Monitoring Conducted (2018-2020) and data reported to WHO	
Insecticide classes with mosquito resistance in representative sentinel sites confirmed since 2010	1
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)	
LLINIRS campaign on track	
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, NTD:	and Covid 19
Scale of Implementation of iCCM	
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2020)	33
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)	
Vitamin A Coverage 2020 (2 doses)	23
DPT3 coverage 2020 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)	87

% Population Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19

Key

Most of the population of Comoros is at risk of malaria. Transmission is perennial on the Island of Grand Comore and unstable throughout the zones of Anjouan and Mohéli. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 4,546 and 7 deaths.



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



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 lifesaving interventions during this difficult time including for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent health, Neglected Tropical Diseases and malaria.

For Comoros, it was of vital importance to ensure that the universal coverage campaign for long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) scheduled for 2020 went ahead, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the recent guidance and recommendations from WHO and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria. The country is congratulated for successfully completing the LLIN universal coverage campaign in 2020. Without this, coupled with the need to sustain essential health services including malaria case management, there would have been an increase in malaria cases and deaths. WHO estimates that there were an additional 47,000 malaria deaths globally in 2020 due to service disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to an estimated 7.5% increase in deaths.

It is essential to ensure the continuity of malaria, RMNCAH and NTD services in 2022 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.

Given the difficulties in securing essential health commodities in Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is of vital importance that countries sign, ratify and deposit the African Medicines Agency (AMA) instrument with the AUC in order to improve access to quality, safe and efficacious medical products in Africa. The country is encouraged to complete this process.

The country has been affected by the continent-wide restriction of access to COVID-19 vaccines. The country, working with partners, should invest in education and behaviour change communication to increase the uptake of COVID vaccines and therapeutics.

Malaria

Progress

WHO has identified Comoros as being a country with the potential to eliminate local transmission of malaria. Comoros has adequate finance for the required ACTs and RDTs. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. WHO has identified Comoros as being a country with the potential to eliminate local transmission of malaria by 2025.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, the country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Elimination Scorecard, however this scorecard is not yet publicly shared on the ALMA Scorecard Hub.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 4,546 and 7 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Insufficient human resources and a limited number of partners to implement malaria control activities.
- Gaps in funding to allow larger scale IRS.
- 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.

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 2022		Malaria interventions continued to be implemented as planned. RDT and ACT stocks are sufficient, but the country has also implemented early procurement for 2022. Funds have been made available to ensure that malaria interventions can continue safely
Impact	Investigate and address the reasons for the increase in estimated malaria incidence and mortality between 2015 and 2020, which means that the country did not achieve the 2020 target of a 40% reduction in malaria incidence	Q4 2022		Comoros reports that a major reason for the increase in cases and deaths was the lack of high coverage of vector control. The LLIN universal coverage campaign was completed in 2020 alongside targeted IRS. The country reports that this has led to a significant reduction in malaria transmission. The COVID-19 pandemic also impacted malaria interventions in 2020

Previous Key Recommended Actions

The country has responded positively to the recommended actions addressing development of a national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

New Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
Monitoring	Ensure that drug resistance monitoring is conducted and the data are reported to WHO	Q1 2023

RMNCAH and **NTDs**

Progress

The country has achieved high coverage in the tracer RMNCAH intervention DPT3 coverage.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Comoros is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved

for lymphatic filariasis and soil transmitted helminths. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in 2020 in Comoros was low for both soil transmitted helminths (22%) and lymphatic filariasis (50%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Comoros in 2020 is 33, which represents a very substantial decrease compared with the 2019 index value (68)

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
RMNCAH1: Optimise quality of care	a) 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 2022		Overall, COVID-19 has led to a reduction in patients seeking care at health facilities. The Government has set up a national commission to coordinate and manage the pandemic. In this high-level commission, there are committees responsible for each Island. A COVID-19 response plan has been established
	b) Address the falling coverage of vitamin A	Q1 2021		The country carried out the 2 vitamin A campaigns in 2020. Whilst the first campaign was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, high coverage was obtained in the second campaign of the year
NTDs	Recognising the negative impact of COVID-19 on the 2020 MDA coverage, ensure that NTD interventions including MDAs, vector control and Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention are sustained and implemented whilst using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. This includes prioritizing key necessary catch up activities	Q4 2022		In Q1 2022, the country conducted NTD prevention and control interventions whilst respecting COVID-19 measures. The country has just completed the 2022 campaign using Ivermectin, Diethylcarbamazine and Albendazole (IDA) and is working on the report. The country is also preparing to develop a new NTD Master plan as well as Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention (MMDP) plan. Other routine activities are being conducted as planned

Previous Key Recommended Actions

Comoros has also responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing lack of data on ART coverage in children and continues to track progress as actions are implemented.

Key

Action achieved
Some progress
No progress
Deliverable not yet due

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO