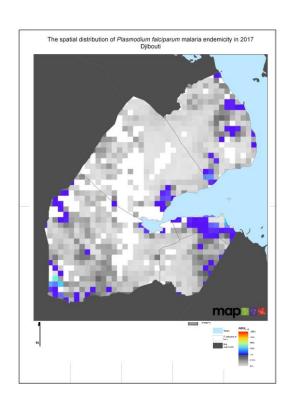
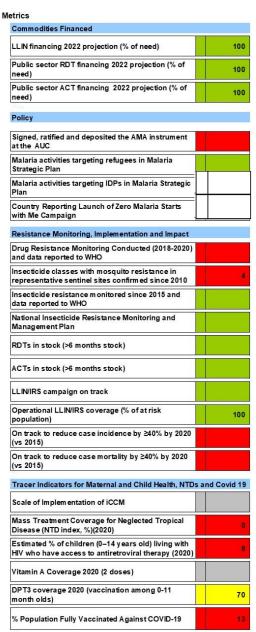
Djibouti ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter One, 2022



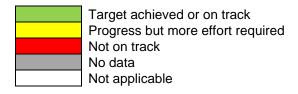
Scorecard for Accountability and Action





Nearly 50% of the population of Djibouti is at low risk of malaria, while the remaining in the desert is free of malaria. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 73,535.

Key



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Sustaining Essential Health Services During the COVID-19Pandemic

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 and malaria.

For Djibouti, with the indoor residual spraying (IRS) campaign planned for the fourth quarter of 2021, it was of vital importance that the IRS campaign went ahead, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the recent guidance and recommendations from WHO. 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. 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 do this.

The country has been affected by the continent-wide restriction of access to COVID-19 vaccines and had only been able to cover 13% of their population by April 2022. The country, working with partners, should invest in education and behaviour change communication to increase the uptake of COVID vaccines and therapeutics.

Malaria

Progress

The country has sufficient funds to procure the necessary ACTs, RDTs and costs for IRS to achieve universal coverage of the targeted at risk population in 2022. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO and has completed the insecticide resistance management and monitoring plan. The national strategic plan includes activities targeting refugees

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 73,535.

Key Challenges

- Increases in malaria cases have been experienced in the country since 2015.
- 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 2022		Djibouti continues to report no stock outs of ACTs and RDTs due to the support provided by WHO. Despite challenges encountered regarding the IRS implementation (size of houses and furniture), this intervention has been completed. The planned distribution of PBO nets was delayed due to late delivery and is planned for Q2 2022
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		Djibouti declared a malaria emergency in 2019 following an upsurge in cases and prepared an emergency response plan. The country secured emergency resources from the Global Fund for ACTs, RDTs and LLINs. The Ministry of Health rolled out vector control including LLINs and IRS in the affected areas. In addition, the country held a round table for resource mobilization which resulted in funding pledges from a number of partner organisations

The country has responded to the recommended action on finalising the insecticide resistance management and monitoring plan and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.

New Key Recommended Actions

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
Policy	Sign, ratify and deposit the AMA instrument at the AUC	Q1 2023
Monitoring Ensure that drug resistance monitoring is conducted and data reported to WHO		Q1 2023

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Djibouti is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for soil transmitted helminths. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Djibouti in 2020 was low for soil transmitted helminths (0%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Djibouti in 2020 is 0, with no change compared with the 2019 index value (0).

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		No Progress Reported
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 2022		Djibouti did not conduct any Mass Drug Administration between 2015- 2022. The country submitted a request for consultant support to WHO to map endemic NTDs in Djibouti and MDAs will be conducted once the mapping is done and based on the country prevalence. The country is conducting leishmaniasis and leprosy case management and is working to mobilize resources for NTD interventions.

Djibouti has also responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing lack of data on vitamin A coverage and low coverage of ARTs in children, and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.



¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO