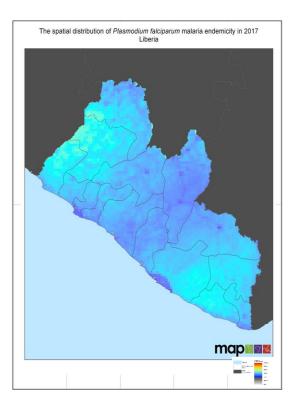
Liberia ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter One, 2022



Scorecard for Accountability and Action



Commodities Financed		
LLIN financing 2022 projection (% of need)		10
Public sector RDT financing 2022 projection (% of need)		10
Public sector ACT financing 2022 projection (% of need)		1(
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		
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		<u> </u>
Operational LLIN/IRS coverage (% of at risk population)		10
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	s a	nd Covid
Scale of Implementation of iCCM		
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2020)		2
		-
Disease (NTD index, %)(2020) Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with		
Disease (NTD index, %)(2020) Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)		

Key

The entire population of Liberia is at high risk for malaria. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 1,232,493 with 601 deaths.



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

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 Liberia, it was of vital importance to ensure that the planning for the universal coverage campaign for long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) scheduled for 2021 went ahead, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the guidance and recommendations from WHO and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria. It is of particular note that this guidance was developed based upon the experiences of distributing LLINs in Liberia during the Ebola outbreak, and we thank you sincerely for the leadership of the Ministry of Health for this important action, and for successfully implementing the campaign. Without this campaign, coupled with the need to also sustain essential health services including malaria case management, there will be an increase in malaria cases and deaths. Under the worst-case scenario, in which there is a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could be a 7.5% increase in malaria cases, and a 104.1% increase in malaria deaths in Liberia. This scenario would represent a complete reversal in the substantial progress in malaria mortality reductions seen over the last 2 decades. 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 but has been able to cover 21% 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

Liberia secured the resources required for the procurement and distribution of the antimalarial commodities in 2022 and has procured sufficient LLINs to achieve universal 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.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Liberia has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms

for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control Scorecard, but this is not yet posted on the ALMA Scorecard Hub.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 1,232,493 with 601 deaths.

Key Challenges

- The increase in malaria incidence and mortality rates estimated by WHO between 2015 and 2019.
- 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 were implemented as planned. The COVID-19 pandemic caused additional logistical and human resource costs for the LLIN mass campaign with a delay in the arrival of LLINs, and delays in planning, however the campaign was completed. In case management, Digital Health has been introduced to improve service delivery at the Community Level. Quarterly data quality meetings with county health teams geared towards improving data quality are ongoing. The country has enough stocks of ACTs and RDTs
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		Deliverable not yet due

Previous Key Recommended Actions

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

Liberia has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development and launch of the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Scorecard. Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Liberia is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, and soil transmitted helminths. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 0% for all the four targeted diseases. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Liberia in 2020 is 0, which represents a very substantial decrease compared with the 2019 index value (87).

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
RMNCAH ¹ : Optimise quality of care	Address the falling coverage of vitamin A	Q1 2021		No progress reported
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 2022		The country reports that routine RMNCAH activities are ongoing without interruption despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The country has reviewed key Family Health Division protocols and guidelines including for ANC
RMNCAH ¹ : Optimise quality of care	Address the falling coverage of DPT3	Q2 2021		No progress reported
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 including tracking leftover stocks at subnational level to retrieve all expired drugs after MDA for incineration and accountability purposes	Q4 2022		The country is conducting NTD routine activities whilst respecting COVID-19 safety measures. MDA preparations are ongoing, to be conducted in Q2 2022 and the country will use all the Praziquantel at risk of expiry before the expiry date. Other activities incuding MMDP and surveillance are being conducted as planned

Previous Key Recommended Actions

Liberia has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing low coverage of ARTs, and lack of data on vitamin A, and continues to track progress as actions are implemented.

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO

Key	
	Action achieved
	Some progress
	No progress
	Deliverable not yet due