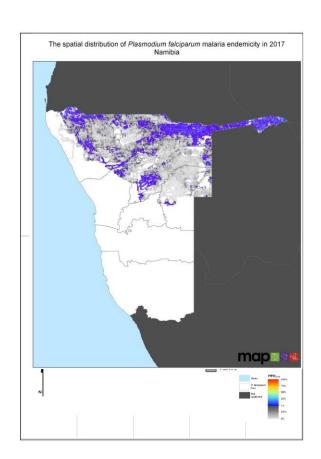
Namibia ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter Four, 2021



Scorecard for Accountability and Action



Commodities Financed		
IRS financing 2021 (% of at-risk population)		6
Public sector RDT financing 2021 projection (% of need)		10
Public sector ACT financing 2021 projection (% of need)		10
Insecticide Resistance Monitoring, Implementation a	nd	Impact
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		3
RDTs in stock (>6 months stock)		
ACTs in stock (>6 months stock)		
LLIN/IRS campaign on track	V	
Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign		
Scale of Implementation of iCCM		
IRS Operational Coverage (%)		4
On track to reduce case incidence by ≥40% by 2020 (vs 2015)	•	
On track to reduce case mortality by ≥40% by 2020 (vs 2015)	v	
Tracer Indicators for Maternal and Child Health, NTD	s a	nd Covid 1
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2020)		
Estimated % of Total Population living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)		8
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)		7
% deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant		8
Postnatal care (within 48 hrs)		6
Exclusive breastfeeding (% children < 6 months)		4
Vitamin A Coverage 2020 (2 doses)		
DPT3 coverage 2020 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)		
% Population Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19		1

Malaria transmission is confined to the north-east part of Namibia where malaria is endemic and about 72% of the population of the country is at risk. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 13,636 with 16 deaths.

Key



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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 of COVID-19. 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.

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.

The country has been affected by the continent-wide restriction of access to COVID-19 vaccines and had only been able to cover 14% of their population by the end of 2021.

Malaria

Progress

Namibia secured sufficient funding for the required number of ACTs, RDTs and IRS for 2021. The country has recently reported the insecticide resistance data to WHO. Namibia has recently launched the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Namibia has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Elimination Scorecard, however this is not yet shared to the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The country has established End Malaria Councils at subnational level.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 13,636 with 16 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Maintaining malaria high on the political and funding agenda.
- There is a need to strengthen cross border collaboration with neighbouring countries.
- 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		The country has adequate supplies of ACTs and RDTs. Insecticide has been procured by the Global Fund and the Government. Whilst the consignment by the GF was received in October, the government shipment requires funds to airlift it so that it arrives in the country expeditiously. Moreover, there remain large gaps in resources to meet all the insecticide and IRS operational costs. To prevent the potential impact of these challenges on malaria, the NMCP has come up with a mitigation plan which includes focusing IRS to areas of high risk with the insecticide they have; distribute all available LLINs; conduct larviciding; and continue with enhanced active case detection and treatment. IRS has rolled out in some areas. The country launched the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign in December 2021
Vector Control	Ensure the IRS commodities are procured in time for the 2021 IRS campaigns	Q3 2021		Insecticide has been procured by the Global Fund and the Government. While the consignment by the GF was received in October, the government shipment requires funds to airlift it so that it arrives in the country expeditiously. This consignment has not yet been delivered to-date. Moreover, there remain large gaps in resources to meet all the insecticide and IRS operational costs. To prevent the potential impact of these challenges on malaria, the NMCP has come up with a mitigation plan which includes focusing IRS to areas of high risk with the insecticide they have; distribute all available LLINs; conduct larviciding; and continue with enhanced active case detection and treatment. IRS has rolled out in some areas

Namibia has responded positively to the recommended action on addressing the lack of data on iCCM and continues to strengthen access to treatment of malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea.

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

Namibia has good coverage of the tracer RMNCAH intervention skilled birth attendants and ART coverage in the total population. 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 Namibia is shown using a

composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminths. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage in Namibia was 0% for the two diseases. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Namibia in 2020 is 0, with no change compared with the 2019 index value of 0.

Previous Key Recommended Actions

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
RMNCAH1: 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 stock outs have been experienced due to delayed commodity delivery. The Essential Health Services guidelines were completed
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		In Namibia, the NTD case management activities are being conducted at health facility level whilst respecting COVID-19 preventive measures. Since 2020, the country did not organize any MDA due to the WHO recommendation of waiting for a taeniasis prevalence survey, and is still waiting for the WHO support

Namibia has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing the low coverage of vitamin A, which has recently increased.



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¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO