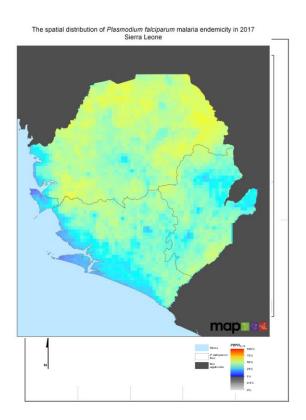
# **Sierra Leone ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter One 2022**



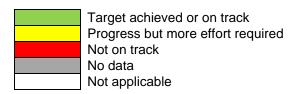
## Scorecard for Accountability and Action



Commodities Financed		
LLIN financing 2022 projection (% of need)		100
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		5
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		4
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)	•	4
LLIN/IRS campaign on track		
Operational LLIN/IRS 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, NTE	)s a	nd Covid 19
Scale of Implementation of iCCM		
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2020)		59
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)		10
Vitamin A Coverage 2020 (2 doses)		32
DPT3 coverage 2020 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)		91
% Population Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19	A	14

The entire population of Sierra Leone is at high risk of malaria. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 1,223,397 with 1,648 deaths.

## Key



# Sierra Leone ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter One, 2022



# **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, Adolescent and Child health, Neglected Tropical Diseases and malaria.

Under the worst-case scenario, in which all ITN campaigns are suspended and there is a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could be a 29.3% increase in malaria cases, and a 99.6% increase in malaria deaths in Sierra Leone. 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 congratulated for doing this.

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 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**

Sierra Leone secured sufficient resources to achieve universal coverage of LLINs, RDTs and ACTs in 2022 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 recently finalised the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. Sierra Leone has launched the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, 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 2020 was 1,223,397 with 1,648 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** 

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		Activities have been implemented as planned. Diagnosis and treatment at health facility and community levels were done. ITN are available at health centres for routine distribution and the country is planning the ITN mass campaign distribution. Also support is requested to WHO for the MDR of the strategic plan.

**New Key Recommended Action** 

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

## **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 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 75% for onchocerciasis, 70% for lymphatic filariasis, 52% for schistosomiasis, and 44% for soil transmitted helminths. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Sierra Leone in 2020 was 59, which represents a decrease compared with the 2019 index value (73).

## **Previous Key Recommended Actions**

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
RMNCAH <sup>1</sup> : 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		A 2 day national review meeting on the Special Baby Care Unit performance which included Perinatal death surveillance and response has been conducted with the participation of over 100 participants from all hospitals, DHMTs, ministry of health and partners in Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone has conducted 2 surge (surge 4 and 5) campaigns of vaccination against COVID19 in January and February 2022 reaching 597,089 people Starting from March 2021, Sierra Leone has vaccinated 2,155,640 individuals in 5 surge rounds, with 1,125,415 fully vaccinated. A 6th surge campaign is going on currently planning to cover over 400,000 people. Following the national recruitment of RMNCAH CHW by community stakeholders supervised by CSOs and health development partners the Ministry of Health and Sanitation has now nearly 8700 CHWs officially verified and approved. Preparation has been completed to conduct the rollout training which will be done in early next quarter. Training of over 1,000 trainers from DHMTs, district and chiefdom level health facilities has been already completed. Sierra Leone has recently launched the health sector policy, health sector strategy and health financing strategy and now discussion has started to revise the RMNCAH strategy which is the health sector investment case for the GFF support. (Q4 21). Sierra Leone is completing the preparation for a National Health Summit and Recognition Award in April 7-9 2022, under a theme Transforming Health Coverage. Vitamin A supplementation and deworming outreach is ongoing in all the 16 districts. Quarterly distribution of essential RMNCH and nutrition commodities has been initiated to all 16 districts as part of the national Free Health Care Initiative.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
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		Deliverable not yet due
Optimise quality of care	Address the falling coverage of vitamin A	Q4 2022		A national integrated IPV, Vitamin A and Albendazole campaign has been conducted in all districts, with 81% coverage for IPV, 75.3% for Vitamin A, and 80% for Albendazole for under five children. Routine vitamin A supplementation is being consolidated including by training and planning involving district medical officers, M&E officers and nutrition officers of all the 16 districts

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.

