South Sudan ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter One, 2020



Scorecard for Accountability and Action

Metrics

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Commodities Financed and Financial Control LLIN financing 2020 projection (% of need) Public sector RDT financing 2020 projection (% of 100 Public sector ACT financing 2020 projection (% of 100 need) World Bank rating on public sector management and institutions 2018 (CPIA Cluster D) Insecticide Resistance Monitoring, Implementation and 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 Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign Scale of Implementation of iCCM (2017) Operational LLIN/IRS coverage (% of at risk 100 population) On track to reduce case incidence by ≥40% by 2020 (vs 2015) On track to reduce case mortality by ≥40% by 2020 Tracer Indicators for Maternal and Child Health and NTDs Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2018) Estimated % of Total Population living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2018) Estimated % of children (0-14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2018) 19 % deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant Postnatal care (within 48 hrs) Exclusive breastfeeding (% children < 6 months) 45 Vitamin A Coverage 2018 (2 doses) 76 DPT3 coverage 2018 (vaccination among 0-11 49 month olds)

Key

Malaria transmission in South Sudan is generally perennial, with moderate to high intensity. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 4,697,506 and 1,191 deaths



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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 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 including malaria.

WHO underlines the critical importance of sustaining efforts to prevent, detect and treat malaria during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is of vital importance to ensure the continuity of malaria prevention and treatment services including distribution of insecticide-treated nets and indoor residual spraying, as well as chemoprevention for pregnant women (intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy). Any intervention must consider the importance of both lowering malaria-related mortality and ensuring the safety of communities and health workers given the ease of transmission of COVID-19.

For South Sudan, it will be of vital importance that the LLIN campaign goes ahead as planned, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the recent guidance and recommendations from WHO and that the insecticides needed for the campaign are ordered on time. Without LLINs, coupled with the need to sustain essential health services including malaria case management, there could be an increase in malaria cases and deaths. 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 25.2% increase in malaria cases, and a 30.6% increase in malaria deaths in South Sudan. This scenario would represent a complete reversal in the substantial progress in malaria mortality reductions seen over the last 2 decades.

Global Fund Update

The Global Fund has announced that South Sudan will receive US\$121.9 million for HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, and health systems strengthening as the country allocation for 2021-2023. The Global Fund has determined the total allocation amount based on South Sudan's disease burden and income level, as well as several other factors. The malaria component is also allocated a specific proportion of the total, according to a formula developed by the Global Fund that takes into account several factors, including disease burden and previous disbursements. For South Sudan this is calculated at US\$54.7 million. The allocations to the individual disease components are not fixed, and can be adjusted according to decisions made at country level. South Sudan is urged to ensure that resources are allocated to malaria control from the overall Global Fund country allocation, as well as from domestic resources, to accelerate progress.

Progress

The country secured most of the resources to achieve universal coverage of RDTs and ACTs in 2020. The country has also distributed sufficient LLINs to achieve universal operational coverage of the targeted at risk population. South Sudan has recently completed the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 4,697,506 and 1,191 deaths.

Kev Challenge

 Sustaining the delivery of essential life-saving interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic including for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent and Child health including malaria. **Previous Key Recommended Actions**

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
Impact	Investigate and address the reasons for the increase in estimated malaria deaths between 2015 and 2018	Q4 2020		A number of factors have contributed to the increase in malaria deaths including: high malnutrition rate among children under 5 years during 2015-2018; limited access to health services due to non-functional health facilities; lack of supplies and health work force during the crisis period. However, transportation of supplies to hard-to-reach areas has improved with the support from partners; mobile clinics have been rolled out and health workers have been trained to manage severe and uncomplicated malaria
Address funding	Ensure the GF malaria funding application is submitted by Q2 2020 and ensure that resources are allocated to malaria control at a level that is sufficient to sustain the gains made in recent years. Work to fill the other outstanding gaps	Q2 2020		Deliverable not yet due
Emergency Preparedness	Following the extensive flooding in the country, ensure that the emergency response plan is in place to respond to any potential upsurges of malaria	Q2 2020		Following the extensive flooding in the country, South Sudan developed an emergency response plan to respond to any potential upsurges of malaria. The plan is being implemented to respond to an increased number of malaria deaths. Responses included distribution of LLINs to affected communities and establishment of mobile clinics to enhance timely testing and treatment

South Sudan has responded positively to the recommended action on insecticide resistance monitoring.

New Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
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 2020

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in South Sudan is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. Preventive

chemotherapy coverage in Sudan is low for trachoma (14%). Preventive chemotherapy coverage data for schistosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis and soil transmitted helminths were submitted to WHO but are currently being validated.

Previous Key Recommended Action

South Sudan has responded positively to the recommended actions addressing low coverage of skilled birth attendants and DPT3, and the lack of data for postnatal care. The country continues to track progress as these actions are implemented. The country has recently increased coverage of DPT3.

New Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
RMNCAH¹: Impact	Ensure that essential RMNCAH services are sustained and implemented whilst using COVID-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic	Q4 2020

Key	
	Action achieved
	Some progress
	No progress
	Deliverable not yet due

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO