Malaria is endemic in all parts of Zambia and transmission is seasonal. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2021 was 7,159,243 with 1,503 deaths.
Malaria
Global Fund Allocation
The Global Fund announced that Zambia will receive US$349.8 million for HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, and health systems strengthening as the country allocation for 2024-2026. The Global Fund has determined the total allocation amount based on Zambia’s disease burden and income level, as well as several other factors. The malaria component is also allocated a specific proportion of the total, according to a formula developed by the Global Fund that takes into account several factors, including disease burden and previous disbursements. For Zambia this is calculated at US$ 77.2 million. The allocations to the individual disease components are not fixed, and can be adjusted according to decisions made at country level. Zambia 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. The Global Fund resources are especially important in the current resource constrained environment. The ongoing economic crisis, increased costs of doing business, and the need to introduce newer more expensive commodities to address insecticide and drug resistance mean that countries may experience shortfalls in sustaining their life-saving malaria essential services.

Progress
The country continues to work on strengthening and maintaining health services following the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, Zambia has secured most of the required financing to fund the ACTs and RDTs required for 2023, including with significant domestic resource commitments. The country has also distributed sufficient LLINs and carried out sufficient IRS to achieve universal operational coverage of the targeted at-risk population. Zambia carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and reported the results to WHO and has completed the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. Zambia has scaled up the implementation of iCCM and achieved 100% operational coverage of LLINs. Zambia has launched the Malaria Ends with Me campaign.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, Zambia has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Control and Elimination Scorecard and the sharing of the country scorecards through the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The country received the ALMA Joyce Kafanabo Award for Innovation and Excellence during the AU Summit in February 2023. The country has also launched the multisectoral high level End Malaria Council and Malaria Fund.

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2021 was 7,159,243 with 1,503 deaths.

Key Challenges
• The country has documented mosquito resistance to four insecticide classes.
• There is a need to strengthen cross border collaboration with neighbouring countries.
• The country has significant resource gaps.
Previous Key Recommended Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Action Item</th>
<th>Suggested completion timeframe</th>
<th>Progress</th>
<th>Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>Sign, ratify and deposit the AMA instrument at the AUC</td>
<td>Q1 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Zambian Cabinet has approved AMA and the issue has been referred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for signing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

Zambia has achieved high coverage in the tracer RMNCAH intervention of vitamin A and DPT3. The country has also increased coverage of ARTs in children. Zambia has enhanced accountability mechanisms with the development of a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Zambia is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. In 2021, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 80% for schistosomiasis, 49% for trachoma, 37% for lymphatic filariasis, 33% for Soil transmitted helminthiasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index in 2021 is 47 which represent a substantial increase compared to the 2020 index value (9).

Previous Key Recommended Actions

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RMNCAH¹: Impact</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td>In Q4 2022, the RMNCAH programme, with support from WHO and Marie Stopes, conducted a review of family planning guidelines, aligning them with the current WHO guidelines. This also took into consideration Covid-19 guidelines. Polio vaccination campaigns were implemented in the targeted areas. Parliament constituted a team to determine the availability/stocks of essential medicines and supplies. The Government has instituted new procurement systems to ensure supplies are procured at the best price and are available. The national health insurance is functional with accreditation of additional private facilities. The Government recruited 11,200 health workers including nurses, midwives and doctors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
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<tr>
<td>NTDs</td>
<td>Recognising the negative impact of COVID-19 on the 2020 MDA coverage, ensure that NTD interventions are implemented whilst using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. This includes prioritizing key necessary catch up activities</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>The country is conducting NTD control and elimination activities whilst respecting COVID-19 measures. The country completed the MDAs for Schistosomiasis, Soil Transmitted Helminths and Trachoma and reached the WHO targets for the therapeutic and geographical coverages in the targeted implementation units. Other routine activities are being implemented as planned.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key

- Green: Action achieved
- Yellow: Some progress
- Red: No progress
- Gray: Deliverable not yet due