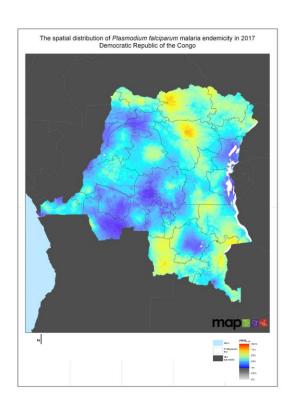
Democratic Republic of Congo ALMA Quarterly Report, Quarter Two, 2022



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		
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		
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, NT	Ds a	nd Covid 1
Scale of Implementation of iCCM		
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2020)		
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2021)	3
Vitamin A Coverage 2020 (2 doses)		60
DPT3 coverage 2021 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)		65
% Population Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19	T	

The entire population of the Democratic Republic of Congo is at high risk of malaria and transmission is intense year round with seasonal variations. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 24,959,997 with 18,636 deaths.

Key



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Sustaining Essential Health Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted routine health services considerably, and the economic impacts continue to hamper health systems recovery. It is vitally important that we focus on recovering lost ground in delivering essential life-saving interventions during this difficult time, sustaining progress towards the SDG targets for Malaria, Neglected Tropical Diseases and Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent health.

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. Early procurement of essential health commodities is also highly recommended whilst long delivery times persist.

The country has been affected by the continent-wide restriction of access to COVID-19 vaccines and had only been able to cover 2% of their population by July 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

The Democratic Republic of Congo procured sufficient LLINs to achieve 100% operational coverage of the targeted at-risk population in 2022. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. The Democratic Republic of Congo has secured the resources required to sustain coverage of LLINs, ACTs and RDTs in 2022. All ITN campaigns are on track, and there are more than 6 months of stocks of RDTs. The country is also showing leadership in malaria control through its participation in the High Burden High Impact approach. The country has also successfully launched the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, the country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control Scorecard. This scorecard is up to date but has not yet been posted on the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The Democratic Republic of Congo plans to announce the creation of the End Malaria Council and Fund.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 24,959,997 with 18,636 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Resource gaps to fully implement the national strategic plan.
- 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 planned the ITN mass distribution campaign in 3 provinces Kasaï Central, Maniema and North Kivu targeting an estimated population of 16 million. Diagnosis and treatment were implemented at health facility and community levels as planned and there were no reported stock outs. IPTp was implemented as planned
Policy	Sign, ratify and deposit the AMA instrument at the AUC	Q1 2023		Deliverable not yet due
Monitoring	Ensure that drug resistance monitoring is conducted and the data are sreported to WHO	Q1 2023		The country regularly implements drug resistance testing and the last survey was implemented in 2021 in 5 sites. The next round of testing is planned with PMI and GF support in 2023.

RMNCAH and NDTs

Progress

The country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Democratic Republic of the Congo is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. In 2020, Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Democratic Republic of the Congo was very low for trachoma (14%), lymphatic filariasis (9%), Soil transmitted helminths (4%), onchocerciasis (0%) and schistosomiasis (0%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2020 is 1, which represents a very substantial decrease compared with the 2019 index value (74).

Previous Key Recommended Actions

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		DRC recorded supply disruptions in Kinshasa, Haut-Katanga, North Kivu and other provinces with difficult access. The main cause was the closure of international and national borders and closure of local businesses, including pharmaceutical depots, for approximately four months. This impacted a number of programmes. The Expanded Programme of Vaccination was impacted by delayed vaccine delivery, but this is now back to normal with catch-up efforts underway. The National HIV/AIDS Control Programme did not experience any shortage of drugs and inputs for PMTCT. National level stocks are at the right level and strategies have been developed to avoid drug shortages, including providing patients with 3 to 6 months supply				
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		The country is conducting key NTD prevention and control interventions whilst respecting COVID-19 preventive measures. In 2022, the country received support from GIVE WELL to distribute praziquantel with risk of expiry and all tablets at risk were successfully distributed to the targeted population before the expiry date. The country also organized the first round of MDA with Albendazole in May and June 2022 and covered 63 health centres catchment areas. The remaining MDAs are planned in July and in December 2022				

The country has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing accelerating coverage of ARTs in children, with recent increases in coverage observed, and vitamin A and continues to track progress as theses action are implemented.



¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO