

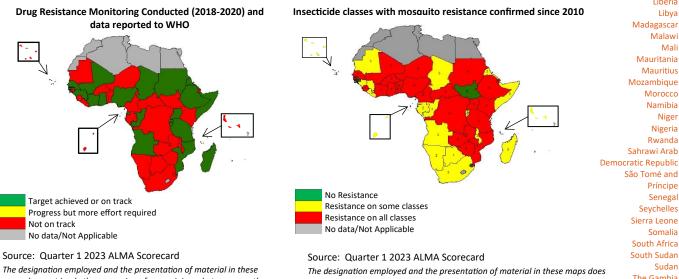
# ALMA SUMMARY REPORT – 1<sup>St</sup> QUARTER 2023

### INTRODUCTION

The theme of World Malaria Day 2023 was "Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement". My earliest memory of a bout with malaria was when I was 10 years old, in Lusaka Zambia. I woke up with a pounding headache, nausea and fever, and my parents immediately knew what was wrong, and as a diplomats child, I got the best medical attention available at that time; chloroquine. That same year, 8 in every 1000 African children were not as lucky as I was, and died of malaria. In 2021, 55 years later the number was 603,877; this is why we are calling for more investments, greater innovation and accelerated implementation.

#### **SLOW PROGRESS**

The biggest jump in progress in our fight against malaria occurred between 2000 and 2015, when long lasting insecticide treated nets were introduced in large numbers, and artemisinin based combination therapy was made universally available through the increased development partner support and increased domestic funding. Since then, there has been stagnation in funding, as well as increased insecticide resistance and growing artemisinin resistance. There has also been the increased flooding and higher temperatures associated with climate change that have increased endemicity in certain parts of the continent.



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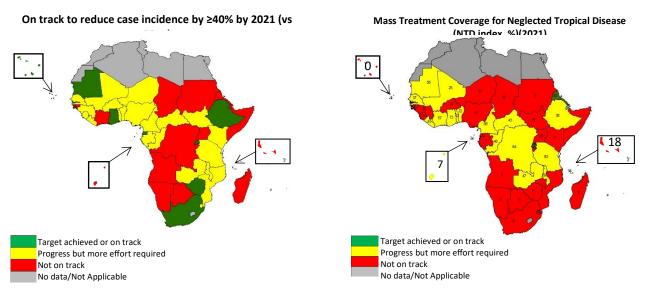
The combined negative impact; is further complicated by the cost of introducing the new technologies, that will address these challenges.

MEMBERS Algeria Angola Benin Botswana **Burkina Faso** Burundi Cameroon **Central African** Republic Cabo Verde Chad Comoros **Republic of Congo** Côte d'Ivoire Democratic Republic of Congo Djibouti Egypt Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Eswatini Ethiopia Gabon Ghana Guinea Guinea Bissau Kenva Lesotho Liberia Libva Madagascar Malawi Mali Mauritania Mauritius Mozambique Morocco Namibia Niger Nigeria Rwanda Sahrawi Arah São Tomé and Príncipe Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Somalia South Africa South Sudan Sudan The Gambia Togo Tunisia Uganda United Republic of Tanzania Zambia Zimbabwe

### **FUNDING STAGNATION – INVESTMENT NEEDS**

In 2022, during the replenishment of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, the target replenishment was US18 Billion dollars. The process mobilized US\$15.7 the largest replenishment to date, but still falling short of the target. The malaria allocation falls far short of bridging the gap in the 6 billion US Dollar annual investment and that WHO has estimated is required for malaria control and elimination.

The shortfall is not surprising. The IMF predicts a fall in global growth from 3.4 percent in 2022 to 2.8 percent in 2023, before rising slowly and settling at 3.0 percent five years out. This is the lowest medium-term forecast since the turn of the century. The developed economies, on whom developing countries rely for ODA are expected to experience a particularly pronounced slowdown from 2.7 % in 2022 to 1.3% in 2023. This does not only have implications for current ODA commitments being met, but indicates a likely reduction in future ones. This unwelcome



Source: Quarter 1 2023 ALMA Scorecard

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news comes at a time when countries are far from meeting their national and international targets for malaria case incidence or NTD treatment coverage as illustrated by the maps above. The slowdown in growth also has implications for revenue collections and budget allocations in developing countries.

## **INNOVATING – NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND NEW APPROACHES**

The reduction in resources, makes the introduction of the more expensive new technologies a whole of society challenge, both nationally and internationally.

- 1. With increased resistance to all four classes of insecticides, new nets have been developed which are more effective yet more costly.
- 2. At the same time failure of rapid diagnostic tests to detect the presence of malaria infection, has necessitated new, more costly technologies.
- 3. Partial resistance to artemisinin is spreading in Africa, necessitating the acceleration of the development of new medicines and their rapid introduction.
- 4. The emergence of *Anopheles stephensi*, an invasive species from SouthEast Asia, in the urban areas of east Africa, poses a serious threat to malaria control on the continent, necessitating a ramping up of vector control interventions in the urban areas.

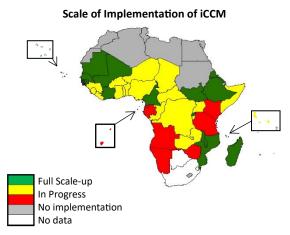
New approaches have to be developed to ensure delivery of interventions at the same high level as before. The most urgent is tapping new sources of funding through PPPs in country, that will mobilize additional resources from the private sector and the public at large. To date, 8 countries have launched End Malaria Councils and Funds, another four have announced them and another 13 are in the process of setting up the mechanism. Councils that are operational have already raised over US\$ 32 million to support national malaria programmes.

Guinea Bissau have shown leadership through the recent launch of their End Malaria and NTD council!

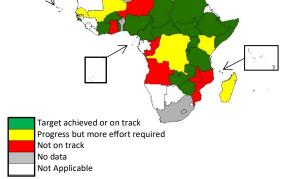
## **IMPLEMENTING MORE EFFICIENTLY & EFFECTIVELY**

A second strategy is targeting interventions more strategically to maximize impact and health outcomes. When WHO reviewed and updated the 2016-2030 technical strategy in 2021. There was a stronger emphasis on country ownership as a key anchor of sustainability, and robust resilient health systems. The other guiding principles of strong surveillance, equity, innovation and tailoring of solutions were also underscored.

This approach will not only address malaria program strengthening, but also integrated PHC programs, delivering better overall health outcomes for our children and communities, including refugees and internally displaced persons.

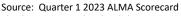


Malaria activities targeting refugees in Malaria

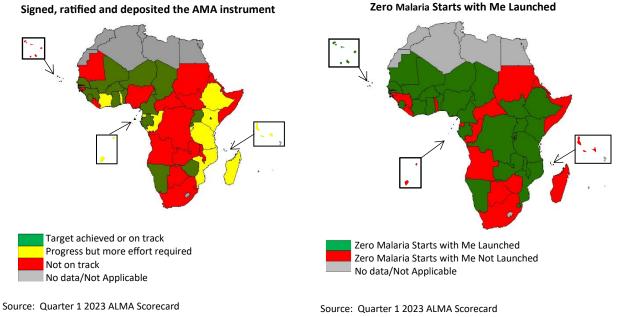


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We are strongly advocating for a whole of society; multisectoral, multistakeholder approach, that starts with the zero malaria starts with me campaigns and translates into active End Malaria & NTD councils and funds and full youth engagement; to deliver the Africa we want. A Malaria and NTD Free Africa.