# Namibia ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter One, 2023



## Scorecard for Accountability and Action



Commodities Financed		-
IRS financing 2023 (% of at-risk population)		60
Public sector RDT financing 2023 projection (% of need)		100
Public sector ACT financing 2023 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		
End Malaria Council and Fund Launched		
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		
IRS Operational Coverage (%)	•	64
On track to reduce case incidence by ≥40% by 2021 (vs 2015)		
On track to reduce case mortality by ≥40% by 2021 (vs 2015)	0.	
Tracer Indicators for Maternal and Child Health, NTDs an	d C	ovid 19
Scale of Implementation of iCCM		
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2021)		
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2021)		8
Vitamin A Coverage 2021 (2 doses)		59
DPT3 coverage 2021 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)		93

## Key

Malaria transmission is confined to the north-east part of Namibia where malaria is endemic and about 72% of the population of the country is at risk. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2021 was 13,738 with 14 deaths.



Target achieved or on track Progress but more effort required Not on track No data Not applicable



## Malaria

## **Global Fund Allocation**

The Global Fund announced that Namibia will receive US\$32.8 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 Namibia'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 Namibia this is calculated at US\$ 3.1 million. The allocations to the individual disease components are not fixed, and can be adjusted according to decisions made at country level. Namibia 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, Namibia secured sufficient funding for the required number of ACTs and RDTs for 2023. The country has reported the insecticide resistance data to WHO. Namibia has recently launched the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, Namibia has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Elimination Scorecard, however this is not yet shared to the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The country has established End Malaria Councils at sub-national level but not yet established the End Malaria and NTD council at national level.

#### Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2021 was 13,738 with 14 deaths.

#### Key Challenges

- Maintaining malaria high on the political and funding agenda.
- There is a need to strengthen cross border collaboration with neighbouring countries.

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 incidence and mortality between 2015 and 2021	Q4 2023		The North East of Namibia usually experiences outbreaks compared to other regions. Through CHWs, the programme has ensured that cases are quickly detected and treated with data collection on travel history. The quality of data at district level was also a big challenge before the rollout of DHIS2. The NVDCP established an integrated surveillance system on the DHIS2 platform to improve the completeness and timely reporting of data through the implementation of case-based surveillance and weekly aggregate reporting at the health facility level. Significant improvements have been observed in the public sector and community health worker reporting. Prior to 2015, vector surveillance data, including data on vector resistance to insecticide was weak. Reported vector resistance to Pyrethroids and DDT was geographically linked with increased cases of malaria. To address this problem, the programme has switched to the use of next generation insecticides. There have been regular reports of low IRS coverage overall due to late delivery of insecticides coupled with untimely availability of resources for operations. To address this problem, the programme has moved towards the use and reporting of IRS coverage at granular level for targeting IRS instead of blanket application and reporting. Environmental factors such as heavy rainfall following droughts have caused an increase in malaria cases, as well as human behaviour such as spending time in farms, away from sprayed homes. For these reasons, the programme has continued to use environmental data to predict malaria outbreaks for mitigation and response.

### **Previous Key Recommended Actions**

Namibia has responded positively to the recommended action on addressing the lack of data on iCCM and continues to strengthen access to treatment of malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea.

## **RMNCAH and NTDs**

### Progress

Namibia has recently increased coverage of ARTs in children 0-14 and has good coverage of DPT3. The country has enhanced tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Namibia is shown using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminths. In 2021, preventive chemotherapy coverage in Namibia was 0% for the two diseases. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Namibia in 2021 is 0, with no change compared with the 2020 index value of 0.

## **Previous Key Recommended Actions**

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 2021 MDA coverage, ensure that NTD interventions including MDA for schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminths are implemented	Q4 2023		Deliverable not yet due

#### Key

Action achieved
Some progress
No progress
Deliverable not yet due