The entire population of Sierra Leone is at high risk of malaria. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2021 was 2,043,818 with 2,107 deaths.
Malaria

Progress
The country continues to work on strengthening and maintaining health services following the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, Sierra Leone secured sufficient resources to achieve universal coverage of LLINs, RDTs and ACTs in 2022, has good levels of commodity stocks and has distributed sufficient LLINs to achieve 100% operational coverage of the targeted at-risk population. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO and has finalised the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. Sierra Leone has launched the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, Sierra Leone has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control and Elimination Scorecard, although the scorecard has not yet been posted to the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The country should consider establishing an End Malaria Council and Fund to enhance domestic resource mobilization and multi-sectoral action.

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2021 was 2,043,818 with 2,107 deaths.

Key Challenge
- Insufficient resources available to fully implement the malaria national strategic plan.

Previous Key Recommended Actions
The country has responded previously to the recommended action on drug resistance monitoring and continues to track progress as actions are implemented.

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress
Sierra Leone has achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH intervention of DPT3. The country enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Sierra Leone is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, and soil transmitted helminths. In 2021, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 78% for onchocerciasis, 74% for lymphatic filariasis, 67% for soil transmitted helminths and 0% for schistosomiasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Sierra Leone in 2021 is 14, which represents a substantial decrease compared with the 2020 index value (59).

Previous Key Recommended Actions

<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>NTDs</td>
<td>Work to implement preventive chemotherapy for schistosomiasis</td>
<td>Q4 2023</td>
<td>The country is conducting NTD control and elimination activities as planned. MDAs are conducted once a year based on the country endemicity. In June 2023, Schistosomiasis MDA was conducted and other MDAs are planned in October - December 2023.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sierra Leone has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing low coverage of ARTs in children and continues to track progress as this action is implemented, with increases in coverage recently observed.

| Key | Action achieved | Some progress | No progress | Deliverable not yet due |