Malaria transmission in Kenya ranges from intense in lowland areas to unstable epidemic-prone in the highlands. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2022 was 5,232,307 and 219 deaths.
Malaria

Africa is at the centre of a perfect storm that threatens to disrupt malaria services and undo decades of progress. We must act urgently to mitigate the adverse effects of the ongoing global financial crisis, increasing biological threats, climate change, and humanitarian crises. These threats represent the most serious emergency facing malaria in 20 years and will lead to malaria upsurges and epidemics if not addressed. AU Member States face a $1.5 billion gap just to sustain existing, yet inadequate, levels of malaria-related services between now and 2026. To get back on track and eliminate malaria, we will need to mobilise another $5.2 billion dollars annually to fully finance our national malaria plans. Climate change also presents a significant threat to the progress that we have made. Africa is disproportionately exposed to the risks of climate change and by the 2030s, 150 million additional people will be at risk of malaria because of warmer temperatures and increased rainfall. Climate disasters displace millions and destroy roads and health facilities, reducing access to health services. There is urgency to decarbonise our carbon footprint, implement integrated and multisectoral solutions, and adapt our health systems to the threats of climate change. We must also take action to confront the threats of insecticide and drug resistance, reduced efficacy of rapid diagnostic tests, and the Anopheles stephensi mosquito which spreads malaria in both urban and rural areas. The good news is that the malaria toolkit continues to expand. WHO has approved the use of dual-insecticide mosquito nets that are 43% more effective than traditional mosquito nets and will address the impact of insecticide resistance. New medicines for treating malaria and two malaria vaccines for children have also been approved with an increasing number of countries deploying these new tools. The scaling up of these interventions will help us achieve our goal of eliminating malaria. This will require integrated approaches with malaria as a pathfinder for pandemic preparedness, climate change and health and Primary Health Care and Universal Health Coverage. We must work to sustain and increase domestic resource commitments including through multisectoral End Malaria and NTD councils and Funds, which have raised over US$50 million.

Progress

Kenya secured the resources required to procure required ACTs and RDTs in 2024-26 but has significant gaps to fully implement the national strategic plan. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. Kenya has launched the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign. The country is implementing iCCM.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, Kenya has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control and Elimination Scorecard and has posted the scorecard to the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The Kenya End Malaria Council is operational and the Kenya malaria youth army has also been launched.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2022 was 5,232,307 and 219 deaths.

Key Challenge

- Funding gaps to fully deliver the malaria national strategic plan.

Previous Key Recommended Action

Kenya has responded positively to the recommended action addressing drug resistance monitoring and continues to track progress as actions are implemented.
Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent and Child Health

Progress
Kenya has achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH intervention ART coverage in children, vitamin A and DPT3. The country has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard and has published it on the scorecard hub.

Neglected Tropical Diseases

Progress
Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Kenya is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. In 2022, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 97% for Lymphatic Filariasis, and 55% for trachoma, whilst the data for the other MDAs is under validation. The country has significantly enhanced accountability and action for NTDs with the roll out of the NTD Scorecard tool.

Key

- Action achieved
- Some progress
- No progress
- Deliverable not yet due