Malaria transmission is most intense in the south whilst the desert areas in the north are malaria-free. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2022 was 5,648,740 with 4,461 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 both prevent and 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 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 and reduce our carbon footprint. We must implement integrated and multisectoral solutions, and adapt our health systems to the threats of both climate change and pandemics. 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, 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
The country has adequate stocks of RDTs. Niger has completed the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan and has recently reported the results of insecticide resistance testing to WHO, and to address the increasing levels of insecticide resistance is rolling out next generation mosquito nets. The country is also showing leadership in malaria control through its participation in the High Burden High Impact approach. Niger has launched its Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign.

Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2022 was 5,648,740 with 4,461 deaths.

Key Challenge
- Insufficient resources to achieve high coverage of essential malaria interventions.
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>Resource Mobilisation</td>
<td>Work to fill key gaps in malaria funding</td>
<td>Q2 2024</td>
<td></td>
<td>Deliverable not yet due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Niger has responded positively to the recommended action addressing drug resistance monitoring and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.

**Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent and Child Health**

**Progress**

Niger has achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH intervention vitamin A. The country has enhanced tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard.

**Previous Key Recommended Actions**

Niger has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing low coverage of ARTs in children, with a 2% increase in coverage over the last year, and continues to track progress as actions are implemented.

**Neglected Tropical Diseases**

**Progress**

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Niger is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. The country also submitted onchocerciasis elimination dossier to WHO and is waiting for the feedback. In 2022, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 100% for soil transmitted helminthiasis (under surveillance), 31% for schistosomiasis, 43% for trachoma and 76% for lymphatic filariasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Niger in 2022 is 56, which represents a substantial increase compared with the 2021 index value of 11. The country reached WHO MDA target for lymphatic filariasis only in 2022. The country has the developed an NTD Scorecard.

**New Key Recommended Action**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Action Item</th>
<th>Suggested completion timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optimise quality of care</td>
<td>Work to increase preventive chemotherapy coverage for schistosomiasis and trachoma and reach WHO targets</td>
<td>Q3 2024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key**

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