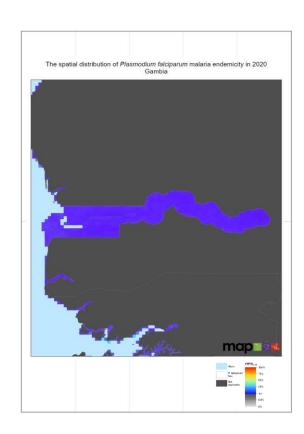
The Gambia ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter One, 2024



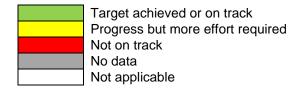
Scorecard for Accountability and Action



Financing	
LLIN financing (2024-2026) projection (% of need)	100
Public sector ACTs and RTDs financing (2024-2026) projection (% of need)	100
% of National Malaria Strategic Plan Financed (2024- 2026)	46
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	
Zero Malaria Starts With Me Launched	
End Malaria Council and Fund Launched	
Resistance Monitoring, Implementation and Impact	
Drug efficacy studies conducted since 2019 and data reported to WHO	
Insecticide classes with mosquito resistance in representative sentinel sites confirmed since 2010	3
Insecticide resistance monitored since 2015 and data reported to WHO	
RDTs in stock (>6 months stock)	
ACTs in stock (>6 months stock)	
LLIN/IRS campaign on track	
% of vector control in the last year with next generation materials	0
On track to reduce malaria incidence by at least 75% by 2025 (vs 2015)	
On track to reduce malaria mortality by at least 75% by 2025 (vs 2015)	
Tracer Indicators for Maternal and Child Health and NTDs	3
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2022)	1
% of Neglected Tropical Disease MDAs Achieving WHO Targets	33
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2022)	25
Vitamin A Coverage 2022 (2 doses)	24
DPT3 coverage 2022 (vaccination among 0-11 month	79

The entire population of The Gambia is at high risk of malaria and transmission is intense for most of the year. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2022 was 119,104 with 62 deaths.

Key



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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 dualinsecticide 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 Gambia secured sufficient resources to finance the malaria commodities required for 2024-2026 but has significant gaps to fully implement the national strategic plan. The country has recently submitted the results of insecticide resistance monitoring to WHO and has carried out drug resistance testing since 2018 and has reported the results to WHO. The national strategic plan includes activities targeting refugees.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, the Gambia has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control and Elimination Scorecard, although this has not yet been shared 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 2022 was 119,104 with 62 deaths.

Key Challenge

Gaps in resources mobilisation required to fully implement the national strategic plan.

Previous Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
Policy	Sign, ratify and deposit the AMA instrument at the AUC	Q1 2023		No progress reported

Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent and Child Health

Previous Key Recommended Actions

The Gambia has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing the low coverage of vitamin A, and ART coverage in children under 14 years of age and continues to track progress as actions are implemented.

Neglected Tropical Diseases

Progress

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in The Gambia is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. In 2022, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 100% for trachoma (as it was eliminated) and 0% for soil-transmitted helminths and 0% for schistosomiasis. The NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Gambia in 2021 is 1, which represents a very substantial decrease compared with the 2022 index value (41). The country did not reach any WHO MDA coverage target in 2022. The Gambia has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for NTDs with the development of a NTD Scorecard tool.

Previous Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
NTDs	Work to implement the preventive chemotherapy for schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminthiasis, mobilize the necessary resources and implement community surveillance systems.	Q3 2024		Since 2022, the country has been working to mobilize resources for NTDs and secured World Food Programme support for the Soil Transmitted Helminthiais (STH) programme. In 2023, two rounds of STH Mass Drug Administration (MDA) were conducted in June and in December, with therapeutic coverage of 71% and 87% respectively. The country also worked to mobilize resources using the country scorecard, for Schistosomiasis (SCH) MDA and in 2023, the country secured WHO support of around US\$100,000. SCH MDAs are under planning, to be conducted in May 2024.

