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 2022 was 11,849 with 28 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
Namibia secured sufficient funding for the required number of ACTs and RDTs for 2024-26. The country has reported the insecticide resistance data to WHO and is using next generation insecticides to address the resistance identified. Namibia 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, 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 2022 was 11,849 with 28 deaths.

Key Challenges
- Maintaining malaria high on the political and funding agenda.
- There is a need to strengthen cross border collaboration with neighbouring countries.
Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent and Child Health

Progress
Namibia has enhanced tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of their Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard.

Neglected Tropical Diseases

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 2022, preventive chemotherapy coverage in Namibia was 0% for the two diseases. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Namibia in 2022 is 0, with no change compared with the 2021 index value of 0. The country did not organize any MDA since 2020. The country has developed an NTD Scorecard tool.

Previous Key Recommended Action

<table>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>NTDs</td>
<td>Work to implement preventive chemotherapy for targeted country endemic NTDs.</td>
<td>Q4 2024</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country has been working on the new NTD Master Plan for 2023-2027 as a guiding document towards NTD elimination in Namibia. Since 2019, the country did not organize any Mass Drug Administration (MDA). Under WHO recommendations and guidance, the country is currently conducting a national mapping of taeniasis and MDAs will be resumed once the mapping is completed and strategies adjusted based on mapping results. Other routine activities including routine case management of patients with NTDs are being conducted.</td>
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Key

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