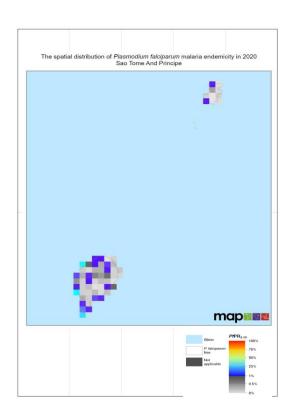
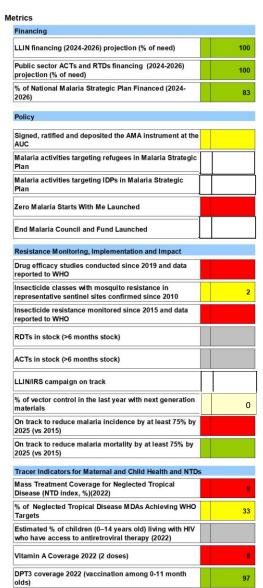
São Tomé and Príncipe ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter One, 2024



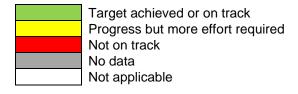
Scorecard for Accountability and Action





In São Tomé and Príncipe, the annual reported number of malaria cases in 2022 was 3,979 with 0 deaths.

Key



São Tomé and Príncipe ALMA Quarterly Report, Quarter One, 2024



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

São Tomé and Príncipe has secured sufficient resources to finance the ACTs, RDTs and LLINs/IRS required for 2024-26. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. The country has decreased the estimated malaria mortality rate by more than 40% since 2015.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, São Tomé and Príncipe has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Elimination Scorecard, although the scorecard has not yet been posted to the ALMA Scorecard Hub.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2022 was 3,979 with 0 deaths.

Key Challenge

Malaria upsurges observed.

Previous Key Recommended Actions

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
Impact	Investigate and address the reasons for the increase in estimated malaria incidence between 2015 and 2021	Q4 2023		The programme aims to reduce malaria incidence by strengthening epidemiological and entomological surveillance, intensifying active case-finding, investigating, and classifying 100% of cases, and ensuring full investigation of outbreaks. The country has switched to PBO mosquito nets to address the threat of insecticide resistance.

The country has responded positively to the recommended action addressing iCCM scale-up and insecticide and drug resistance monitoring and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent and Child Health

Progress

São Tomé and Príncipe has achieved high coverage in the tracer RMNCAH intervention DPT3 vaccination coverage.

Previous Key Recommended Actions

São Tomé and Príncipe has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing the lack of data for ART coverage in children and vitamin A and continues to track progress as actions are implemented.

Neglected Tropical Diseases Progress

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Sao Tomé and Principe is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, and soil transmitted helminths. In 2022, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 100% for lymphatic filariasis (under surveillance), 0% for schistosomiasis and 62% for soil-transmitted helminths. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Sao Tomé and Principe in 2022 is 9, which represents a very substantial decrease compared with the 2021 index value (74). The country did not reach any WHO MDA target in 2022.

Previous Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
Optimise quality of care	Work to implement schistosomiasis preventive chemotherapy and increase soil transmitted helminthiasis to reach WHO targets	Q3 2024		Deliverable not yet due

