

ALMA SUMMARY REPORT 2ND QUARTER 2019

INTRODUCTION

At the African Union Summit in Niamey, Niger in July, the operational phase of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was launched. 54 member states have signed on to the agreement and 25 have ratified. The agreement, which seeks to liberalize trade among all African Union member states, aims to eliminate tariffs on all goods and increase intra-African trade by up to 25%, had come into force when the 22nd instrument of ratification was deposited with the African Union Commission in May this year.

Indeed, this exciting phase in the evolution of intra-Regional trade on the African continent, was marked by the first conference of the parties, at which the structure and organigram of the secretariat, and staff rules and regulations as well as budget were adopted. The secretariat of AfCFTA will be established in Ghana.

A NEW AFRICAN ECONOMY

Intra-regional trade on the African continent accounts for 17% of exports as compared to 59% in Asia and 69% in Europe. Exploiting this huge potential could accelerate growth and development on the continent, creating employment for our youth, and dramatically changing the lives of many of our people for the better.

For this to work, our countries will have to address other key barriers such as poor rail and road networks, large areas of unrest, excessive bureaucracy in countries and at borders, petty corruption and the control of communicable diseases.

ECONOMIC COSTS OF MALARIA

A major communicable disease with severe adverse impact on the economy is Malaria. Many studies have been conducted on the economic impact of malaria on countries and communities. On average, a family loses 12 days output for every single bout of malaria suffered by a family member. White et al reviewed 55 studies of cost and 43 studies of cost effectiveness: only 4% of rural households spend money on malaria prevention, yet most of rural households lose up to 32% the income annually due to malaria.

To avoid this pitfall, countries need to sustain and even accelerate the gains made in the fight against malaria, leveraging recent successes to build greater control and achieve elimination.

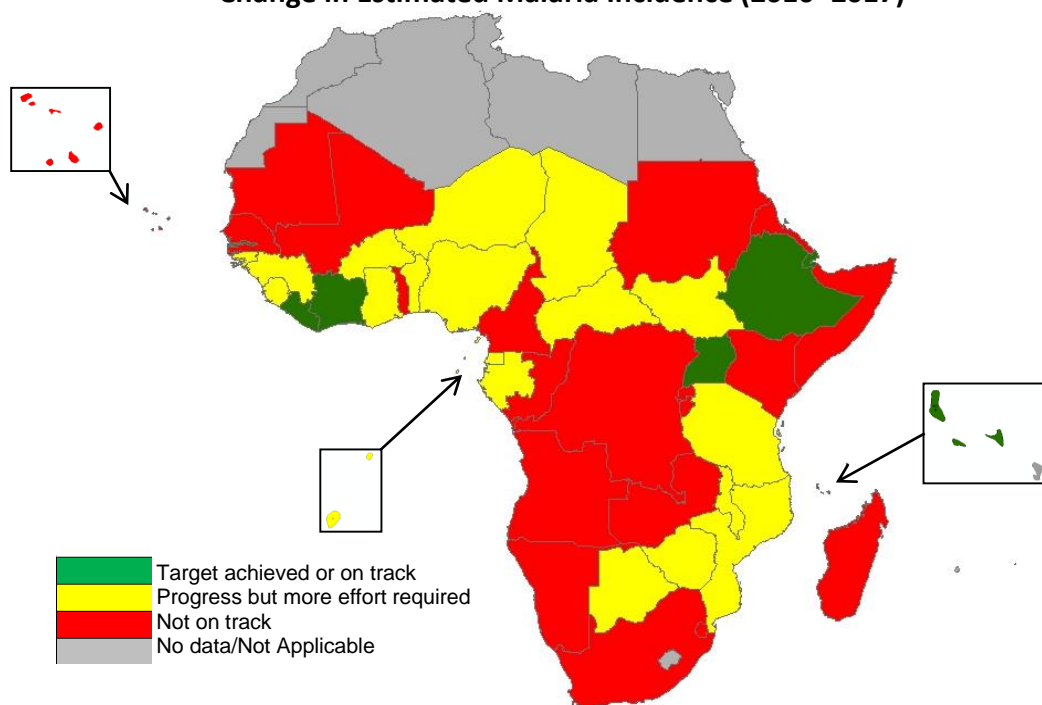
It is therefore deeply disturbing and unfortunate that in recent years we have seen upsurges in malaria driven by several factors, such as reduced funding and insecticide resistance. Some of these factors are beyond the control of malaria program managers.

Climate change is exacerbating the occurrence and intensity of future disease outbreaks and may increase the spread of diseases in some areas (IPCC, 2001). Rainfall and unusually high maximum temperatures are positively correlated with the number of malaria cases (Githeko and Ndegwa, 2001; Zhou et al., 2004). Climate change resulting in warm and rainy days can lead to increased incidence of malaria (Craig et al., 2004). Temperature affects the development rates of vectors and parasites while rainfall affects the availability of mosquito breeding sites (Zhou et al., 2004; Craig et al., 2004). Rift Valley fever outbreaks are positively correlated with El Niño events (Patz et al., 2005).

MEMBERS

Angola
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Chad
Comoros
Republic of Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of Congo
Djibouti
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Eswatini
Ethiopia
Gabon
Ghana
Guinea
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mozambique
Morocco
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria
Rwanda
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic
São Tomé and Príncipe
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
South Sudan
Sudan
The Gambia
Togo
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Change in Estimated Malaria Incidence (2010–2017)



Source: Quarter 2 2019 ALMA Scorecard

The designation employed and the presentation of material in these maps does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of ALMA concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area of its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries

Alarm bells have been ringing, and as a result of the malaria upsurges, some countries are suffering a loss of up to 24% of rural GDP.

Another important factor is changes in agro ecosystems, labor utilization and settlement patterns, which are also associated with the large-scale agricultural development, that many African countries are engaged in. Research indicates that this may play an equally important role in the resurgence of malaria.

Control and elimination of Malaria has to move beyond malaria program managers to engage other sectors and the population at large, if the battle is to be won. Malaria is an economic, social and political challenge.

A REGIONAL APPROACH

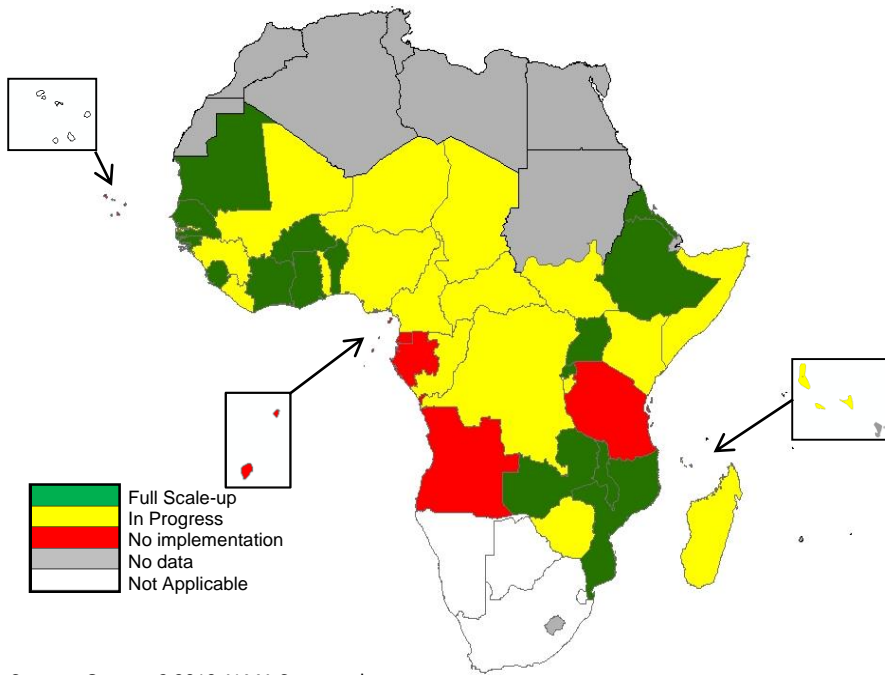
This challenge has been accepted. Africa's regional economic groups have formed a formal alliance with ALMA and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, through Memoranda of Understanding, supported by the AUC, and signed at the July 2019 Niamey Summit.

Through the MOUs, the regional economic groups recognize the negative economic impact of malaria on member countries, and have forged an alliance that will inter-Alia:

Support cross border initiatives geared towards malaria elimination.

This will ensure that vector control gains made in one country are replicated across borders, to ensure that the mosquito does not travel across the border and infect communities. In addition, effective integrate community case management with early detection needs to be available on both sides of the border. The Free trade movement will also make cross-border collaboration key in the malaria fight.

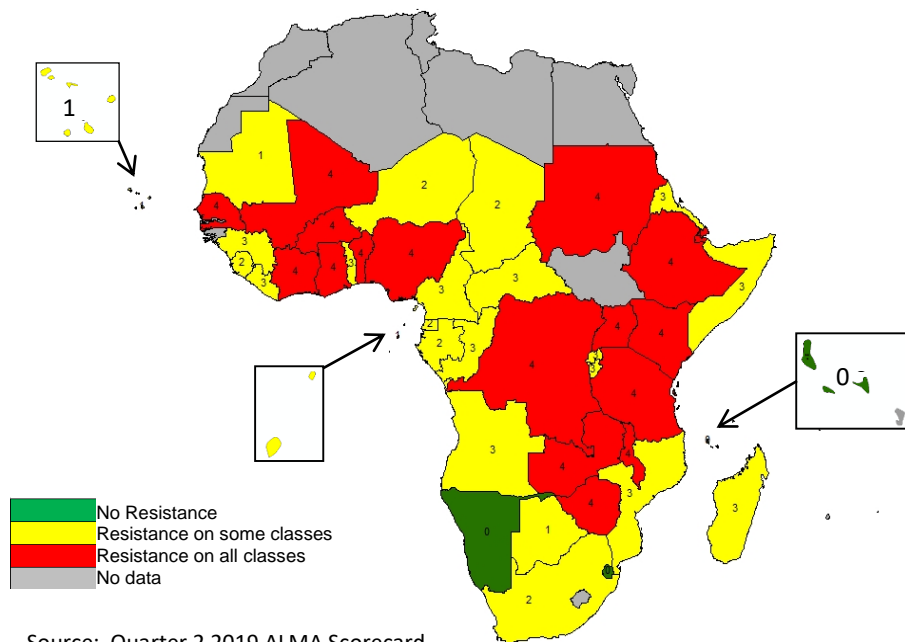
Scale of Implementation of iCCM (2017)



Source: Quarter 2 2019 ALMA Scorecard

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Insecticide classes with mosquito resistance confirmed since 2010



Source: Quarter 2 2019 ALMA Scorecard

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This is particularly challenging with the development of insecticide resistance, which spills very easily across borders, making it more expensive to control mosquitoes as countries shift to more costly insecticides.

Promote local manufacturing of essential medicines and commodities for malaria and health

The regional economic groups are committed to operationalizing the AU strategy on industrialization of the African continent. Malaria drugs and commodities are an ideal investment opportunity for manufacturing plants that will serve the regions in manufacturing of the latest classes of insecticides as well as other vector control products.

Operationalize the Windhoek Declaration of August 2018 on Malaria Elimination

The declaration committed the 16 SADC member states to working together to engage the private sector and communities as partners in the fight against malaria. The MOUs will strengthen this process. Declarations of this kind are needed in other regional economic groups in the future.

Harmonize regulatory policies related to pharmaceuticals and vector control products, including fast tracking the introduction of new commodities related to malaria.

Our continent is always lagging behind in the introduction of new technologies. This collaboration will engage partners to work with countries to accelerate this process, in order to ensure timely control and elimination.

Enhanced domestic Resource Mobilisation including through the Private Sector.

In May 2019, his Majesty King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Eswatini launched the Eswatini End Malaria Fund which raised more than US\$600,000 on the day of the launch alone. Other countries including Zambia have followed this example and launched their own multi-sectoral End Malaria Councils and Malaria Funds.

Collaborating on joint data collection and dissemination

The AU Heads of state and government have launched “Zero Malaria starts with me”; a campaign that engages every citizen in the fight against malaria. This will entail free access and ownership of data by the citizens; whether it’s collected by the governments or by partners. The country scorecards for accountability and action have been rolled out in 40 countries across the continent, tracking real time data, identifying bottlenecks and stimulating action. This collaboration will facilitate this process, building a mass movement towards an Africa free of Malaria.