

ALMA 3RD QUARTER SUMMARY REPORT

Building Resilience for universal health coverage

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc on health systems, livelihoods and the Country economies. This has put countries under pressure to protect the gains made and to work more efficiently, economically and effectively for results and impact.

On the 6th of October, the Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 released a report— “Responding to COVID-19 in Africa: Using Data to Find a Balance”. The report adopted by the AUC, analyzes multiple data sources to help governments navigate the pandemic.

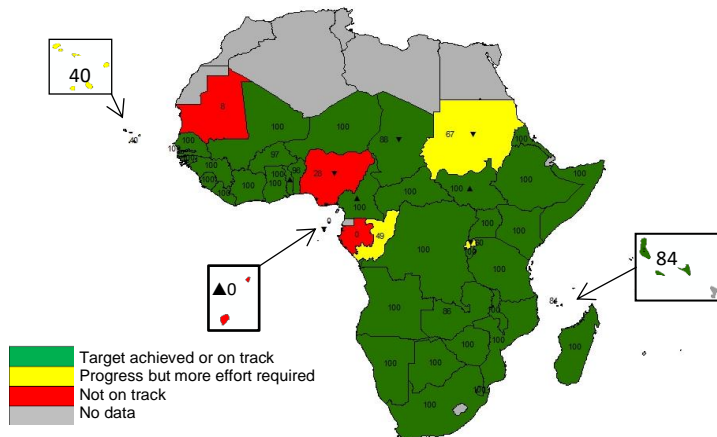
In pursuit of this critical goal, African countries and partners are commended for sustaining the funding and continuing to deliver Malaria services in the midst of the pandemic.

It is indeed an incredible achievement, that also demonstrates the leadership of Ministries of Health across the continent, that over 95% of the LLIN campaigns and IRS are on track to be completed by the end of 2020. It is expected that over 200 million LLINs will be distributed through modified campaigns, distributing LLINs door to door and ensuring COVID-19 prevention mechanisms are followed. In the Sahel countries, 20 million children, more than ever before, have been reached through Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention.

MEMBERS

Angola
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Chad
Comoros
Republic of Congo
Democratic Republic of Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Djibouti
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Eswatini
Ethiopia
Gabon
Ghana
Guinea
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mozambique
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

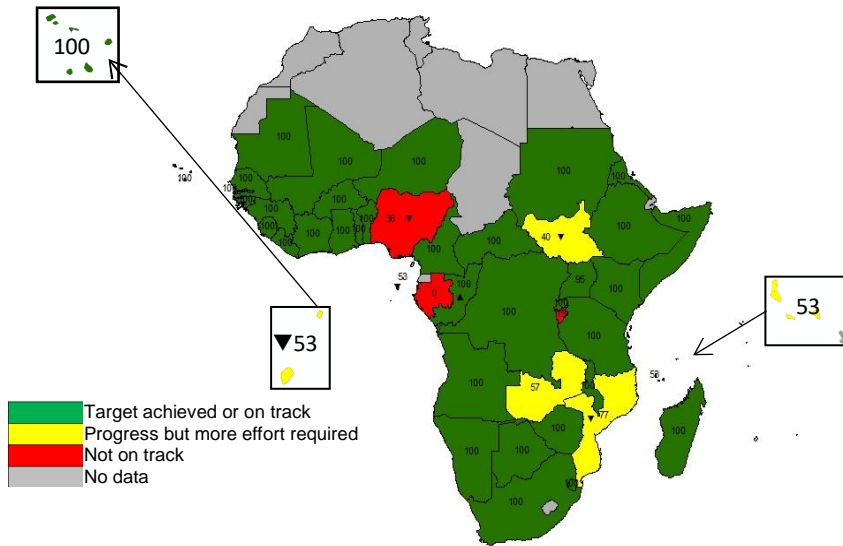
LLIN/IRS Financing 2020 Projection (% of need)



Source: Quarter 3 2020 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

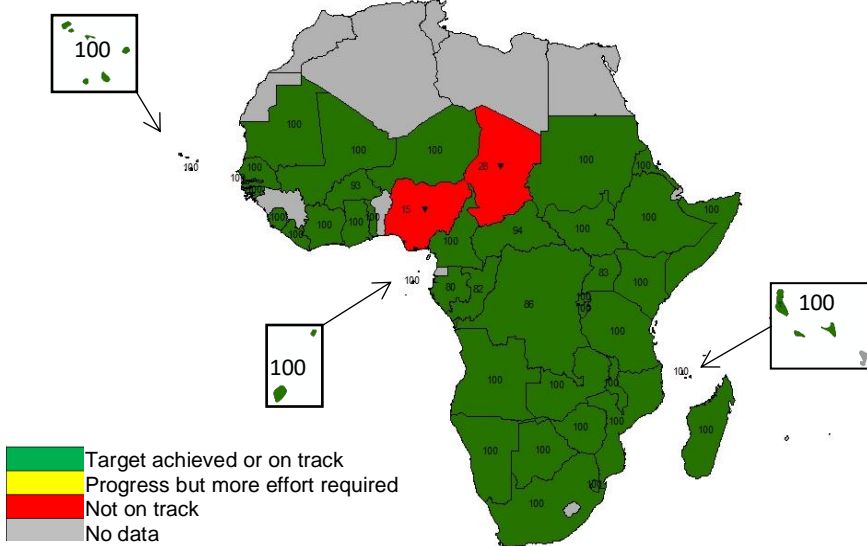
Public Sector RDT Financing 2020 Projection (% of need)



Source: Quarter 3 2020 ALMA Scorecard

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Public Sector ACT Financing 2020 Projection (% of need)



Source: Quarter 3 2020 ALMA Scorecard

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The efforts of countries have demonstrated initiative and a readiness to adapt, in seeking to protect the health of their people, while also safeguarding livelihoods and minimizing the social and economic harm. There are 5 recommendations. It is not surprising that the first three are addressing health systems strengthening and universal health coverage, which are part of the priorities set by HE President Uhuru Kenyatta for the period of his chairmanship of ALMA.

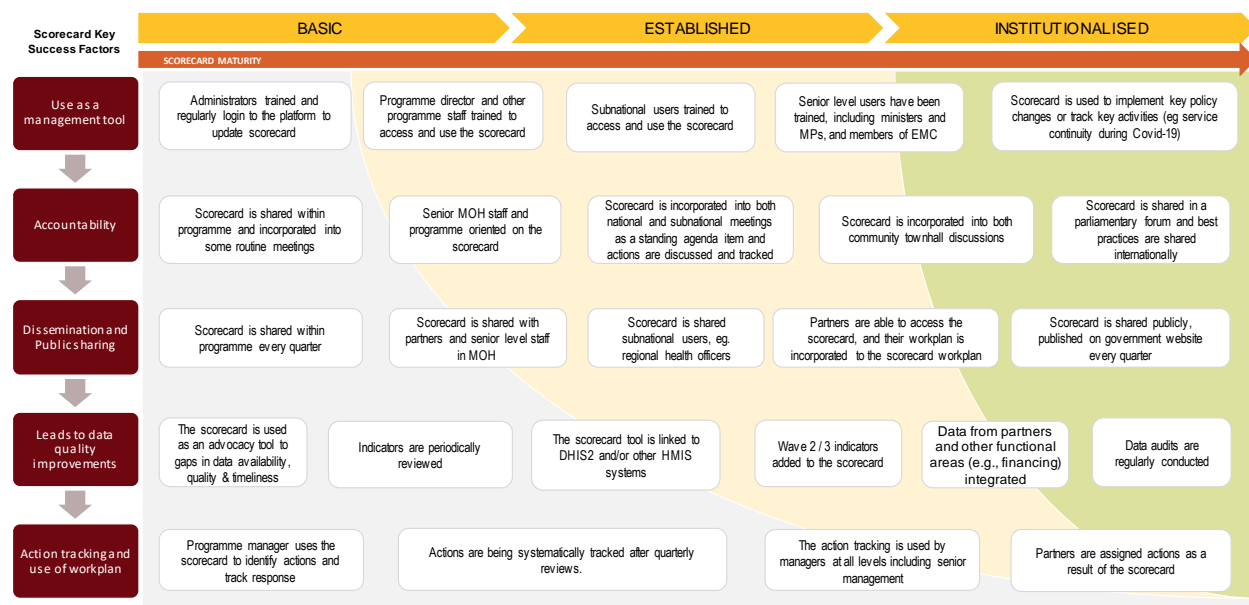
Data collection and Digitalization



HE President Uhuru Kenyatta is urging every country, to use data and evidence for decision making and to inform policy and programs. Most ALMA member countries have national scorecards and action trackers which they update regularly, and use to identify bottlenecks and take remedial action, enhancing impact

Countries are encouraged to fully decentralize these scorecards to district and community levels, for malaria, NTDs and Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and adolescent health, in order to ensure full participation by the people in the democratization of health. Openly sharing the data in order to enable everyone to participate in improving the health status of communities.

To facilitate this process, ALMA has developed a scorecard maturity framework.



All countries are urged to move towards institutionalization of these accountability tools, in order to ensure full participation by all stakeholders, including the private sector, communities, and youth, securing long term effectiveness and better health outcomes for communities. ALMA has set up a virtual learning platform for countries, which will enable easy access to the tools and support that will facilitate this critical process.

Increasing capacity – A malaria youth Army

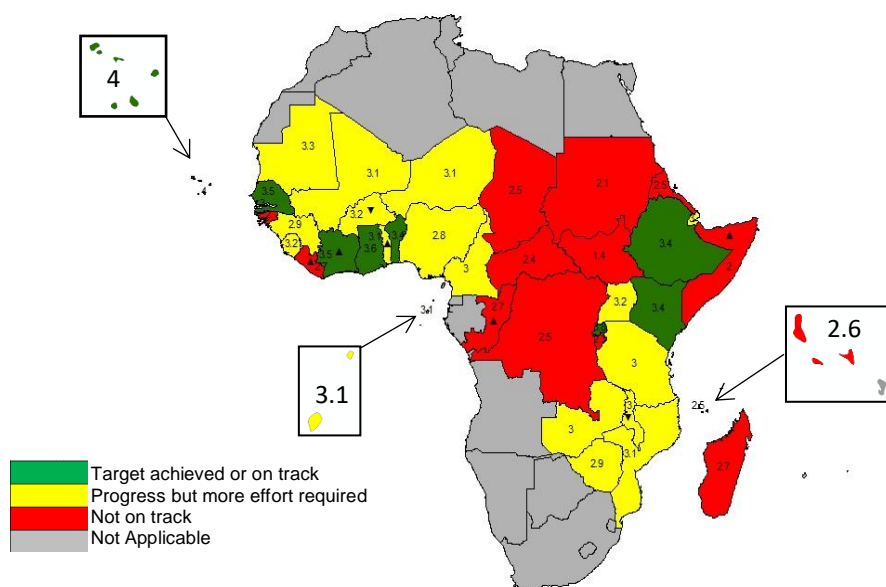
HE President Uhuru Kenyatta has called for Africa’s youth to join the fight against malaria. Youth have embraced this challenge, and young people across the continent are actively engaged in developing an ALMA youth engagement strategy that will enable young people to become leading participants in the health sector, throughout the value chain. Youth participation will increase the capacity of the health sector to engage communities, maintaining essential health services, and restoring demand that has been reduced by the COVID-19 pandemic; even as they support bottleneck resolution. Harnessing the huge potential of young people, will help contain the pandemic; whilst minimizing its impact on communities and increasing innovation and the use of technology.

Efficient and economic use of resources

The African Union Commission is partnering with regional economic blocks to convene Ministers of Finance and Health, to collectively chart the way forward in order to prepare the ground for recovery and a post COVID-19 era. ALMA is participating in these meetings. The critical messages coming out of these meetings are clear:

1. Increase public sector budget allocation and domestic resource mobilization from the private sector.
2. Adopt whole government approaches to health, methodically and effectively engaging all sectors to address the social determinants of health such as clean water, food & nutrition, clean energy, environment.
3. Adopt systems that foster innovation and encourage the use of technology
4. Get serious about addressing leakages and wastage.

World Bank Rating on Public Sector Management and Institutions 2019 (CPIA Cluster D)



Source: Quarter 3 2020 ALMA Scorecard

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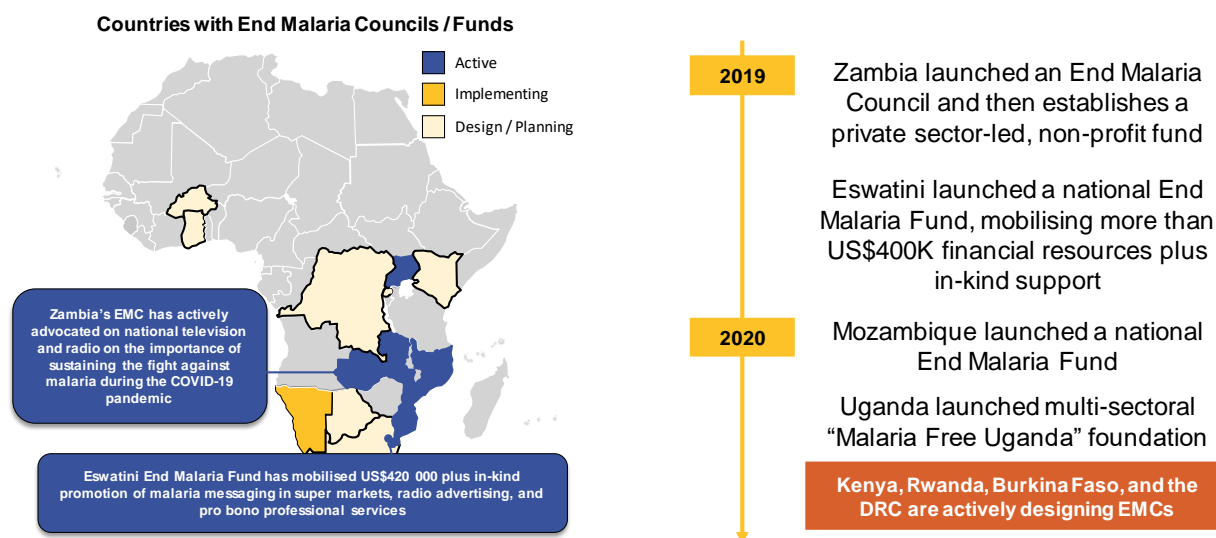
Indeed, these are worth pursuing. World Bank assessment of public sector management shows that countries continue to underperform in this important area.

The UNSG's independent accountability panel for Women children and adolescent's health notes that annually up to 2 trillion US Dollars is lost globally, to poor management of resources in the health sector.

Conclusion - More money for health & more health for the money

ALMA has been working with countries to implement another priority for HE President Uhuru Kenyatta's chairmanship in the establishment of country end malaria councils and funds. The councils are multisectoral, engaging all stakeholders in the fight against malaria, and use the scorecards to monitor and assess progress, and the action trackers to monitor bottleneck resolution. The funds tap private sector and community resources and capacities to complement and supplement the traditional funders (governments and partners).

Countries across the region are actively launching country-led and country-owned End Malaria Councils and Funds



The combination of a multistakeholder platform (the council) with a fund, ensures that how money is spent is every bit as important as how much is mobilized and spent to improve health and socioeconomic benefits of communities. This will be key to the post Covid-19 recovery period, when African countries and the global economy will be strapped for funds. In 2020, countries have demonstrated leadership and support to ensure malaria remains high on the agenda despite COVID-19. This has included continued prioritization of domestic resources to continue the fight. The coming year will prove more challenging as countries deal with diminished tax revenues, due to the economic downturn. It will be important in this decade to end malaria that we are not derailed but continue this year’s admirable commitment moving forward to avoid the reversal of the significant gains made these past two decades.