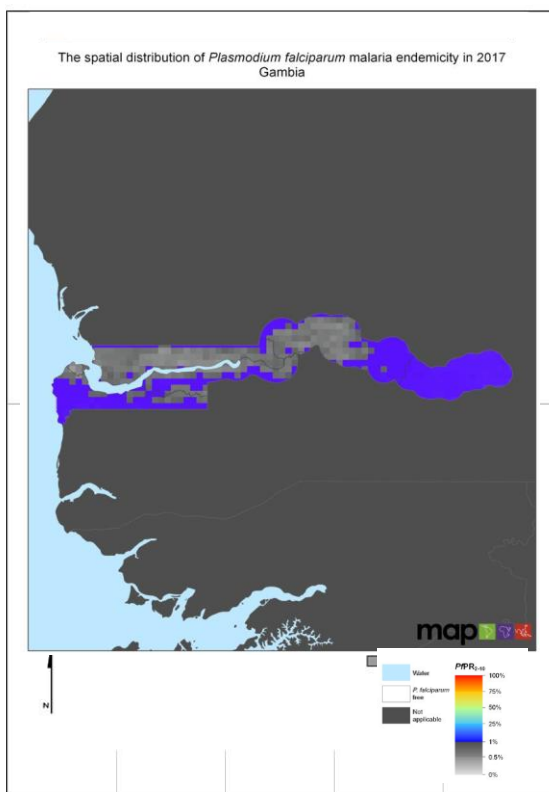


Scorecard for Accountability and Action



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 2019 was 55,036 with 41 deaths.

Metrics

Commodities Financed and Financial Control		
LLIN financing 2021 projection (% of need)		100
Public sector RDT financing 2021 projection (% of need)		100
Public sector ACT financing 2021 projection (% of need)		100
World Bank rating on public sector management and institutions 2019 (CPIA Cluster D)		3.0
Insecticide Resistance Monitoring, Implementation and Impact		
Insecticide classes with mosquito resistance in representative sentinel sites confirmed since 2010		3
Insecticide resistance monitored since 2015 and data reported to WHO		
National Insecticide Resistance Monitoring and Management Plan		
RDTs in stock (>9 months stock)		
ACTs in stock (>9 months stock)		
LLIN/IRS campaign on track		
Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign		
Scale of Implementation of iCCM		
Operational LLIN/IRS coverage (% of at risk population)		100
On track to reduce case incidence by ≥40% by 2020 (vs 2015)		
On track to reduce case mortality by ≥40% by 2020 (vs 2015)		
Tracer Indicators for Maternal and Child Health and NTDs		
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2019)		8
Estimated % of Total Population living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)		31
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)		27
% deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant		57
Postnatal care (within 48 hrs)		76
Exclusive breastfeeding (% children < 6 months)		47
Vitamin A Coverage 2018 (2 doses)		30
DPT3 coverage 2020 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)		

Key

	Target achieved or on track
	Progress but more effort required
	Not on track
	No data
	Not applicable

Malaria

Sustaining Essential Health Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic is putting an incredible strain on health systems across Africa. Health systems are required to maintain routine health services for other illnesses even as they handle the additional burden. In order to prevent widespread morbidity and mortality, it is of vital importance that we work to sustain the delivery of essential life-saving interventions during this difficult time including for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent health, Neglected Tropical Diseases and malaria.

For The Gambia, it was of vital importance that the indoor residual spraying (IRS) campaign planned for 2020 went ahead, in accordance with the guidance and recommendations from WHO. Without this IRS campaign, coupled with the need to also continue to deliver seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC), and to sustain essential health services including malaria case management, there would have been an increase in malaria cases and deaths. The country is congratulated for completing SMC and rolling out the IRS campaign. Under the worst-case scenario, in which there is a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could have been a 31.2% increase in malaria cases, and a 148.2 increase in malaria deaths in the Gambia. This scenario would represent a complete reversal in the substantial progress in malaria mortality reductions seen over the last 2 decades.

It is essential to ensure the continuity of malaria, RMNCAH and NTD services in 2021 as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our continent. This may include the implementation of any necessary catch-up activities and ensuring timely planning to account for potential delays in procurement and delivery. Any intervention must ensure the safety of communities and health workers given the ease of transmission of COVID-19.

Progress

The Gambia secured sufficient resources to finance the malaria commodities required for 2021 and has sufficient stocks in-country. The country has procured sufficient LLINs and carried out IRS to sustain 100% operational coverage of the targeted at risk population. The country has recently submitted the results of insecticide resistance monitoring to WHO. The Gambia has decreased the estimated malaria incidence by more than 40% since 2015.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, 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 Knowledge Hub.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 55,036 with 41 deaths.

Key Challenge

- Sustaining the delivery of essential life-saving interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic including for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent and Child health, malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases.

Previous Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
Impact	Ensure that malaria services including case management and vector control are sustained and implemented whilst using COVID-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic	Q4 2020		The country has sufficient ACTs and RDTs for 2021. As part of sustaining the gains already registered in the fight against malaria during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Health established a Committee to oversee the implementation of activities to ensure continuity of Health Services in the country. The screening and testing of fever cases at community level is ongoing. There was a 14% decline in OPD attendance in 2020, attributed to COVID-19 due to decreased health seeking behaviour. Prioritisation of the COVID-19 response resulted in disruption of core intervention areas for malaria; there was a decline in the routine distribution of LLINs to pregnant women and children and a decline in IPTp1. Over the same period, there was a 40% increase in confirmed malaria cases, 38% increase in malaria-related admissions and deaths associated with delay in seeking treatment from health clinics from 2019 to 2020. In the urban and pre-urban settings in particular, SMC refusals increased due to disinformation. The Malaria Programme responded by leveraging grant flexibility and savings as well as the C19RM grant to increase access to malaria treatment and prevention services through the community level, particularly working with village health workers and extending working hours for some sites. Through active engagement with COVID-19 response committees the NMCP has ensured integrated social mobilisation and behavioural change communication activities on malaria and COVID-19, as well as placement of adequate infection prevention and control measures in the respective health facilities. The Gambia is on track for the planning of SMC and the IRS campaigns. The 2021 C19RM grant will be used to train community volunteers and health workers that will support the campaigns, including the development of COVID-19 IEC and SBC materials to enable the campaigns be undertaken safely in the context of the pandemic.

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

The country has achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH interventions postnatal care and DPT3 vaccination. The Gambia has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard.

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. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Gambia is high for trachoma (100%), low for soil transmitted helminths (47%) and very low for schistosomiasis (0%). The NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for

Gambia in 2019 is 8, which represents a very substantial decrease compared with the 2018 index value (66).

Previous Key Recommended Actions

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
RMNCAH ¹ : Impact	Ensure that essential RMNCAH services are sustained and implemented whilst using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. Address any stock-outs of essential RMNCAH commodities	Q4 2020		The Ministry of Health established a Committee to oversee the implementation of activities to ensure continuity of Health Services in the country
NTDs	Given the high coverage of Preventive Chemotherapy (PC) for trachoma, work to increase the preventive chemotherapy coverage for soil transmitted helminthiasis and implement preventive chemotherapy for schistosomiasis, including mobilizing the necessary resources and community surveillance systems. Ensure that NTD interventions including Mass Drug Administration, vector control and Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention are sustained and implemented whilst using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. This includes prioritising key necessary catch up activities	Q4 2021		The NTD Programme in The Gambia is engaged in the COVID-19 response impacting NTD activities. The country was not able to organize MDA in 2019 and in 2020 received deworming medicines (Praziquantel and Albendazole) for 2021 MDA but unfortunately due to lack of MDA funds, the MDA which was planned in May 2021 was postponed to September 2021 when schools will reopen. The Gambia has successfully submitted the Trachoma Elimination Dossier and is now waiting for WHO to declare the country as having eliminated Trachoma as a Public Health Problem. Currently, the country is in the process of developing the new NTD Master Plan 2021 – 2025 following the expiration of the 2015 – 2020 Plan in December and this new plan will include both Vector Control and WASH along-side Mass Drug Administration

The Gambia has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing the low coverage of ARTs and vitamin A, with increases in coverage recently achieved in both interventions, and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

Key

	Action achieved
	Some progress
	No progress
	Deliverable not yet due

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO