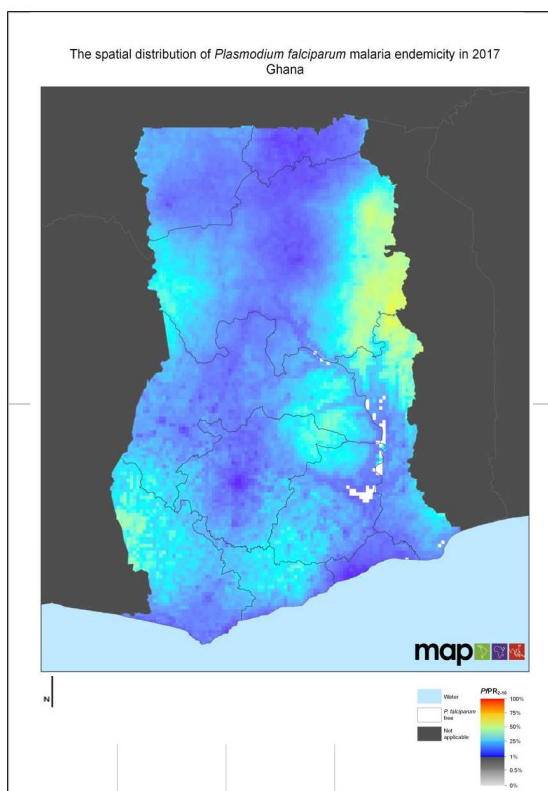


Scorecard for Accountability and Action



The entire population of Ghana is at risk of malaria. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 6,703,687 with 336 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 2020 (CPIA Cluster D)	3.6
Insecticide Resistance Monitoring, Implementation and Impact	
Insecticide classes with mosquito resistance in representative sentinel sites confirmed since 2010	4
Insecticide resistance monitored since 2015 and data reported to WHO	
National Insecticide Resistance Monitoring and Management Plan	
RDTs in stock (>6 months stock)	
ACTs in stock (>6 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)	73
Estimated % of Total Population living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)	60
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)	33
% deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant	78
Postnatal care (within 48 hrs)	84
Exclusive breastfeeding (% children < 6 months)	52
Vitamin A Coverage 2018 (2 doses)	45
DPT3 coverage 2020 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)	94

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 Ghana, it was of vital importance to ensure that the planning for the universal coverage campaign for long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) scheduled for 2021 goes ahead, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the recent guidance and recommendations from WHO and the RBM partnership to End Malaria. Without this 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 be an increase in malaria cases and deaths. Ghana is congratulated for completing the first three rounds of SMC. Under the worst-case scenario, in which there is a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could be a 19.5% increase in malaria cases, and a 129.4% increase in malaria deaths in Ghana. 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

Ghana has secured sufficient resources for the essential anti-malarial commodities required to sustain coverage in 2021 and has distributed sufficient numbers of LLINs and carried out IRS sufficient to achieve 100% operational coverage of the targeted at risk population. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. Ghana has scaled up coverage of iCCM. Ghana has further increased its already high rating in terms of public sector management systems (CPIA cluster D). The country is also showing leadership in malaria control through its participation in the High Burden High Impact approach. Ghana has also launched its Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign. Ghana has decreased the estimated malaria incidence and mortality rates by more than 40% since 2015.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Ghana has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Elimination Scorecard and has posted the scorecard to the ALMA Scorecard Hub.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 6,703,687 with 336 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Insecticide resistance threatens vector control effectiveness.

- 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 adequate stocks of ACTs and RDTs. Implementation of the SMC and LLIN campaigns for 2021 are on track and the IRS campaign has been completed. The gaps in operational costs were filled through C19RM. PPE is being procured for all health staff and volunteers, as well as for malaria campaign teams. To improve OPD attendance community health promotion activities will be carried out by CSOs and the Health Promotion Unit of the Ghana Health Service. Because of the effect of COVID on OPD and the similarities in symptoms of COVID to malaria, the NCP is expanding the Outreach, Training and Supportive Supervision (OTSS) at sub-regional level to enhance quality improvement in malaria case management whilst ensuring that facility staff implement malaria control activities according to policy recommendations

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

The country has achieved high coverage of tracer RMNCAH interventions, in particular exclusive breastfeeding, DPT3 and postnatal care. Ghana has also recently increased coverage of skilled birth attendants and vitamin A. The country has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Scorecard, including with the introduction of community level scorecards. The country has also published the RMNCAH and community scorecards on the ALMA Scorecard Hub.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Ghana is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. Ghana has achieved high for trachoma (100%), schistosomiasis (91%), onchocerciasis (86%) and lymphatic filariasis (73%); and, lower coverage for soil-transmitted helminths (47%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Ghana in 2019 is 73, which represents a very substantial increase compared with the 2018 index value (42).

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		Ghana reports there have been reductions in RMNCAH services for ANC, PNC and EPI during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many staff responsible for providing RMNCAH services have been re-assigned to support the COVID-19 response, especially at the primary care level. In addition, fears of becoming infected with COVID have increased among communities, making them reluctant to access services. Despite the challenges, Ghana continues to offer essential service the population and data suggest that health service coverage is improving in the last few quarters . For instance, child health services have improved significantly: Penta 3 coverage remains high with 95% in Q1 2021 to 96% in Q2 2021. Measles Rubella increased from 77% Q1 2021 to 84% Q2 2021, and meningitis A increased from 79% Q1 2021 to 83% Q2 2021. In terms of Maternal Health Service, ANC 8+ increased from 34% in Q1 2021 to 41% in Q2 2021; PNC remains high with 96% in Q1 2021 to 97% Q2 2021. Ghana have offered continuous trainings and rolled out vaccination among health staff. These have boosted the staff confidence to render essential services across all levels of service delivery. To mitigate for the impact on RMNCAH services, Ghana has adopted COVID-19 protocols and guidelines for paediatric and obstetric care. The guidelines establish special arrangements for COVID-19 prevention and service delivery in the context of COVID-19 with key messages for service providers and communities. The guidelines aim to enhance trust in the capacity of the health system and ensure appropriate care-seeking behaviour. The COVID-19 pandemic has also affected the regular in-flow of essential commodities to render effective RMNCAH services at the service delivery point
NTDs	Ensure that NTD interventions including Mass Drug Administration, vector control and Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention are sustained and implemented whilst using	Q4 2021		By respecting COVID-19 preventive measures, Ghana is conducting the NTD interventions. The country conducted 3 rounds of MDA: The first round for Onchocerciasis in March 2021 with a total of 76 districts in 13 regions with a targeted population of 4,743,443 with 3,962,748 treated (with a coverage of 83.5%). The Lymphatic Filariasis MDA was conducted in April 2021 MDA where 11 districts in 5 regions with a targeted population of 895,101 of which 770,268 were treated with a coverage of 86%. A second round of Onchocerciasis MDA was conducted in August 2021 in 72 districts in 13 regions with a targeted population of 4,877,039 and the team

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO

	Covid-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. This includes prioritising key necessary catch up activities			is working on the MDA report. In the Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention, a total number of 35 doctors were trained on hydrocele surgeries and 152 hydrocele surgeries were conducted
--	---	--	--	--

Ghana has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing the low coverage of ARTs in the general population and in children, with recent increases reported, and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

Key

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