

Sudan ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter Four, 2020



Scorecard for Accountability and Action



Metrics

Commodities Financed and Financial Control	
LLIN financing 2020 projection (% of need)	67
Public sector RDT financing 2020 projection (% of need)	100
Public sector ACT financing 2020 projection (% of need)	100
World Bank rating on public sector management and institutions 2019 (CPIA Cluster D)	2.1
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 (>9 months stock)	
ACTs in stock (>9 months stock)	
LLINIRS campaign on track	▲
Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign	
Scale of Implementation of iCCM	
Operational LLINIRS 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)	▲ 43
Estimated % of Total Population living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2019)	22
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2019)	17
% deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant	78
Postnatal care (within 48 hrs)	27
Exclusive breastfeeding (% children < 6 months)	55
Vitamin A Coverage 2018 (2 doses)	34
DPT3 coverage 2019 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)	93

Malaria transmission in Sudan is low-to-moderate and occasionally epidemic. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 3,568,941 with 1,663 deaths.

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, Adolescent and Child health, Neglected Tropical Diseases and malaria.

For Sudan, it was of vital importance to ensure that the universal coverage campaign for long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) and IRS campaigns scheduled for 2020 were completed, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the guidance and recommendations from WHO and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria. Without the LLIN campaign, planned indoor residual spraying (IRS) and sustained malaria case management, there could have been an increase in malaria cases and deaths. The country is commended for completing the LLIN campaign by the end of 2020. Under the worst-case scenario, in which all ITN campaigns are suspended and there is a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could be a 18.6% increase in malaria cases, and a 74.1% increase in malaria deaths in Sudan. 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

Sudan financed most of the required LLINs, ACTs and RDTs required to sustain high coverage in 2020. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO and has completed the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. The country has procured sufficient LLINs and carried out IRS to achieve operational vector control coverage of the targeted at risk population. Sudan has also scaled up the implementation of iCCM. The country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control and Elimination Scorecard.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 3,568,941 with 1,663 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Insecticide resistance threatens vector control.
- Gaps in funding for IRS.
- 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 Actions

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		Malaria control services, including testing and treatment have continued despite the COVID-19 pandemic. All health facilities have sufficient stocks of RDTs and ACTs although some delays were initially experienced in their distribution. Distribution of LLINs (door to door) and IRS implementation were planned with the necessary COVID precautions taken into account, with IRS rolling out in September, however there were some delays. The LLIN campaign was completed at the end of 2020. All health workers are reported to have sufficient PPEs. Some initial reductions in outpatient attendance were observed early in the pandemic, largely attributed to reduced availability of transport, but the numbers have been reported to have increased back to normal levels. The country has been affected by flooding
Vector control	Work to accelerate the LLIN campaign	Q1 2021		Sudan worked hard to address the bottlenecks in the implementation of the LLIN campaign with the campaign rolling out in December 2020, and 99% of the distribution completed by the end of 2020

The country has responded positively to the recommended actions on addressing the reasons for the increase in estimated malaria incidence and malaria mortality rate between 2010 and 2017.

New Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
Impact	Investigate and address the reasons for the increase in estimated malaria incidence and mortality between 2015 and 2019, , which means that the country is not on track to achieve the 2020 target of a 40% reduction in malaria incidence and mortality	Q4 2021

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

Sudan has achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH indicator skilled birth attendants, exclusive breastfeeding and DPT3. The country has enhanced tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Sudan is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Sudan is high for onchocerciasis (87%), below WHO targets for trachoma (52%), for schistosomiasis (55%), lymphatic filariasis (41%) and for soil transmitted helminths (15%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Sudan in 2019 is 43, which represents a increase compared with the 2018 index value (30).

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 MCH Directorate developed a Guideline for ensuring the continuity of MCH services during COVID-19 for all states to ensure safe services remain available for all during the Covid-19 pandemic. All MCH departments organized the training for health staff in coordination with the COVID-19 case management committee and UNFPA. Training included Infection Prevention and Control, Visual Triage, and Case management courses for community midwives working at community level and health visitors and health care providers working at PHC's. Advanced training on clinical management was carried out for specialists. Implementation of the supervision of RMNCAH services for all states to ensure safe services has continued

Sudan has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing low coverage of postnatal care and coverage of ARTs and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.

New Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
NTDs	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

Key

	Action achieved
	Some progress
	No progress
	Deliverable not yet due

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO