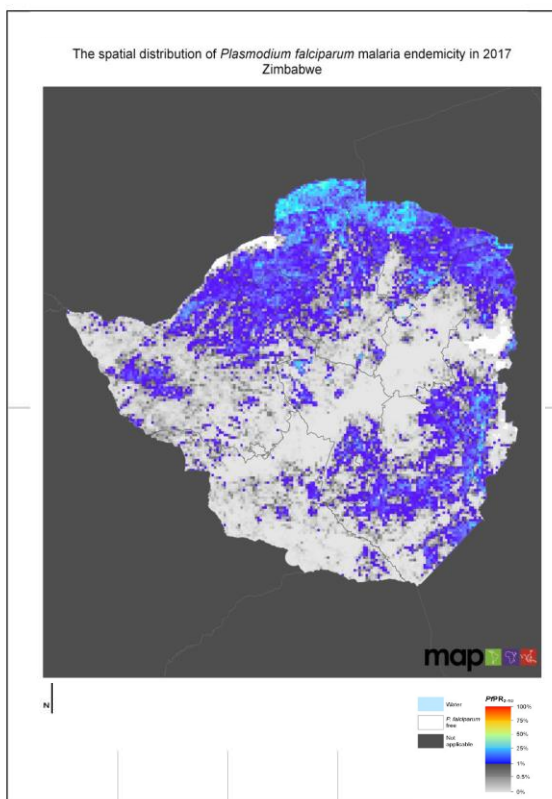


Zimbabwe ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter One, 2021

Scorecard for Accountability and Action



Malaria transmission is seasonal in Zimbabwe with about 60% of the population at risk. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 316,934 and 532 deaths.

Metrics

Commodities Financed and Financial Control		
IRS financing 2021 (% of at-risk population)	 	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)	 	2.9
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)	 	
LLIN/IRS campaign on track	 	
Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign	 	
Scale of Implementation of iCCM	 	
IRS Operational Coverage (%)	 	93
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)	 	0
Estimated % of Total Population living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2019)	 	85
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2019)	 	71
% deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant	 	78
Postnatal care (within 48 hrs)	 	57
Exclusive breastfeeding (% children < 6 months)	 	47
Vitamin A Coverage 2018 (2 doses)	 	40
DPT3 coverage 2019 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)	 	90

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 of COVID-19. 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 Zimbabwe, it was of vital importance that the indoor residual spraying (IRS) campaign planned for the fourth quarter of 2021 went ahead and that the insecticides for the campaign are ordered on time, whilst taking into account physical distancing, in accordance with the recent guidance and recommendations from WHO. The country is congratulated for ensuring that the IRS campaign rolled out as planned. Without this IRS, coupled with the ongoing long-lasting insecticidal net (LLIN) distributions and the need to sustain essential health services including malaria case management, there could have been an increase in malaria cases and deaths. 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 23.2% increase in malaria cases, and a 111.4% increase in malaria deaths in Zimbabwe. 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

Zimbabwe secured the resources required for ACTs, RDTs, LLINs and IRS in 2021 and has achieved high coverage of vector control. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO, and has finalised the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. Zimbabwe has sufficient stocks of RDTs, and 6 months supply of ACTs.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Zimbabwe has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Scorecard, but this is not yet shared on the ALMA Scorecard Knowledge Hub. Zimbabwe is exploring whether to establish an End Malaria Council.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2019 was 316,934 and 532 deaths.

Key Challenges

- There is a need to strengthen cross border collaboration with neighbouring countries.
- 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		While there were initial delays in the delivery of malaria commodities for vector control due to Covid-19, IRS was completed in the remaining 4 districts with a national average of 92% coverage at the end of January 2021. Although the country targeted distributing 507,996 LLINs in 6 districts of 2 rural provinces only achieved distributing 443,231 LLINs (87%). The country continues to report no stock outs of ACTs and RDTs. Procurement of malaria commodities - especially insecticides is underway.

The country has responded to the recommended action to ensure that the recent cyclone does not impact negatively on the malaria situation and successfully mobilized emergency funds to cover the costs of additional malaria commodities and operations and has not experienced any major upsurge.

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress





Zimbabwe achieved high coverage of the tracer RMNCAH intervention skilled birth attendants and ARTs in the total population. Zimbabwe 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 Zimbabwe is shown using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. Preventive chemotherapy coverage is low for trachoma (36%), very low for schistosomiasis (0%), for soil-transmitted helminths (0%) and for lymphatic filariasis (0%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Zimbabwe in 2019 is 0, with no change compared with the 2018 index value (0).

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 country is working to sustain delivery of essential RMNCAH interventions. This includes increasing the availability of PPE to health care workers. Information is being disseminated on the availability of RMNCAH and nutrition services to the public through electronic (including social media) and print media. Health workers have been trained on IPC in the context of COVID-19 and guidelines on providing essential RMNCAH&N services in the context of COVID 19 have been developed and are being implemented
NTDs	Implement preventive chemotherapy for lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and work to increase preventive chemotherapy for trachoma and reach WHO targets. 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		Due to the high number of COVID-19 cases, the 2020 MDA for Trachoma was postponed and only one district managed to implement trachoma MDA in December 2020. The remaining districts are scheduled to implement Trachoma MDA in the third quarter of 2021. The planning activities and surgeries resumed in the first quarter of 2021. In June 2020, by respecting COVID-19 preventive measures, two districts conducted Schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminths MDA where adults and children were targeted and in August 2020, five more endemic districts conducted MDA for Pre-school and school age children. Also, in 2020, with the support of Sightsavers, the country conducted Trachoma Trichiasis surgery and reached 90% (297 surgeries out of 330) of the target

Key

	Action achieved
	Some progress
	No progress
	Deliverable not yet due

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO