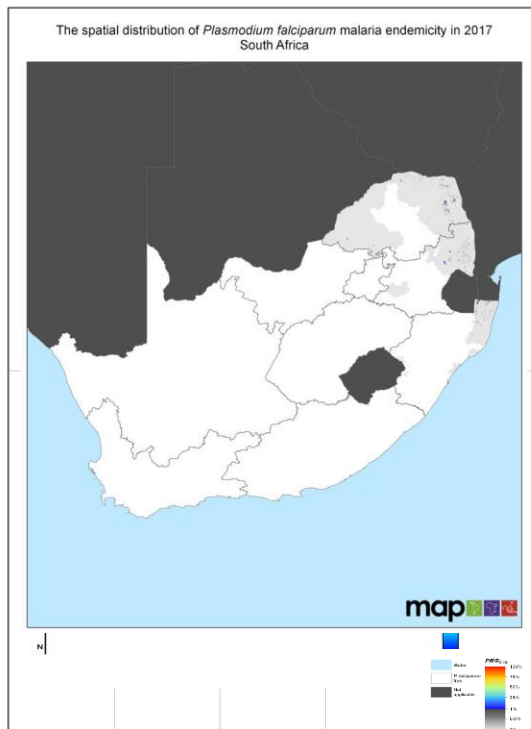


Scorecard for Accountability and Action



Malaria is present in the three northern provinces of South Africa bordering Mozambique and Eswatini. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 8,126 with 38 deaths.

Metrics

Commodities Financed		
IRS financing 2022 (% of at-risk population)		100
Public sector RDT financing 2022 projection (% of need)		100
Public sector ACT financing 2022 projection (% of need)		100

Policy		
Signed, ratified and deposited the AMA instrument at the AUC		
Malaria activities targeting refugees in Malaria Strategic Plan		
Malaria activities targeting IDPs in Malaria Strategic Plan		
Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign		

Resistance Monitoring, Implementation and Impact		
Drug Resistance Monitoring Conducted (2018-2020) and data reported to WHO		
Insecticide classes with mosquito resistance in representative sentinel sites confirmed since 2010		2
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		
IRS Operational Coverage (%)	▼	74
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, NTDs and Covid 19		
Scale of Implementation of iCCM		
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2020)		0
Estimated % of children (0-14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)		47
Vitamin A Coverage 2020 (2 doses)		39
DPT3 coverage 2020 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)		84
% Population Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19		30

Key

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

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.

WHO underlines the critical importance of sustaining efforts to prevent, detect and treat malaria during the COVID-19 pandemic. The country is congratulated for rolling out IRS in a timely manner. Without this IRS, coupled with 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 there is a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could be a 20.6% increase in malaria cases, and a 135% increase in malaria deaths in South Africa. This scenario would represent a complete reversal in the substantial progress in malaria mortality reductions seen over the last 2 decades. WHO estimates that there were an additional 47,000 malaria deaths globally in 2020 due to service disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to an estimated 7.5% increase in deaths.

It is essential to ensure the continuity of malaria, RMNCAH and NTD services in 2022 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.

Given the difficulties in securing essential health commodities in Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is of vital importance that countries sign, ratify and deposit the African Medicines Agency (AMA) instrument with the AUC in order to improve access to quality, safe and efficacious medical products in Africa. The country is encouraged to do this.

The country has been affected by the continent-wide restriction of access to COVID-19 vaccines but has been able to cover 30% of their population by April 2022. The country, working with partners, should invest in education and behaviour change communication to increase the uptake of COVID vaccines and therapeutics.

Malaria

Progress

WHO has identified South Africa as being a country with the potential to eliminate local transmission of malaria by 2025. The country has finalised the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan and has reported insecticide resistance data to WHO.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, South Africa has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Elimination Scorecard, although it is not yet shared on the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The country is also planning to launch an End Malaria and NTD Council and Fund.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 8,126 with 38 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Risk of re-introduction of malaria from neighbouring countries.
- 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 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 IRS are sustained and implemented whilst using COVID-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic	Q4 2022		South Africa has sufficient stocks of RDTs and ACTs and has been adhering to Covid-19 sensitive guidelines when implementing malaria interventions. All the three provinces (KwaZulu, Limpopo and Mpumalanga) had enough insecticides which allowed the timely start of the IRS campaigns. Completion of IRS was only attained in KwaZulu and Limpopo by the end of December 2021 – both reporting a 95% coverage. Mpumalanga on the other hand, experienced delays in the recruitment of spray operators leading to compromised operations with a reported coverage of 74%

New Key Recommended Actions

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
Policy	Sign, ratify and deposit the AMA instrument at the AUC	Q1 2023
Monitoring	Ensure that drug resistance monitoring is conducted and the data are reported to WHO	Q1 2023
Address vector control coverage	Address falling vector control coverage	Q4 2022

RMNCAH and NTDs





Progress

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in South Africa is shown using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminthiasis. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 0 % for both soil transmitted helminths and for schistosomiasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for South Africa in 2020 is 0, which represents a decrease compared with the 2019 index value (2).

Previous 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 2022		RMNCAH services, especially preventive and promotive services which are provided at clinics and community health centres, have been disrupted by the COVID-19 lockdown especially in April. All Primary Health Care services should now be providing all essential services, and each of the nine provinces has been requested to ensure that catch-up plans for RMNCAH as well as HIV/TB services are in place
NTDs	Recognising the negative impact of COVID-19 on the 2020 MDA coverage, ensure that NTD interventions including MDAs, vector control and Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention are sustained and implemented whilst using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. This includes prioritizing key necessary catch up activities	Q4 2022		The country is in the process of updating the NTD Master plan in line with the WHO Roadmap, in collaboration with the WHO Country Office
Optimise quality of care	Address the falling coverage of vitamin A	Q4 2022		Deliverable not yet due

Key

	Action achieved
	Some progress
	No progress
	Deliverable not yet due

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO