

# South Sudan ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter Four, 2021



## Scorecard for Accountability and Action



### Metrics

Commodities Financed	
LLIN financing 2021 projection (% of need)	51
Public sector RDT financing 2021 projection (% of need)	100
Public sector ACT financing 2021 projection (% of need)	100
Insecticide Resistance Monitoring, Implementation and Impact	
Insecticide classes with mosquito resistance in representative sentinel sites confirmed since 2010	
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)	
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, NTDs and Covid 19	
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2020)	2
Estimated % of Total Population living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)	23
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2020)	14
% deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant	19
Postnatal care (within 48 hrs)	
Exclusive breastfeeding (% children < 6 months)	45
Vitamin A Coverage 2020 (2 doses)	0
DPT3 coverage 2020 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)	49
% Population Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19	2

### Key

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

Malaria transmission in South Sudan is generally perennial, with moderate to high intensity. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 1,805,371 and 244 deaths

## **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 South Sudan, we commend the Ministry of Health, in the decision to go ahead with the universal coverage campaign for LLINs and IRS, in accordance with the recent guidance and recommendations from WHO and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria. This decision, allied with sustained malaria case management through the health system will prevent a significant increase in malaria cases and deaths. Under the worst-case scenario, in which all ITN campaigns are suspended and with a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could be a 25.2% increase in malaria cases, and a 30.6% increase in malaria deaths in South Sudan. 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.

The country has been affected by the continent-wide restriction of access to COVID-19 vaccines and had only been able to cover 2% of their population by the end of 2021.

## **Malaria**

### **Progress**

The country secured most of the resources to achieve universal coverage of RDTs and ACTs in 2021. The country has also distributed sufficient LLINs to achieve universal operational coverage of the targeted at risk population. South Sudan has recently completed the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan.

### **Impact**

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 1,805,371 and 244 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 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 2022		Compounding the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing vaccination challenge, the country has been experiencing heavy flooding and an unstable economy. The floods limited access for provision of health services and malaria incidence has increased in OPD consultations. However, the distribution of LLINs was completed in 8 states (Western Bahr El Ghazal, Northern Bahr El ghazal, Warap, Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Lakes, Upper Nile and Jonglei) and distribution is yet to begin in two other states (Unity and Central Equatoria). The delay is due to the late disbursement of funds from the GF

South Sudan has responded positively to the recommended action on insecticide resistance monitoring.

## 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 2020, which means that the country did not achieve the 2020 target of a 40% reduction in malaria incidence	Q4 2022

## RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in South Sudan is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 31% for soil transmitted helminthiasis, 11% for both schistosomiasis and trachoma, and 0% for both onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for South Sudan in 2020 is 2, which represents a decrease compared with the 2019 index value (18).

## Previous Key Recommended Actions

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
RMNCAH <sup>1</sup> : 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		Guided by the National strategy for continuity of RMNCAH/N services, South Sudan continued to ensure services continuity. Compounding the COVID-19 pandemic challenge, the country is experiencing severe flooding, food insecurity (60% of the population at risk), volatile economy and attacks on health workers. The floods and insecurity limited access to provision of health services, and worsened the malaria, diarrhoea disease and malnutrition situation. Malaria incidence increased to 50% of OPD consultations. Total COVID-19 cases in South Sudan as of December 2021 is 12,791 and 133 deaths (CFR = 1.0%). Even though only 15% of the National COVID-19 response plan was funded, some of the key activities that continued include: ensuring capacity is in place to detect the presence of the new variant Omicron through genomic sequencing and PCR testing, as well as enhanced surveillance; Strengthened preventive public health measures, Integration of COVID-19 surveillance in the existing IDSR system and DHIS reporting system; Enhanced laboratory PCR testing capacity at the National Public Health Laboratory and decentralized testing in various states. IPC and WASH supplies continued to be distributed and radio was used for airing of jingles and radio talk shows, cumulatively reaching 1,6 million households with key messages. COVID-19 vaccination scaled up to all 80 counties with vaccination ongoing. Key challenges include limited WASH infrastructure, limited human resources and the low risk perception of the population
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	Q4 2022		Whilst respecting COVID-19 preventive measures, the country is currently concluding the 2020 catchup interventions for NTDs. These include MDA for Onchocerciasis and Lymphatic Filariasis (in 47 counties), Trachoma (5 counties) and Trachoma Surveys (baseline and impact) in 25 counties. The subnational teams are doing the data entry and the country will share the data with WHO and other stakeholders once these activities are completed.

<sup>1</sup> RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO





	guidelines during the pandemic. This includes prioritizing key necessary catch up activities			
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South Sudan has responded positively to the recommended actions addressing low coverage of skilled birth attendants and DPT3, and the lack of data for postnatal care. The country continues to track progress as these actions are implemented. The country has recently increased coverage of DPT3.

### New Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
Optimise quality of care	Address the falling coverage of vitamin A	Q4 2022

### Key

	Action achieved
	Some progress
	No progress
	Deliverable not yet due