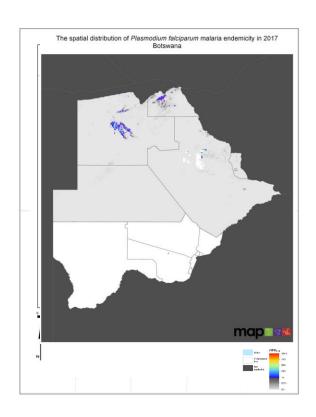
Botswana ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter Two, 2022



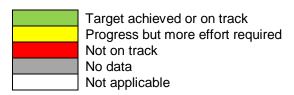
Scorecard for Accountability and Action



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	Γ	
Malaria activities targeting IDPs in Malaria Strategic Plan	L	
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		1
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 (%)		77
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 ar	d C	ovid 19
Scale of Implementation of iCCM		
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2020)		3
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2021)	A	69
Vitamin A Coverage 2020 (2 doses)		
DPT3 coverage 2021 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)		95
% Population Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19	_	62

The annual reported number of confirmed malaria cases in 2020 was 953 with 11 deaths.

Key



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Sustaining Essential Health Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted routine health services considerably, and the economic impacts continue to hamper health systems recovery. It is vitally important that we focus on recovering lost ground in delivering essential life-saving interventions during this difficult time, sustaining progress towards the SDG targets for Malaria, Neglected Tropical Diseases and Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent health.

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. Early procurement of essential health commodities is also highly recommended whilst long delivery times persist.

The country has been affected by the continent wide restriction of access to COVID-19 vaccines and but has been able to cover 62% of their population by July 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

The country has finalised the insecticide resistance management and monitoring plan. Botswana has sufficient resources to fund the required ACTs and RDTs and IRS in 2022. WHO has identified Botswana as being a country with the potential to eliminate local transmission of malaria by 2025.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, Botswana has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of the Malaria Elimination Scorecard and this is shared publicly in-country, but not yet posted to the ALMA Scorecard Knowledge Hub. Discussions are ongoing for the creation of a malaria and NTD council.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 953 with 11 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Achieving and maintaining IRS coverage above 80%.
- Need to further 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 NTDs.

Previous Key Recommended Actions

Objective	Key Recommended Actions Action Item	Suggested completion	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments
		timeframe		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		Whilst malaria interventions continued despite the COVID-19 pandemic, there is an ongoing issue of staff shortages. To address this problem, three staff were recruited with support from the E8 but only for the short-term. The LLIN mass campaign is scheduled for 2023 and preparations and planning for the IRS campaign in October 2022, including community engagement, is on-going. The planned larviciding for 2022 has been postponed due to a lack of resources
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		Despite the implementation of all malaria interventions, two malaria districts in the north reported very low IRS coverage due to community resistance (62.4% in Chobe and 56.8% in Ngami districts). To address the lack of cooperation from the community, the programme is planning community sensitization campaigns in September and October as part of the preparations for the2022/2023 IRS campaigns
Policy	Sign, ratify and deposit the AMA instrument at the AUC	Q1 2023		Deliverable not yet due
Monitoring	Ensure that drug resistance monitoring is conducted and the data are reported to WHO	Q1 2023		Due to low numbers of malaria cases, Botswana is carrying out therapeutic efficacy studies for ACTs through the case-based surveillance system which commenced in 2011/12 and not through sentinel surveillance. Processes are also underway to build and strengthen capacities for national laboratories to undertake molecular sequencing for resistance markers. Data generated from drug resistance monitoring are routinely reported to WHO

Botswana has responded positively to the recommended action addressing the lack of data on iCCM and continues to strengthen access to treatment of malaria, pneumonia and diarrhea.

New Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
Address vector control	Ensure that ACT stocks are replenished to avoid stock outs	Q4 2023
coverage		

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

Botswana has achieved good coverage in tracer RMNCAH interventions, including DPT3 coverage and has recently increased coverage of ARTs in children. The country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent and Child Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Botswana is illustrated using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. Preventive chemotherapy coverage is good for soil-transmitted helminthiasis (63%) but preventive chemotherapy was not implemented for schistosomiasis (0%) and for trachoma (0%). The overall NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index in 2020 is 3 and slightly increased compared to the 2019 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 2022		The RMNCAH team was reassigned to the COVID-19 response at both the national and district level resulting in limited HR to implement RMNCAH activities including implementation of the newly developed RMNCAH Strategy. In 2021, the country recorded high maternal mortality of above 150 cases, attributed to COVID-19. COVID-19 has also affected delivery of RMNCAH services especially family planning and cervical cancer screening. Outreach was also halted due to lack of resources. To mitigate the effect on COVID-19 on RMNCAH, the programmes conducted media campaigns including using radio and billboards to encourage families to seek services such as ANC, PNC, immunization and FP. Guidelines on COVID-19 and maternal health have been developed and implemented

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
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		Botswana is conducting the NTD interventions whilst respecting COVID-19 preventive measures. In Q2 2022, the country conducted MDA, targeting schistosomiasis. The country is also working on the new NTD Master plan and is working to have more NTD indicators integrated into the existing health management information system

Botswana has responded positively to the recommended action addressing the lack of data on vitamin A coverage.

