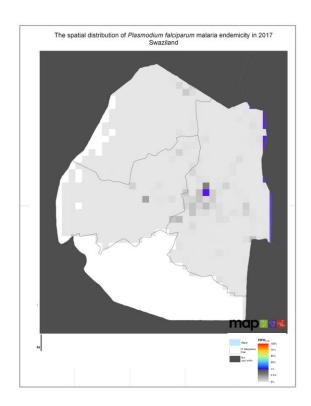
# Eswatini ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter Two, 2022



### **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		
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		O
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 (%)		91
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 an	d C	ovid 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 (2021)		98
Vitamin A Coverage 2020 (2 doses)		
DPT3 coverage 2021 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)	Ī	77
% Population Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19	F	31

Malaria transmission is seasonal in Eswatini; the annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 325 and 2 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 but has been able to cover 31% 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**

Eswatini secured sufficient resources to fund the IRS, ACTs, and RDTs required to sustain universal coverage in 2022 and has good stocks of ACTs and RDTs. Eswatini increased the coverage of IRS in 2021. Eswatini is a member of the Elimination 8 and MOSASWA initiatives, strengthening their cross-border collaboration with neighbouring countries. The country has finalised the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan and has launched its Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign. WHO has identified Eswatini as being a country with the potential to eliminate local transmission of malaria.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, building of the agenda of His Majesty King Mswati III, in May 2019, the country launched an End Malaria Fund to raise US\$5 million towards malaria elimination. Eswatini was the first country in Africa to introduce a malaria elimination scorecard to enhance tracking, accountability and action as the country moves towards malaria elimination and this has been publicly posted to the ALMA Scorecard hub.

#### **Impact**

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 325 and 2 deaths.

#### **Key Challenges**

- Maintaining malaria high on the political and funding agenda.
- 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	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		The country has achieved a high case investigation rate with over 94% of confirmed cases investigated. High IRS coverage (>91%) has also been achieved. Political support has been enhanced through the engagement of traditional authorities. The stratification of the risk of malaria transmission in Eswatini has been updated. Partnering with other organizations for community activities has helped to improve performance and Community engagement activities were useful in managing the malaria outbreaks. Collaboration with partners (including the End Malaria Fund, WHO) has assisted in mitigating supply chain disruptions
Policy	Sign, ratify and deposit the AMA instrument at the AUC	Policy		Deliverable not yet due
Monitoring	Ensure that drug resistance monitoring is conducted and the data are reported to WHO	Monitoring		The main challenge in carrying out drug resistance testing has been the small number of malaria cases to conduct drug resistance studies but the country is working on a plan to deal with the low numbers

Eswatini has responded positively to the recommended actions addressing reporting insecticide resistance data to WHO and the lack of data on iCCM and continues to strengthen access to treatment of malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea.

# **RMNCAH and NTDs**

#### **Progress**

Good progress has been made on the tracer RMNCAH intervention ART coverage in children.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Eswatini is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminths. Preventive chemotherapy coverage in Eswatini is zero for soil-transmitted helminths and schistosomiasis.

# **Previous Key Recommended Actions**

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
RMNCAH¹: 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 country developed COVID-19 RMNCAH guidelines which are in line with WHO guidance. The country experienced stock outs of some essential commodities. In response, the country advocated for life saving drugs including magnesium sulphate, Oxytocin, sutures, cord clamps and family planning commodities. UNFPA in collaboration with the MOH was able to reprogramme funds towards the procurement of these commodities. All commodities are now available in stock
NTDs	Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Eswatini is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminths. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 0% for both schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminths. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Eswatini in 2020 is zero, which represents a decrease compared with the 2019 index value (3).	Q4 2022		The country is conducting NTD routine activities whilst respecting COVID-19 safety measures. The last MDA in country was conducted in 2019 and the country is engaging WHO to support the next MDA which is planned in July 2022. The country has also requested support from ESPEN to have sentinel sites for Soil Transmitted Helminths established

The country has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing lack of data on vitamin A coverage and continues to track progress as this action is implemented.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO lack of