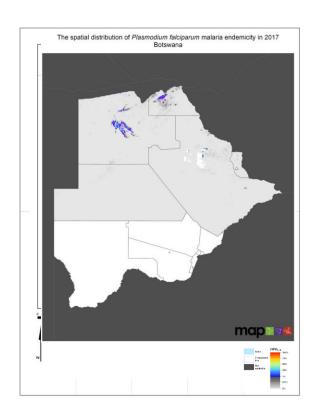
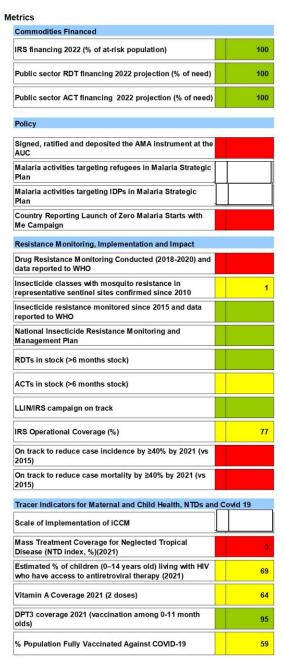
Botswana ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter Four, 2022



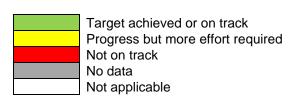
Scorecard for Accountability and Action





The annual reported number of confirmed malaria cases in 2021 was 729 with 5 deaths.

Key



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Malaria

Progress

The country continues to work on strengthening and maintaining health services following the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, Botswana. has secured sufficient resources to fund the required ACTs and RDTs and IRS in 2022 and the IRS campaign is on track. WHO has identified Botswana as being a country with the potential to eliminate local transmission of malaria by 2025. The country has finalised the insecticide resistance management and monitoring plan

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, 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 2021 was 729 with 5 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	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		Malaria interventions were implemented a planned. The issue of staff retention has now been resolved with three staff being granted a 3-year contract. Stocks for ACTs and RDTs are adequate but there are low stocks of injectable artemether. Despite the necessary preparations for IRS and LLIN implementation, delayed arrival of insecticides has resulted in some delays in the completion of the IRS programme which will spill over into Q1 2023
Policy	Sign, ratify and deposit the AMA instrument at the AUC	Q1 2023		Deliverable not yet due

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
Impact	Investigate and address the reasons for the increase in estimated malaria incidence and mortality between 2015 and 2021	Q4 2023

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 for schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma in Botswana are below WHO targets. Preventive chemotherapy coverage is very good for schistosomiasis (98%) and was not implemented for soil-transmitted helminthiasis (0%) and no data reported for trachoma. The overall NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index in 2021 is 3 and is the same compared to the 2020 index value (3).

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 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 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. RMNCAH interventions have returned to normal
NTDs	Recognising the negative impact of COVID-19 on the 2020 MDA coverage, ensure that NTD interventions are sustained and implemented whilst using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. This includes prioritizing key necessary catch-up activities	Q4 2022		Botswana has conducted NTD interventions whilst respecting COVID-19 preventive measures. In 2022, the country has been working on the schistosomiasis MDA report and is finalizing the new NTD Master plan with the support of WHO. Other routine activities including establishing NTD surveillance system are under preparations

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO

Botswana has responded positively to the recommended action addressing the lack of data on vitamin A coverage, and coverage has been reported in 2021.

New Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
NTDs	Work to implement preventive chemotherapy for Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis and trachoma to reach WHO targets.	Q4 2023

