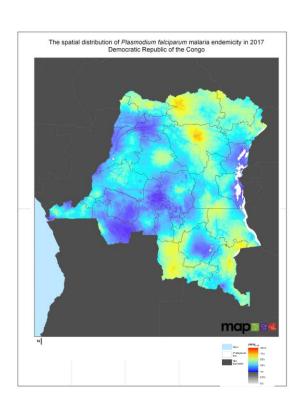
# Democratic Republic of Congo ALMA Quarterly Report, Quarter Three, 2022



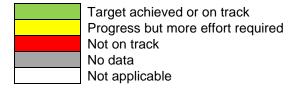
## **Scorecard for Accountability and Action**



Commodities Financed		
LLIN financing 2022 projection (% of need)		100
Public sector RDT financing 2022 projection (% of need)	•	87
Public sector ACT financing 2022 projection (% of need)	•	88
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		4
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	•	
Operational LLIN/IRS 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 an	d C	ovid 19
Scale of Implementation of iCCM		
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2020)		1
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2021)		38
Vitamin A Coverage 2020 (2 doses)		60
DPT3 coverage 2021 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)		65

The entire population of the Democratic Republic of Congo is at high risk of malaria and transmission is intense year round with seasonal variations. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 24,959,997 with 18,636 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 had only been able to cover 5% of their population by October 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 Democratic Republic of Congo procured sufficient LLINs to achieve 100% operational coverage of the targeted at-risk population in 2022. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. The Democratic Republic of Congo has secured the resources required to sustain coverage of LLINs, ACTs and RDTs in 2022. All ITN campaigns are on track, and there are more than 6 months of stocks of RDTs. The country is also showing leadership in malaria control through its participation in the High Burden High Impact approach. The country has also successfully launched the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, the country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control Scorecard. This scorecard is up to date but has not yet been posted on the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The Democratic Republic of Congo plans to announce the creation of the End Malaria Council and Fund.

#### Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 24,959,997 with 18,636 deaths.

#### **Key Challenges**

- Resource gaps to fully implement the national strategic plan.
- 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		DRC distributed ITNs in 3 provinces as planned. Stocks of ACTs and RDTs at the central level are more than 6 months. The retrospective assessment and MPR are under preparation in collaboration with WHO, GF and partners. Diagnosis and treatment of cases were implemented at health facility level. ITNs were distributed to children under one and pregnant women in EPI and ANC services
Policy	Sign, ratify and deposit the AMA instrument at the AUC	Q1 2023		Deliverable not yet due

**New Key Recommended Action** 

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
Address vector control coverage	Work to accelerate the LLIN campaign	Q4 2023

# **RMNCAH and NDTs**

## **Progress**

The country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Democratic Republic of the Congo 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 in Democratic Republic of the Congo was very low for trachoma (14%), lymphatic filariasis (9%), Soil transmitted helminths (4%), onchocerciasis (0%) and schistosomiasis (0%). Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2020 is 1, which represents a very substantial decrease compared with the 2019 index value (74).

**Previous Key Recommended Actions** 

Objective	Action Item	Suggested	Progress	Comments - key
		completion		activities/accomplishments since
		timeframe		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		During theCOVID-19 pandemic, DRC recorded supply disruptions in Kinshasa, Haut-Katanga, North Kivu and other provinces with difficult access. The main cause was the closure of international and national borders and closure of local businesses, including pharmaceutical depots, for approximately four months. This impacted a number of programmes. The Expanded Programme of Vaccination was impacted by delayed vaccine delivery, but this is now back to normal with catch-up efforts underway. The National HIV/AIDS Control Programme did not experience any shortage of drugs and inputs for PMTCT. National level stocks are at the right level and strategies have been developed to avoid drug shortages, including providing patients with 3 to 6 months supply
NTDs	Ensure that NTD interventions including Mass Drug Administration, vector control and Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention are sustained and implemented whilst using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. This includes prioritising key necessary catch-up activities	Q4 2022		The country is conducting key NTD prevention and control interventions whilst respecting COVID-19 preventive measures. Currently the country is conducting the remaining rounds of MDA with Albendazole. Other routine activities are being conducted as planned

The country has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing accelerating coverage of ARTs in children, with recent increases in coverage observed, and vitamin A and continues to track progress as these action are implemented.



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