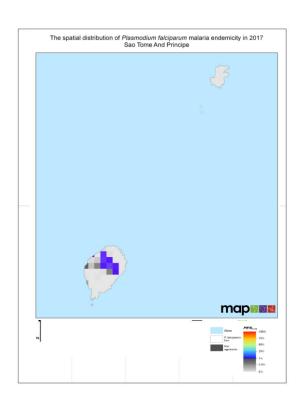
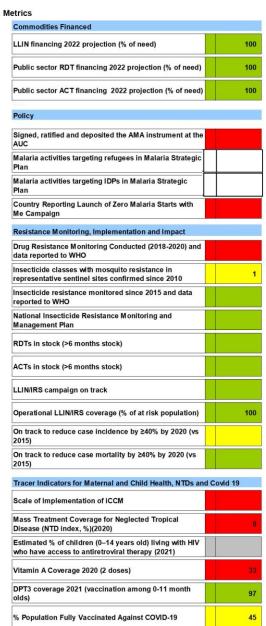
São Tomé and Príncipe ALMA Quarterly Report Quarter Three, 2022



Scorecard for Accountability and Action





In São Tomé and Príncipe, the annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 1,944 with zero deaths.

Key



São Tomé and Príncipe ALMA Quarterly Report, Quarter Three, 2022



Sustaining Essential Health Services During the COVID-19Pandemic

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 have covered 45% 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

São Tomé and Príncipe secured sufficient resources to finance the ACTs, and LLINs/IRS required for 2022. The country has carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO and has recently completed the insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan. The country has decreased the estimated malaria mortality rate by more than 40% since 2010.

In line with the priority agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, São Tomé and Príncipe has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Elimination Scorecard, although the scorecard has not yet been posted to the ALMA Scorecard Hub.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 1,944 with zero deaths.

Key Challenges

- Malaria upsurges observed.
- 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		The NMCP is using mSupply in the management of malaria commodities and during this quarter the country carried out a redistribution of drugs at district level to avoid stock-outs. STP is observing a decrease in malaria cases after the implementation of the ITN distribution and targeted IRS. The planning of the MPR and MSP development is ongoing in collaboration with WHO and partners.
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 data reported to WHO	Q1 2023		Deliverable not yet due

The country has responded positively to the recommended action addressing iCCM scale-up.

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

São Tomé and Príncipe has achieved high coverage in the tracer RMNCAH intervention DPT3 vaccination coverage.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Sao Tomé and Principe is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, and soil transmitted helminths. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 72% for lymphatic filariasis, 60% for soil-transmitted helminths and 0% for schistosomiasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Sao Tomé and Principe in 2020 is 8, which represents a very substantial decrease compared with the 2019 index value (66).

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 2020		The country reports there were interruptions to routine immunization and stockouts of BCG and yellow fever vaccines. The surveillance of vaccine-preventable diseases has also had disruption, as surveillance focal points were dedicating much of their time to COVID-19. The country has adopted a framework to guide the emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic
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		Deliverable not yet due

São Tomé and Príncipe has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended actions addressing the lack of data for ART coverage s in children and continues to track progress as actions are implemented.



¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO