

Malaria commodities: ensuring continued availability and affordability of life-saving tools during the COVID-19 pandemic

COVID-19 has affected the demand for and availability of life-saving malaria commodities. Lockdowns around the world have resulted in disruptions to global health product supply chains and distribution across the full product lifecycle. Meanwhile, demand for tests and potential therapies for COVID-19 has created potential shortages and price hikes for malaria Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) used in malaria medicines. African countries, which account for over 90% of the global malaria burden, are particularly dependent on imported products and vulnerable to disruptions to product supply chains and national distribution systems triggered by COVID-19.



The role of governments and the private sector

Governments, private sector organisations and other partners involved in the supply-chain of malaria commodities must be held accountable to:

- Maintain and step-up commitments to produce malaria commodities and their starting materials
- Minimise production and delivery delays and bottlenecks within countries producing and receiving commodities
- Improve co-ordination between global manufacturing, procurement and delivery partners
- Increase R&D to develop new, transformative technologies for the fight against malaria

Click [here](#) to read the RBM Partnership to End Malaria's latest statement on malaria commodities.

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria will host a full briefing on action needed to ensure availability of life-saving commodities tomorrow (30 June) at 16:00 CEST*.

Join the session [here](#).

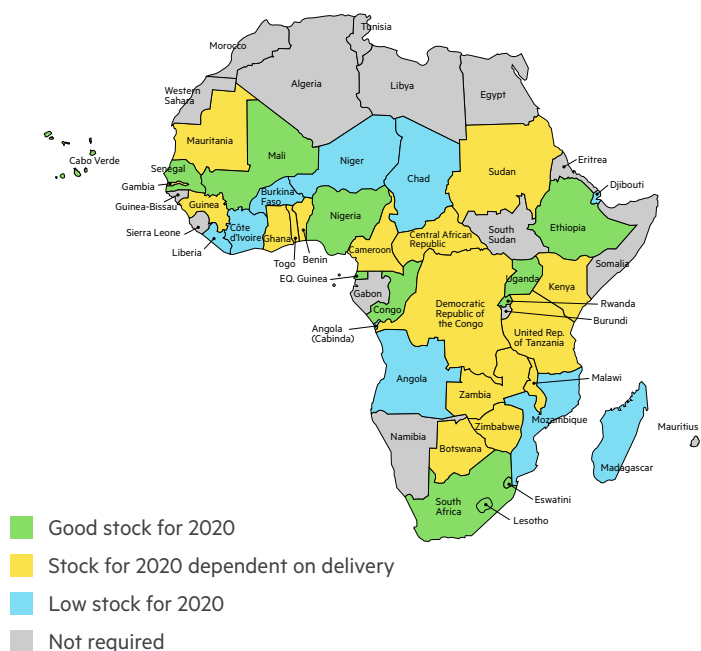
*14:00 GMT, 15:00 WAT, 16:00 CAT, 17:00 EAT



Availability of malaria commodities in Africa (as of June 2020)

- There is an urgent need for additional **105 million malaria RDTs in 2020 alone**, the annual RDT Suppliers Forum revealed on 16 June
- Of the 65 countries being monitored worldwide, **14 countries** have low stocks of RDTs and **12 countries** have low stock of ACTs
- Insecticide-treated net (ITN) distribution campaigns have been delayed in **Angola** and **Zambia** due to net shipment delays
- Delays to SMC deliveries in **Mali, Togo and Chad** could affect availability of these medications and delay campaigns

Availability of ACTs



Availability of RDTs



Source: RBM Partnership to End Malaria

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



State of malaria snapshot

- On 26 June, UNICEF's Supply Division reported its 2019 achievements including: procuring **34.98 million** artemisinin-based combination therapy malaria treatments; **2.6 million** treatments for seasonal malaria chemoprevention; and delivering **4.2 million** malaria rapid diagnostic tests to **19 countries**
- On 24 June, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria estimated that in response to COVID-19, **US\$28.5 billion** is needed to protect the past two decades of progress in countries affected by these three diseases. In a survey, 73% of malaria programs in 106 countries reported disruption to service delivery (with 19% reporting high or very high disruptions).
- On 17 June, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** stopped trialing hydroxychloroquine as a treatment for COVID-19
- According to the World Health Organization's latest **World Malaria Report**, there were **386,000** malaria deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2018
- Data from the World Health Organization shows that COVID-19 is threatening to double deaths against malaria in Sub-Saharan Africa, reaching up to **769,000** deaths in 2020.



Resources:

- Country by country modeling analysis** of potential impact of COVID in sub-Saharan African
- Check the status of anti-malaria campaigns in your country with our **country tracker**
- WHO updated Q&A on use of **hydroxychloroquine** and **artemisia**
- RBM Partnership to End Malaria COVID-19 and malaria **resource page**
- Recordings of the RBM Partnership's **previous media briefings** on COVID-19



What's coming up?

- 30 June:** 15th anniversary of the establishment of the **U.S. President's Malaria Initiative**
- 30 June:** 2nd RBM Partnership to End Malaria **media briefing** – the importance of ensuring malaria commodities are still produced
- 2 July:** 2nd anniversary of the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign co-led by the African Union Commission and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria
- 14 July:** 3rd RBM Partnership to End Malaria media briefing – Private sector leadership in the fight against malaria