



ELIMINATION 8

ANGOLA • BOTSWANA • ESWATINI • MOZAMBIQUE
NAMIBIA • SOUTH AFRICA • ZAMBIA • ZIMBABWE

THE

SITUATION ROOM



SADC MALARIA ELIMINATION EIGHT REGIONAL SURVEILLANCE QUARTERLY BULLETIN

QUARTER 3: July – September 2020

Introduction

The E8 bulletin provides highlights on malaria transmission patterns in the E8 region. Also, it provides quarterly specific information regarding malaria incidence along E8 border districts, weather & climate conditions & regional epidemic monitoring, preparedness and response plans (EPR) activities in each country. Quarter three bulletin (July-September 2020) presents the malaria situation against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Malaria incidence along E8 border districts

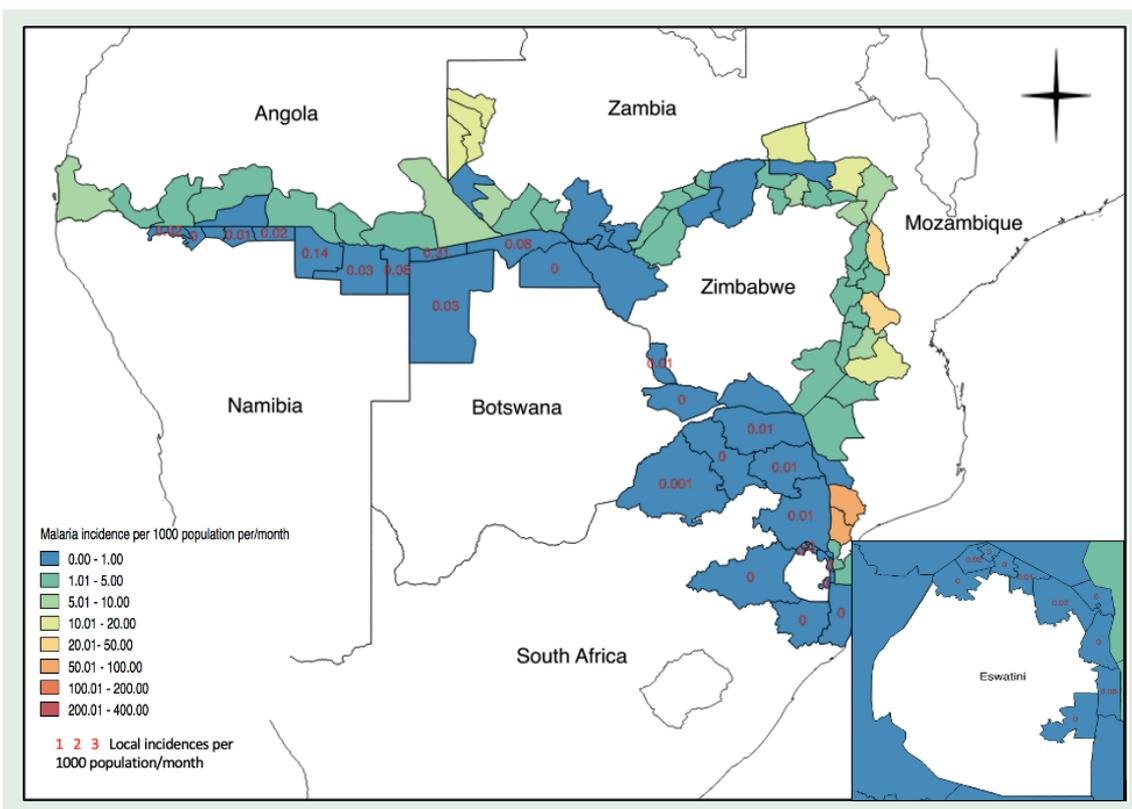


Figure 1: Border district malaria incidence across the E8 region

- In quarter three, front line countries continued to maintain low malaria transmission rates across their respective border districts. Similar reductions are notably seen from the second line countries. For example, in previous quarter some districts from first line countries such as Namibia had nearly 5 malaria incidences/month unlike for this quarter as shown in Fig.1 below. Further reductions are seen from districts in Zimbabwe, Mozambique and most parts of Angola (Cuangar, Calai & Dirico).
- Malaria burden was high in border districts of Mozambique followed by Zambia and Zimbabwe even at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. With full lockdowns and partial lockdowns in these countries, Ministries of Health strengthened their community case management interventions.
- At the start of the malaria season, after the winter months of June and July, a slow start into the new season reflect positive signs of a lower than normal transmission season for South Africa, Botswana and Eswatini.
- Figures 2 and 3 present specific country E8 border districts and their incidence rates. A further comparison between local versus total malaria incidence rates is shown for frontline countries.

- Among front-line countries, Namibia continues to report the highest incidence values as was the case in the previous quarter – quarter 2 of 2020. Botswana, Eswatini and Namibia reported zero deaths due to malaria in these border districts, a welcomed result. Only two deaths were reported in Vhembe district of Limpopo, South Africa.
- The highest rate of importation in the reporting period was recorded in Andara & Nankundu districts of Namibia.
- Of note is the regionwide reduction in malaria importation in frontline countries. This can be attributed to the current travel restrictions across international borders.
- Preparations for vector control interventions have continued, notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic with spray operations adopting innovative approaches such as mobile training infrastructure in southern Mozambique for the training of spray operators.

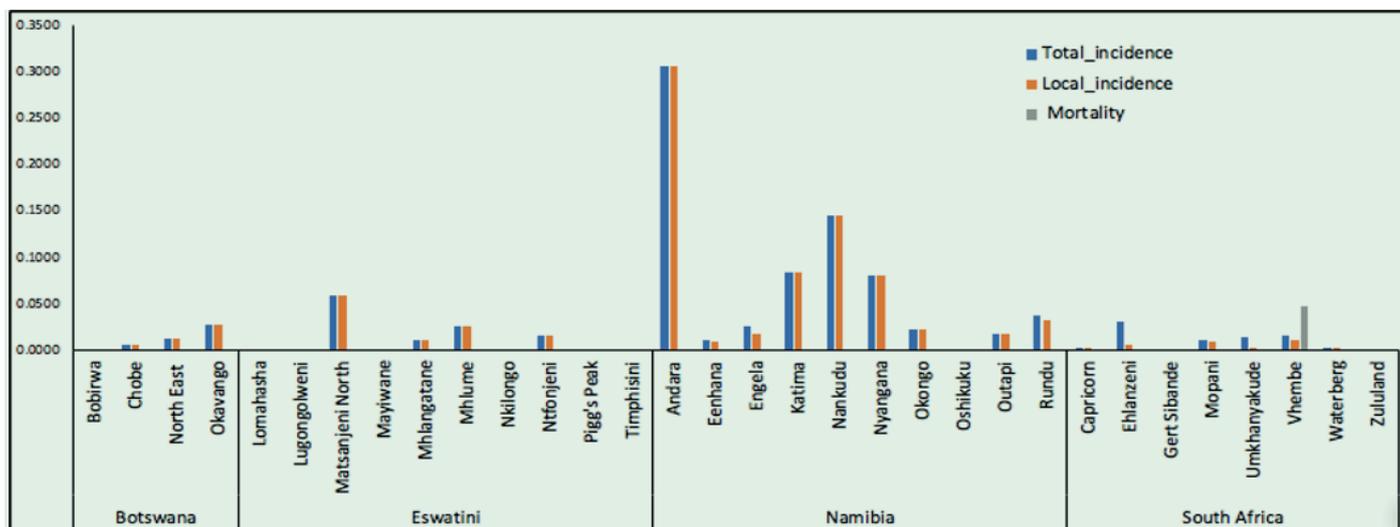


Figure 2: Malaria incidence in E8 border districts of front-line countries

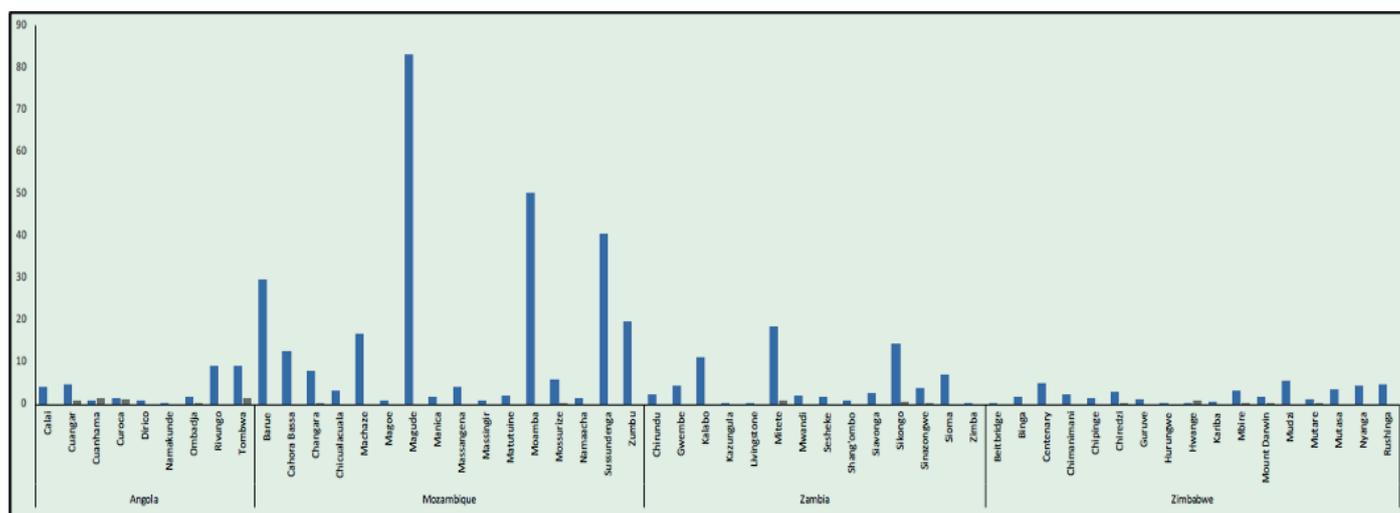


Figure 3: Malaria incidence in E8 border districts of second line countries

- Among second line countries that reported, Zambia had the highest malaria incidence in border districts. It follows from previous quarter where Zambia & Mozambique reported the highest border district burden of malaria.
- Mozambique had reduced transmission in some areas (e.g Sussundega district had 172.9 & 59 incidence rates in previous quarter which has continued even in this reporting period).
- In Angola Rivungo district in Cuando-Cubango province had the highest burden of Malaria. The E8 has continued to support these border districts in southern Angola, conducting widespread IRS and distributing LLINs to high risk populations, such as pregnant women, children under 5 and mobile and migrant populations.
- In most places with a high burden of malaria, associate malaria mortalities are shown low. This might be associated with the continuously supporting of test and treating activities within the communities along which the mola malaria burden is reported.

Weather & Climate on Malaria

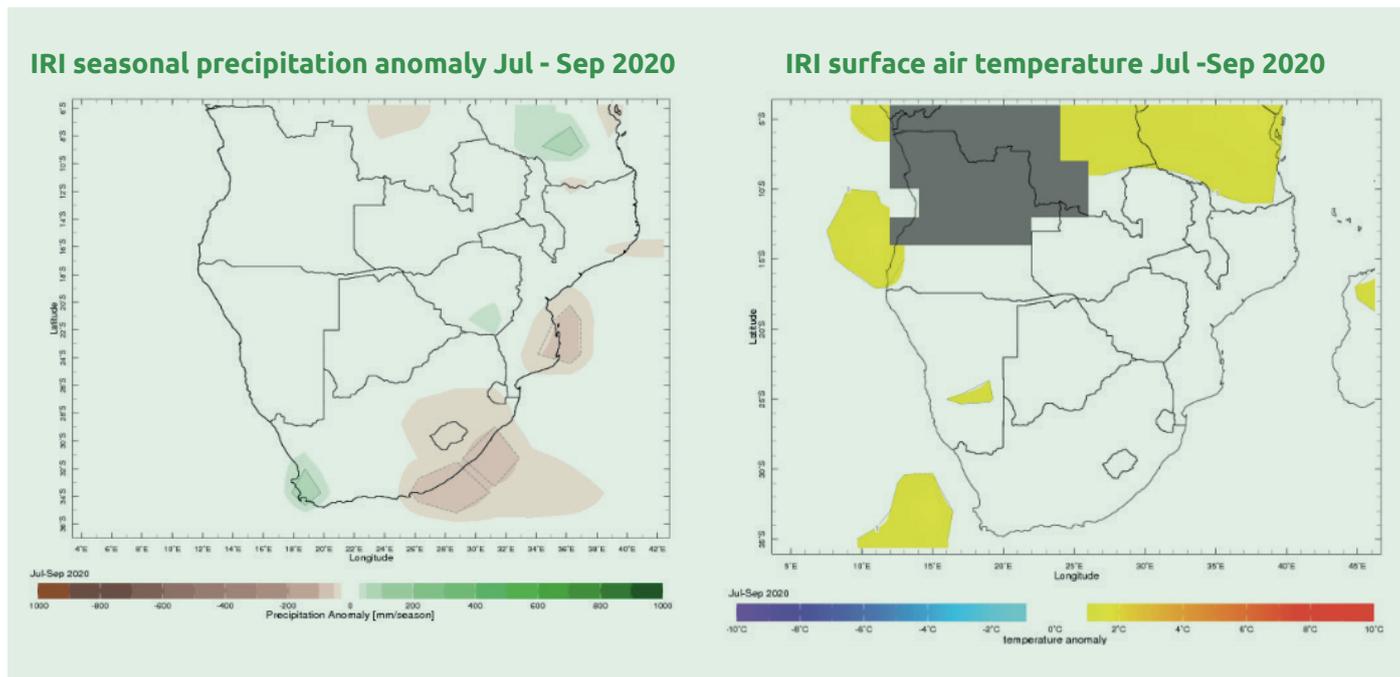


Figure 4: IRI seasonal precipitation anomaly and air surface temperature between July and September 2020

CLIMATE MONITORING

- The map below (Figure 3 & 4) shows 3-months seasonal precipitation anomalies & surface temperatures estimates in units of mm/season and % respectively, obtained from the weather and climate dataset-website; <https://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/Global>.
- In both maps, colors are classified on the basis of below & above the average normal status.
- Seasonal precipitation anomaly indicates that the region experienced normal rainfall patterns. Western Mozambique, along Inhambane Province experienced lower than normal rainfall.

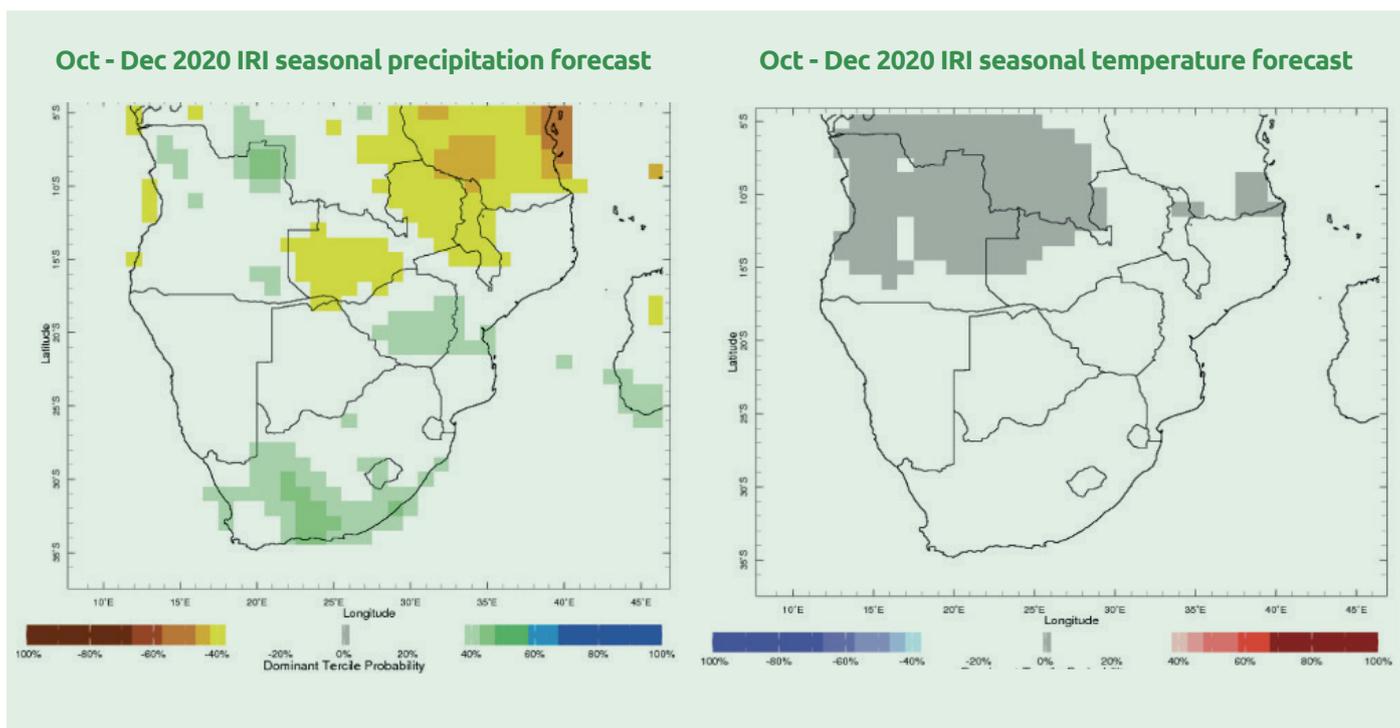


Figure 5: Seasonal climate forecast - precipitation anomaly and air surface temperature for October to December 2020

CLIMATE SEASONAL FORECAST

- The maps below indicate average seasonal forecasts in both precipitation and temperature for three months of quarter 4 of 2020. They are generated by the International Research Institute (IRI) for Climate and Society as seen from the following link: <https://iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/seasonal-climate-forecasts>.
- Some parts in South-West of Namibia & Botswana are expected to have very low rainfall below the average, as shown in figure 5.
- Most parts of Zambia and the Zambezi region of Namibia are expected to experience below average rainfall while Zimbabwe/Mozambique border districts are expected to have no less than 40% above-average rainfall.
- Given expected rainfall conditions, most parts in the region are possibly expected with slight increase in malaria transmission due to predicted increments in general rainfalls.

Regional Situation Room

The E8 regional Malaria situation room has managed to convene at least 4 meetings over this quarter. Meetings were held in every two-weeks to allow malaria programme personnel to plan and timely deploy malaria interventions. Member-countries provided an overview of their malaria situation, i.e. malaria burden, country specific preparedness and response plans for possible early transmission of malaria after the low season. The table below provides a summary for country situation room over the period of 2nd quarter.

Table 1: Situation room summary submission by country, 2nd quarter 2020

Country	Response measures employed to mitigate malaria increases	Challenges in responding to malaria increases
Angola	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving procurement processes in Angola has resulted in early arrival of malaria commodities. • The IRS program in southern Angola is progressing according to plan and has been completed in 3 districts. • Supported by the E8, southern Angola has begun distributing nets to pregnant women, children under five and MMPs. • The LLIN distribution to take place soon in November, currently team is working on finalizing of its documentations. • Routine distribution of LLLIN to be continued strengthened in all places • National Malaria strategic plan to be published soon for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience increases in Malaria cases, most from Luanda • COVID-19 has also negatively impacted malaria programming which has led to increase in Malaria cases. • There is a shortage of malaria commodities at central & districts levels
Botswana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployments of response teams to the most affected sites • Response meetings held for sites/districts mapping & interventions recommendation for all district in country • The mass distributions of LLINs (Long Lasting Insecticides Nets) • Health promotion activities by surveillance team • Response team to undertake In-depth-analysis of the recorded morbidity & mortality of Malaria • IRS is ongoing with enough supply of commodities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is continued transmission of malaria in districts of Chobe, Kavango and Palapye
Eswatini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All malaria commodities are available • Insecticides are also in good supply • Delays in the delivery of PPE was resolved • Country restriction to populations movements due to COV-19 had shown reduced effect on Malaria transmission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage of Malaria commodities at central medical stores (CMS) • Ensure constantly adequate availability of malaria commodities
Namibia		

Country	Response measures employed to mitigate malaria increases	Challenges in responding to malaria increases
Mozambique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans to have early shipment of response-commodities Despite COVID-19 conditions, the testing activities are still carried out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delays in shipments of Malaria commodities Delays in procurements & supply chain COVID-19 affect individuals' movements & hospital visits for test & treat activr
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slightly reductions of Malaria cases attributed to programmatic influences & effort done by country, such as restriction in movements of people during COVID-19 Maintaining & updated Malaria commodities status The Community Health Worker (CHW) still continuing IRS implementation to Limpopo & Waterberg districts Continuing of health promotion activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some areas like Vhembe had Malaria outbreak in May Data capturing challenges due to issuing contracts and further impacted by COV-19 situation COVID-19 diagnosis might have led to missed Malaria diagnosis Case investigations activities affected by restrictions in movements A need to-re-activate Mobile clinics in boarder districts
Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen of response commodities distribution from central to low levels facilities Complete shipments of ACTs & other equipment by the mid-August Timely implementation of IRS program The Mass distribution of LLINs Strengthening of community engagements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General increments in Malaria cases compared to previous quarter(Q1) Demand of more RDTs to cover entire gap Interruptions in supply chain by COVID-19 restrictions
Zimbabwe		

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- NMCP Angola
- NMCP Botswana
- NMP Eswatini
- NMCP Mozambique
- NVDCP Namibia
- NMCP South Africa
- NMEC Zambia
- NMCP Zimbabwe
- International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI)
- Applied Center for Climate & Earth System Science (Access)

E8 Situation Room Partners:

