AMP 2024 Annual Partners Meeting

Climate impacts and vector control with ITNs

MALAWI

20th February, 2024

Background

- Malawi has been experiencing increased frequency, intensity and magnitude of extreme weather events.
- >25 disasters associated with severe rainfall events have occurred in the last decade

1. **Tropical Cyclone Idai** in 2019 – 81,613 HH affected
   - Nearly 739,800 people were impacted, with 45 deaths and 577 injuries
   - More than 75,900 people were displaced, with many ad hoc camps established

2. **Tropical Storm Anna and Gombe** in 2022 – 193,558 HH affected
   - In January 2022 Tropical Storm Ana passed through southern Malawi rendering over 990,000 people requiring humanitarian assistance

3. **Tropical Cyclone Freddy** in 2023 – 501,775 HH affected
   - The State President declared a State of Disaster in the Southern Region

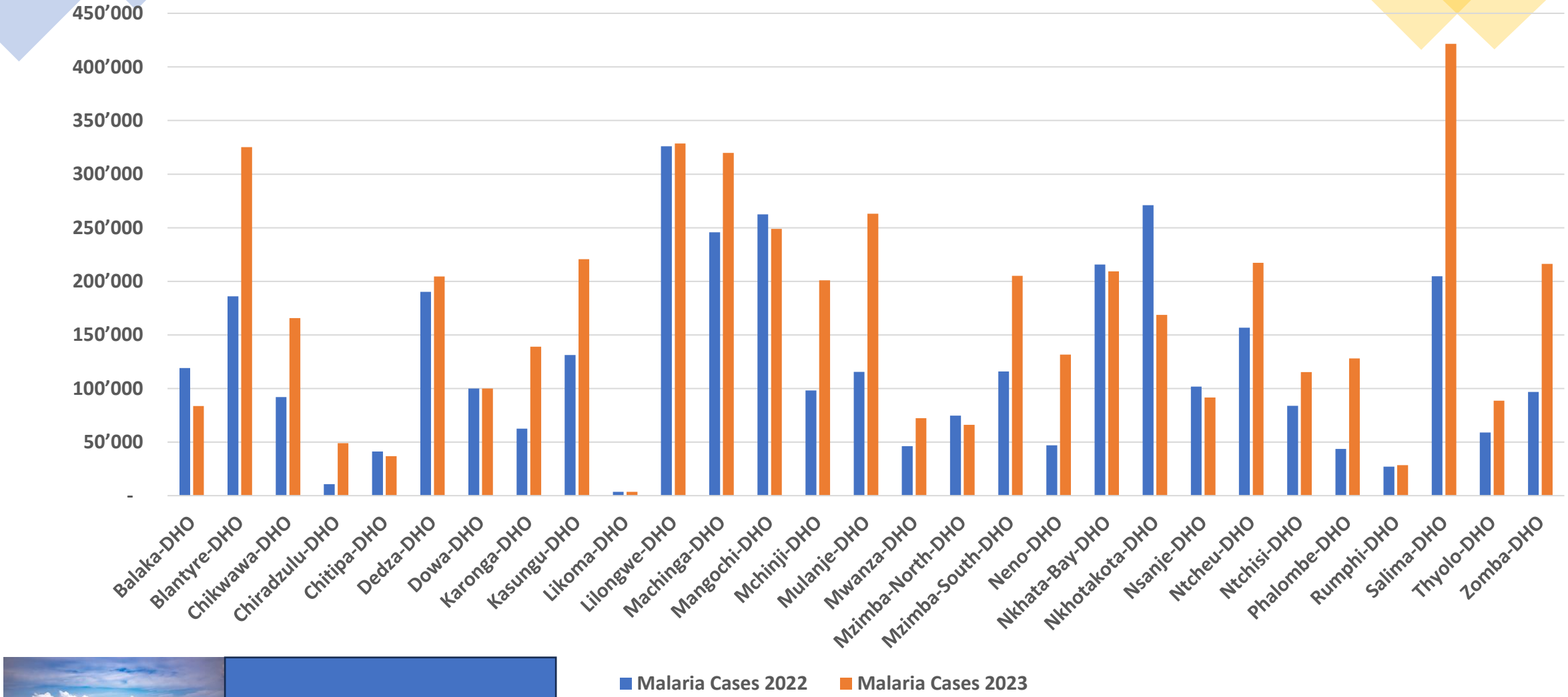
Climate Impacts

- The impact of the cyclone is monitored through incidence comparing number of malaria cases the period before and after the cyclone.
- Several districts affected by the cyclone have demonstrated an increase in malaria incidence (Blantyre, Chikwawa, Machinga, Mulanje, Neno, Phalombe and Zomba).
- Increased number of displaced communities who became vulnerable due to lack of proper shelter to hang nets.
  - Camps
  - Temporary shelters
- The flooding led to increased water reservoirs that became breeding sites for mosquitoes.

Climate Impacts (cont'd)

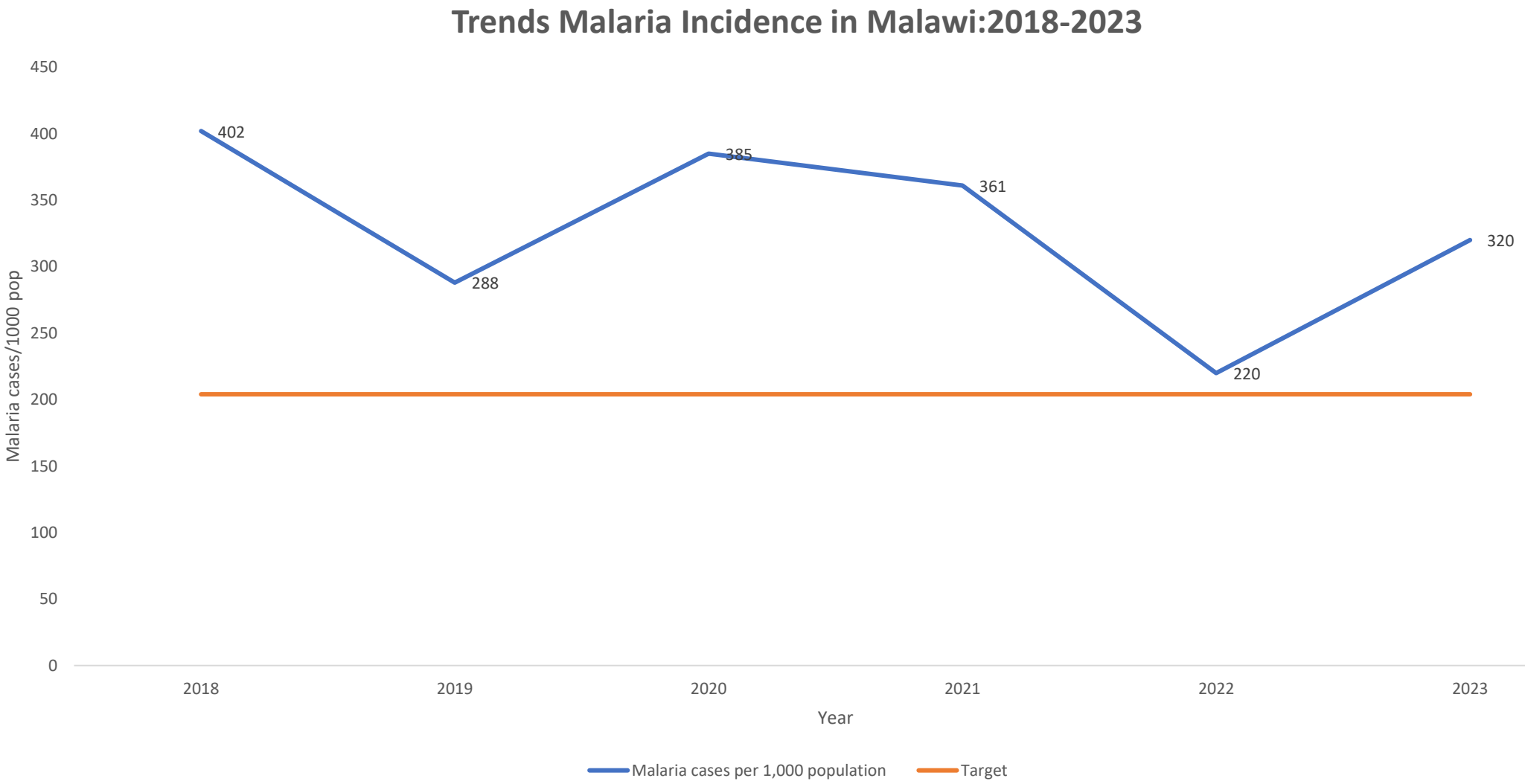
- Increased demand for ITNs for emergency response
  - 10,000 nets reserved traditionally but needed over 40,000 due to cyclones
- Challenges in reaching affected communities with interventions
  - Some communities had to re-do HHR due to displacement
  - Some communities left unreached due inaccessibility of roads
- Extreme dry conditions and heat due to weather variations impact on consistent use of ITNs and promote misconceptions associated with net use.

Comparison of Malaria Cases Between January-September, 2022 and 2023



Malaria cases – 25% increase on average

Malaria Incidence in Malawi



Response to climatic shocks

- The Malawi Government established the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) under the Office of the President and Cabinet to respond to disasters.
- Availability of the National Multi-Hazard Contingency Plans that includes the Health Cluster.
- Different stakeholders mobilized resources to support the response.
- The NMCP has in its malaria strategic plan an emergency distribution channel to respond to emergencies affecting malaria.

Response to climatic shocks (cont'd)

- The NMCP with support from partners distributed about 20,000 nets to some affected households
- In three of the affected districts there was a mass net distribution campaign with Global Fund support
- Established outreach clinics for the internally displaced populations

Challenges

- Inadequate ITNs available for emergency response
- It is difficult to quantify the quantity of nets lost through cyclones except through a household survey
  - We can only estimate lost nets through quantifying number of houses collapsed times average number of people per household divide by two
- Hard to quantify ITN needs prior to disasters
- Traditional donors not supporting advance procurements of ITNs for emergencies
- Displaced populations often have other pressing needs and malaria prevention may not be prioritized

Recommendations

- Engage traditional donors to consider advanced procurement of ITNs for emergency response.
- Work closely with DoDMA to mobilize resources from non traditional donors to consider procurement of ITNs to ensure adequate stocks prior to disasters.
- Invest in Malaria SBC during disasters to promote Malaria prevention interventions among displaced populations

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