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President's Malaria Initiative

PRESIDENT'S MALARIA INITIATIVE TANZANIA

On mainland Tanzania, more than 32 percent of all outpatient visits are attributable to malaria, resulting in approximately 7.3 million clinical and confirmed malaria cases annually. With 93 percent of people on the mainland residing in malaria endemic areas, the disease remains a major contributor to maternal, newborn, and under-five mortality.

The U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) strives to reduce malaria deaths and substantially decrease malaria prevalence with the long-term goal of elimination. With support from PMI and its partners, malaria control interventions are being scaled up and critical commodities are being distributed to vulnerable populations. PMI employs an integrated approach emphasizing prevention through insecticide treated nets (ITNs), indoor residual spraying, and prevention of malaria in pregnancy. Disease control is also emphasized through prompt diagnosis and correct treatment, strengthened malaria surveillance, developing human resources capacity, and promoting positive behaviors for malaria prevention and case management.

Recent PMI support on the mainland has included:

- Indoor residual spraying for almost 575,000 structures in 2017, protecting over 2.3 million people;
- Procurement of about 2.2 million insecticide-treated nets in 2016;
- A third year of delivering roughly 500,000 nets through a school-based net program in three regions (2015). A fourth, expanded round of distribution was completed in August 2016, delivering over one million ITNs to primary school children in seven regions;
- Regional rollout of the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response system;
- Nationwide rollout of the Malaria Test Checking Quality Assurance System; and
- Launch of a program based on free ITN delivery to pregnant women at their first antenatal care visit, as well as children upon their first measles vaccination.

PMI OVERVIEW

FUNDING LEVEL

- \$46 million in FY 2016

MAJOR PARTNERS

- National Malaria Control Program
- Zanzibar Malaria Elimination Program
- Abt Associates
- Johns Hopkins University
- PATH
- Jhpiego
- University of North Carolina
- ICF Macro
- Peace Corps

COLLABORATING DONORS

- The Global Fund
- The U.K. Department for International Development (DFID)
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- World Bank
- World Health Organization

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In Zanzibar, recent PMI support has included:

- Indoor residual spraying for 38,884 structures in 2017, protecting over 191,000 people;
- Procurement of more than 250,000 ITNs and support for delivery of over 150,000 ITNs through antenatal clinics, immunization clinics, and community-based channels; and
- Work with the Zanzibar Malaria Elimination Program (ZAMEP) to sustain gains in malaria control, including intensified surveillance through case detection and SMS-based mobile phone reporting.

Throughout Tanzania, PMI continues to support epidemiological monitoring, health system and supply chain strengthening, improved malaria case management, and the use of mass media outlets and interpersonal communication to improve healthy behaviors.

CHALLENGES

Efforts to prevent and control malaria are complicated by human resources shortfalls, including high turnover at the ministry level, lack of trained malaria officers, and staff shortages. Weak management of the health supply chain also challenges the administering of treatment and prevention measures at facilities nationwide. The ability to monitor and measure malaria interventions is also limited by weak information systems. PMI supports and builds on USAID's health systems strengthening efforts to address these issues.

IMPACT

PMI contributions in Tanzania since 2005 include:

- Procurement of 38 million life-saving artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) anti-malarial drugs;
- Indoor residual insecticide spraying annually since 2006, protecting 2 million in the most recently completed round of spraying (2017);
- Procurement of over 9.5 million ITNs; and
- Procurement of over 19 million malaria rapid diagnostic tests.

The scale-up of malaria prevention and treatment interventions based on the strategies of PMI, ZAMEP, and the mainland's National Malaria Control Program have yielded dramatic results, including:

- A drop in malaria prevalence to 0.2 percent in children under five in Zanzibar. ZAMEP is now focused on pre-elimination;
- A rise in the number of children under five receiving ACTs within 24 hours of developing a fever from 14 percent to 30 percent;
- An increase in the number of households owning at least one ITN from 38 percent in 2007 to 91 percent in 2011; and
- In households with at least one ITN, 74 percent of pregnant women and children under five reported sleeping under an ITN the previous night.