

# MOZAMBIQUE

April 2008



## At a Glance:

### Malaria in Mozambique

Population: 21.3 million<sup>1</sup>

Life expectancy at birth:  
42 years (male), 40 years (female)<sup>1</sup>

Population at risk of malaria: 99%<sup>2</sup>

Under-5 mortality rate: 153/1000,  
or approximately 1 in 7 children<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> US Census Bureau

<sup>2</sup> Roll Back Malaria 2005 World Malaria Report

<sup>3</sup> DHS 2003

## Background

Malaria is endemic in 99 percent of Mozambique and is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality. It is responsible for more than 40 percent of outpatient visits and 30 percent of hospital deaths. Approximately 60 percent of all children admitted to the hospital are admitted for severe malaria.

Mozambique is one of four second-round target countries to benefit from the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), a five-year, \$1.2 billion program led by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), the Department of State, and the White House.

## Goal

The goal of PMI is to cut malaria deaths by 50 percent in 15 countries in Africa by reaching 85 percent of the most vulnerable groups – principally pregnant women and children under 5 years of age – with lifesaving services, supplies, and medicines.

PMI coordinates with national malaria control programs and international partners, including the World Health Organization; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the World Bank Malaria Booster Program; the Roll Back Malaria partnership; the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; nongovernmental organizations, including faith-based and community groups; and the private sector.

## Key Interventions

In support of Mozambique's national malaria control program, PMI backs four key intervention strategies to prevent and treat malaria:

- Spraying with insecticides ("indoor residual spraying," or IRS)
- Insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs)
- Lifesaving drugs
- Preventive treatment for pregnant women ("intermittent preventive treatment," or IPTp)

## **Results to Date**

Now in its second year of PMI activity, Mozambique has made great gains and is poised to move forward effectively.

**Mosquito nets:** Sleeping under a long-lasting ITN provides protection from malaria-carrying mosquitoes. The nets are nontoxic to humans and do not need re-treatment with insecticide for up to four years. To date, 786,000 long-lasting ITNs have arrived in-country, and 565,000 of these nets have already been distributed free of charge to children under 5 years of age and pregnant women. In addition, 454,986 conventional nets have been re-treated free of charge through a campaign in five provinces.

**Insecticide spraying:** IRS involves the coordinated, timely spraying of the inside walls of homes with insecticides. Mosquitoes are killed when they land on these sprayed walls and pick up the residual insecticide. The Government of Mozambique introduced insecticide spraying in 2000 and procured enough DDT and two pyrethroid insecticides this year to cover spraying through early 2009. Thus PMI has focused on complementing ongoing spraying through technical assistance and supervision; training for 1,190 local personnel in proper spraying techniques; entomological support; and focused spraying in Zambezia Province, covering 416,873 homes and protecting 1,742,345 people.

**New medicines:** Derived from the *Artemisia* plant, a Chinese herb, artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) are new medicines that are hugely effective against new malaria strains and have virtually no side effects. With PMI's support, 1,440,000 ACT treatments have been delivered, and 220,230 have been distributed to health facilities. In addition, 174 health workers have been trained throughout Mozambique to effectively administer these drugs.

**Malaria in pregnancy:** Pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to malaria as pregnancy reduces a woman's immunity to malaria, making her more susceptible to malaria infection and increasing the risk of illness, severe anemia, and death. With PMI support, expectant mothers receive malaria treatments given at regular intervals during pregnancy through antenatal care (ANC) services. Although ANC attendance in Mozambique is relatively high at 81 percent, the use of IPTp has not kept pace. PMI and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief are working to ensure that pregnant women receive a full package of services, including IPTp, when they come for ANC.

## **PMI Funding**

In fiscal year 2008, PMI has allocated \$19.8 million for malaria prevention and treatment in Mozambique.

## **Upcoming PMI Activities**

- Retraining health workers in charge of drug management systems to effectively implement new drug therapies
- Continued IRS in high-transmission areas
- Implementation of the new policy on diagnostic testing for management of persons with fever, with retraining of existing laboratory technicians in malaria microscopy
- Distribution of 1.2 million long-lasting ITNs through a series of subnational campaigns and through antenatal clinics