

Country Profile | President's Malaria Initiative (PMI)

MADAGASCAR

April 2008



At a Glance:

Malaria in Madagascar

Population: 20 million¹

Life expectancy at birth:

61 years (male), 65 years (female)¹

Population at risk of malaria: 96%²

Under-5 mortality rate: 93.9/1000, or approximately 1 in 10 children³

¹ US Census Bureau

² Roll Back Malaria 2005 World Malaria Report

³ DHS 2003/2004

Background

Malaria is endemic in 90 percent of Madagascar, but the entire country is considered vulnerable to the disease. Malaria is also the leading cause of death among children under age 5.

Madagascar is one of eight new third-round target countries benefiting 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 Madagascar'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

In its first year as a PMI focus country, Madagascar has made some promising strides in the fight against malaria and is poised to effect greater changes in the immediate future.

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. In Madagascar, PMI provided \$1 million to support logistics and social mobilization for a national integrated measles/malaria campaign that distributed more than 1.5 million long-lasting ITNs. According to the Ministry of Health, the campaign achieved greater than 90 percent coverage of children under 5 years of age.

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. In Madagascar, preparations have been completed for a spraying campaign that will protect 250,000 homes in the coming months.

PMI Funding

For fiscal year 2008, PMI allocated \$16.9 million in funding for malaria prevention and treatment in Madagascar.

Upcoming PMI Activities

- Procure approximately 525,000 nets for free distribution at health facilities and an additional 250,000 nets for distribution through social marketing. This is expected to increase the proportion of households with one or more ITNs to 70 percent.
- Increase the proportion of pregnant women receiving two doses of sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP) to 35 percent nationwide. Sufficient quantities of SP are being procured by other donors to meet all drug needs for IPTp for 2008–2009.