

Country Profile | President's Malaria Initiative (PMI)

ZAMBIA

April 2008



At a Glance:

Malaria in Zambia

Population: 11.7 million¹

Life expectancy at birth:

38 years (male), 39 years (female)¹

Population at risk of malaria: 96%²

Under-5 mortality rate: 182/1000, or approximately 1 in 5 children³

¹ US Census Bureau

² Roll Back Malaria 2005 World Malaria Report

³ State of the World's Children 2008 UNICEF

Background

Malaria is still the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Zambia. It is estimated to account for 45 percent of outpatient visits, 45 percent of hospital admissions, and 50 percent of disease burden among children under 5 years of age.

Zambia 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 (NGOs), including faith-based and community groups; and the private sector.

Key Interventions

In support of Zambia'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

During its first year as a PMI focus country, Zambia has made promising strides in its fight against malaria, and there has been heartening progress.

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. There are already 1.2 million ITNs procured by PMI on the ground in Zambia. PMI, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and the Global Business Coalition collaborated to provide approximately 500,000 of these, which were distributed to vulnerable groups through the established network of home-based caregivers of a World Vision-led NGO coalition.

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. PMI has supported two rounds of spraying in Zambia. In 2007, a total of about 650,000 households were sprayed, up from 592,000 in 2006, protecting about 4 million residents against malaria across 15 districts. More than 1,300 local personnel were trained to spray the houses effectively.

PMI Funding

For fiscal year 2008, PMI allocated \$14.9 million in funding for malaria prevention and treatment in Zambia.

Upcoming PMI Activities

- Procure more than 400,000 ITNs for children under 5 and pregnant women
- Support IRS in 15 targeted districts to cover 900,000 households with a population of 5.4 million people
- Promote community communication and information campaigns to increase demand for malaria services and products; improve adherence to treatment regimens and IPTp; and increase consistent use of ITNs