

Country Profile | President's Malaria Initiative (PMI)

GHANA

May 2008



At a Glance: Malaria in Ghana

Population: 23.4 million¹

Life expectancy at birth:

59 years (male), 60 years (female)¹

Population at risk of malaria: 100%²

Under-5 mortality rate: 111/1,000,
or approximately 1 in 9 children³

¹ US Census Bureau

² Roll Back Malaria 2005 World Malaria Report

³ DHS 2003

Background

Malaria is transmitted throughout all of Ghana and is responsible for more than 44 percent of outpatient visits and approximately 22 percent of deaths in children under age 5.

Ghana is one of eight 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 Ghana's national malaria control program, PMI backs four key intervention strategies to prevent and treat malaria:

- Indoor residual spraying (IRS) with insecticides
- Insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs)
- Lifesaving drugs
- Intermittent preventive treatment for pregnant women (IPTp)

Results to Date

- PMI and the Ghana Health Services National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) launched PMI activities in Ghana in December 2007 with an ITN re-treatment campaign that will re-treat 275,000 conventional nets by the end of 2008.

- The PMI launch included a malaria walk that was held over three days using music, drama, malaria talks, and distribution of fact sheets, ITNs, and other educational materials to raise interest in and awareness of malaria control.
- PMI fielded a team of malaria laboratory experts in December 2007 to assess the status of malaria diagnostic capacity in Ghana and make recommendations for strengthening and developing a comprehensive malaria diagnosis strategy.
- In January 2008, PMI completed an assessment of the supply chain and logistics system, including appropriate use of malaria drugs, and recommendations for strengthening this system are forthcoming.
- PMI has developed a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan that guides M&E for PMI activities and progress, as well as contributes to NMCP's overarching M&E plan.

PMI Funding

For fiscal year 2008, PMI has set aside \$16.9 million in funding for malaria prevention and treatment in Ghana.

Upcoming PMI Activities

Prevention

- Procure and distribute more than 1 million long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs) nationwide to vulnerable populations (by PMI and other partners)
- Provide more than 368,000 pregnant women with two or more doses of IPTp
- Reach 100,000 households with IRS and protect more than 500,000 residents

Treatment

- Assist the Government of Ghana to procure and distribute approximately 1,208,000 artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) doses to treat children under 5
- Assist the Government of Ghana to procure and distribute approximately 14.7 million ACT doses to treat older children and adults diagnosed with malaria

Other

- In collaboration with the NMCP, develop a national policy on malaria diagnosis, including a strategy on the use of malaria microscopy and rapid diagnostic tests in different malaria epidemiologic and health care settings