

# Country Profile | President's Malaria Initiative (PMI)

## BENIN

May 2008



### Background

Malaria is a major health problem in Benin, where the entire population lives in areas with malaria transmission. It accounts for 41 percent of outpatient visits and approximately 27 percent<sup>2</sup> of deaths in children under 5 years of age.

Benin 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 (WHO); 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.

### At a Glance: Malaria in Benin

Population: 8.3 million<sup>1</sup>  
Life expectancy at birth: 53 years (male), 55 years (female)<sup>1</sup>  
Population at risk of malaria: 100%<sup>2</sup>  
Under-5 mortality rate: 125/1000, or approximately 1 in 7 children<sup>3</sup>

\* Actual numbers of malaria cases are considered to be much higher since the majority of cases in Africa are unreported.

<sup>1</sup> US Census Bureau

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

<sup>3</sup> DHS 2006

### Key Interventions

In support of Benin'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

Benin is just beginning its first year as a focus country, and PMI has already begun activities.

**Mosquito Nets:** Sleeping under a mosquito net treated by insecticide provides protection from malaria-carrying mosquitoes. In October 2007, PMI contributed 150,000 long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets (LLINs) and logistics support to one of the largest antimalaria campaigns ever organized in Benin. The nets are nontoxic to humans and do not need re-treatment with insecticide for up to four years. The majority of the nets for the campaign were provided by the World Bank Malaria Booster Program, and the campaign was implemented under the leadership of the Government of Benin, with the active participation of international and local partners such as the Canadian Red Cross, WHO, UNICEF, and others. More than 1.7 million LLINs were distributed with the goal to reach all children under 5. This massive effort involved setting up 4,000 distribution posts nationwide and mobilizing 28,000 distributors.

### **PMI Funding**

For fiscal year 2008, PMI has set aside \$13.9 million in funding for malaria prevention and treatment in Benin.

### **Upcoming PMI Activities**

- Launch IPTp, providing training for health workers as well as more than 2.2 million tablets of sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (planned for March 2008)
- Protect approximately 70,000 houses with a population of 350,000 using IRS during Year 1 (planned for April-May 2008)
- Assess and strengthen the commodities supply chain and distribution system
- Procure and distribute approximately 660,000 LLINs through health facilities, community groups, and the commercial sector to children under 5 and pregnant women, bringing nationwide ownership of ITNs to about 50 percent in Year 1
- Train all laboratory technicians at the commune and health zone levels in malaria diagnostics
- Procure and distribute approximately 1 million pediatric artemisinin-based combination therapies through government health facilities (nationwide) and through community-based workers (two departments)
- Procure approximately 180,000 artesunate suppositories and 50,000 quinine drug kits for treatment of severe malaria in health facilities