

# ETHIOPIA

April 2008



## Background

Malaria is a leading health issue in Ethiopia, where an estimated 48 million (68 percent of the population) live in areas at risk of malaria. Malaria transmission in Ethiopia is unstable and is characterized by frequent and often large-scale epidemics.

Ethiopia\* 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.

### At a Glance: Malaria in Ethiopia

Population: 78.2 million<sup>1</sup>

Life expectancy at birth:  
48 years (male), 51 years (female)<sup>1</sup>

Population at risk of malaria: 68%<sup>2</sup>

Under-5 mortality rate: 123/1000, or  
approximately 1 in 8 children<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> US Census Bureau

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

<sup>3</sup> DHS 2005

## 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 Ethiopia's national malaria control program, PMI backs three key intervention strategies to prevent and treat malaria:

- Spraying with insecticides ("indoor residual spraying," or IRS)
- Insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs)
- Lifesaving drugs

## Results to Date

In its first year as a PMI focus country, there has been significant progress in the fight against malaria. A key activity included support to a cadre of Health Extension Workers (HEW), which are public health professionals supported by the Government of Ethiopia at the health post level, for malaria refresher training prior to their graduation and placement throughout the region.

**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, 102,145 ITNs have been procured and distributed to vulnerable populations.

**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. An ambitious spray campaign has reached 778,000 houses, benefiting approximately 3.89 million Ethiopians.

### **PMI Funding**

For fiscal year 2008, PMI allocated \$19.8 million in funding for malaria prevention and treatment in Ethiopia.

### **Upcoming PMI Activities**

- Provide nearly 700,000 long-lasting ITNs through routine distribution channels, including health facilities, health extension workers, and NGOs, to vulnerable populations, including people with HIV/AIDS
- Work with the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief to improve facility- and community-based antenatal, safe motherhood, and adolescent health activities as they relate to malaria
- Support Ethiopia's long-standing and extensive IRS program across a wide range of activities, including geographical mapping, quantification of supplies, procurement and logistics, training, implementation and supervision, and monitoring and evaluation.

\* In Ethiopia, one high-burden region (Oromiya) was selected for PMI support.