

MOZAMBIQUE

April 2009



At a Glance: Mozambique

Population - 2009: 21.7 million¹

Life expectancy at birth - 2009:
42 years (male), 41 years (female)¹

Population at risk of malaria - 2006:
100%²

Under-5 mortality rate - 2007:
168/1,000 live births, or approximately
1 in 6 children³

¹ US Census Bureau, International Data Base 2009

² WHO World Malaria Report 2008

³ UNICEF State of the World's Children 2009

Background

All Mozambicans live in areas where malaria is transmitted. A 2007 Malaria Indicator Survey showed malaria infections in almost 40 percent of children under five and in 16 percent of pregnant women. According to the Ministry of Health (MOH), 40 percent of all outpatient visits and 60 percent of all pediatric hospital admissions result from malaria.

Mozambique is one of 15 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) and implemented together with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Goal

The goal of PMI is to reduce 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 five years of age – with lifesaving prevention and treatment measures.

PMI coordinates with National Malaria Control Programs (NMCPs) 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.

Key Interventions

In support of Mozambique's NMCP, PMI backs four key intervention strategies to prevent and treat malaria:

- Insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs)
- Indoor residual spraying with insecticides (IRS)
- Intermittent preventive treatment for pregnant women (IPTp)
- Diagnosis of malaria and treatment with artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT)

Results to Date

Mozambique is in its third year as a PMI focus country. With support from PMI and its partners, malaria control interventions are being implemented, and vital commodities are being distributed to vulnerable populations. PMI has helped to expand and strengthen the government's IRS program in Zambézia Province and the scale-up of long-lasting ITNs and access to ACTs at the national level. Malaria prevalence in Zambézia was 22 percent, according to a 2008 survey – a 38 percent decline when compared with results from a similar survey carried out in 2007.

Insecticide-treated mosquito nets: Sleeping under a long-lasting ITN provides protection from malaria-carrying mosquitoes. The nets are nontoxic to humans, last up to three years, and do not need re-treatment with insecticide. Mozambique's major approaches to ITN distribution are subnational campaigns directed at children under five and antenatal clinics to reach pregnant women. To date, PMI has procured more than 1.5 million ITNs for Mozambique, of which 1.4 million have been distributed. This includes 720,000 long-lasting ITNs that were distributed for free as part of a measles/vitamin A/deworming/ITN campaign in Nampula Province. In addition, PMI supported the distribution of 78,000 long-lasting ITNs, procured by the U.S. President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), through HIV treatment clinics and outreach activities directed at orphans and vulnerable children. In addition, nearly 455,000 ITNs have been re-treated with insecticides with PMI's support. PMI has also provided technical support to the NMCP, which resulted in a new national policy that aims for universal coverage with long-lasting ITNs.

Indoor residual 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. For the second year in a row, the National Malaria Control Program requested PMI's support for IRS activities in six districts in Zambézia Province. PMI conducted one round of IRS from September–November 2008, during which 412,923 houses were sprayed and more than 1.4 million people were protected.

Malaria in pregnancy: Pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to malaria, since pregnancy reduces a woman's immunity to malaria. Unborn children also suffer the consequences of maternal malaria infections, which can result in low birthweight and a higher risk of death early in infancy. With PMI support, expectant mothers receive malaria treatments given at regular intervals during pregnancy through antenatal care services. With PMI technical and logistical support, a national health facility survey was conducted in December 2008. This survey evaluated antenatal care and qualitatively assessed the status of, and barriers to, IPTp. Results of the survey should be available in the second quarter of 2009. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, PMI and PEPFAR staff have helped develop an integrated package of services for antenatal visits. This package will include IPTp, long-lasting ITNs, services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases, and tuberculosis evaluation and treatment.

Diagnosis and treatment: ACTs are highly effective against malaria parasites and have few or no side effects. Of the 4,965,120 ACT treatments procured by PMI to date, more than 1.6 million have been distributed to health facilities. In addition, PMI provided emergency support for delivery of ACTs to provincial warehouses when the MOH had an unexpected shortfall of resources for distribution. PMI continues to support pharmaceutical management strengthening of the Central Medical Stores, including support for forecasting drug needs and improved tracking of drug consumption. PMI supported the development of a training curriculum for health workers and trained 422 workers in 2008. In addition, a new policy and revised training material for diagnostic testing of malaria are being finalized with assistance from PMI.

PMI Funding

For fiscal year 2009, PMI allocated \$19.8 million in funding for malaria prevention and treatment in Mozambique. Of this amount, 34 percent will support scaling-up ownership and use of ITNs, 26 percent IRS and vector control activities, 21 percent procurement of antimalarial drugs and improved malaria case management, 1 percent malaria in pregnancy activities, 4 percent communication and behavior change activities, and 5 percent monitoring and evaluation. Overall, 50 percent of the budget will be spent on commodities.

	FY 2006 Jump start funds	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Budget	\$6.3 million	\$18 million	\$19.8 million	\$19.8 million

For details on 2009 PMI activities in Mozambique, please see the Malaria Operational Plan at http://www.pmi.gov/countries/mops/mozambique_mop-fy09.pdf.