

CDC and the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative



The U.S. President's Malaria Initiative

The U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) is a U.S. Government initiative established in 2005 to cut malaria deaths by scaling up proven interventions in 15 target countries in Africa, where malaria exacts its worst toll. Now a key component of the U.S. Global Health Initiative, PMI is expanding to new countries and plans to reach approximately 450 million people, or about 70 percent of the at-risk populations of sub-Saharan Africa, by 2015. Its goals are ambitious: To cut malaria illnesses and deaths by 70% in the 15 original countries, and by 50% in new target countries.

PMI is led by the U.S. Global Malaria Coordinator and implemented jointly by the U.S. Agency for International Development and CDC. PMI is one part of CDC's global malaria portfolio, which spans policy development, program guidance and support, scientific research, and monitoring and evaluating progress toward global malaria goals.



As part of a PMI operational research study led by CDC, health workers test children with fever for malaria in a busy clinic in Luanda, the capital of Angola.

CDC's Contributions to PMI

Scientific leadership. For more than 60 years, CDC has provided scientific leadership in public health efforts to fight malaria, increasing global understanding and capacity to prevent death and illness from malaria, especially among those most vulnerable – pregnant women and children. CDC has also helped develop and evaluate four key global malaria interventions supported by PMI:

- Long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (ITNs)
- Artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) to treat malaria cases
- Intermittent preventive treatment for pregnant women (IPTp)
- Indoor residual house spraying (IRS)

NMCP collaboration. With PMI, CDC continues its long history of collaboration with National Malaria Control Programs to help build their technical leadership and capacity to implement effective prevention and control, particularly in the following areas:

- Design and implementation of monitoring & evaluation
- Surveillance
- Operational research
- Case management (including diagnostics)
- Entomology/vector control
- Laboratory support



An example of a next-generation malaria surveillance system is in Zanzibar, part of the United Republic of Tanzania. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, CDC, through PMI, has embarked on a new public-private partnership with a local telecommunications provider to develop a real-time surveillance system that provides weekly reports of confirmed malaria by cell phone. If an unusual increase in malaria cases is detected, a rapid response is initiated. As malaria prevalence is reduced, early warning systems will be needed more and more.

PMI's Results and Evidence of Impact

Since 2006, there has been a massive scale-up of interventions. For example, in FY 2011 alone, PMI procured more than 25 million long-lasting ITNs, 38 million ACT treatments, and protected more than 28 million residents by spraying their houses with residual insecticides. PMI also trained more than 34,000 health workers in malaria diagnosis and more than 42,000 people in treatment of malaria with ACTs. PMI supported strengthening pharmaceutical management, laboratory diagnosis, vector control, and monitoring and evaluation.

Of the original 15 PMI countries, 11 have results from at least two nationwide household surveys that measured mortality in children under five years of age – a baseline survey and a follow-up survey three or more years after PMI support began. All paired surveys showed decreases in all-cause under-five mortality rates—from 16 percent in Malawi to 50 percent in Rwanda. Although malaria-related deaths cannot be directly measured in these surveys, evidence is growing that the scale-up of malaria prevention and treatment measures across sub-Saharan Africa have a major role in these unprecedented reductions in childhood mortality.

CDC leads PMI's monitoring and evaluation efforts, and PMI, along with the Government of Tanzania, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, and the Ifakara Health Institute, examined more closely the changes in all-cause mortality in mainland Tanzania. Between 1999 and 2010, a period of massive ITN scale-up (and use) and adoption of the highly effective ACTs, under-five mortality in Tanzania fell by 45 percent from 148 to 81 deaths per 1000 live births. This impact evaluation provided strong evidence that malaria interventions in Tanzania played a major role in mortality reduction among children under five years of age.

CDC's Congressional Mandate in Support of PMI

CDC is charged by U.S. Congress (through the Lantos-Hyde Act, 2008) to take a leading role in strategic information (monitoring and evaluation, surveillance, operations research)—advising the U.S. Malaria Coordinator on priorities for these activities and being a key implementer. To ensure that limited resources are being used wisely, CDC helps countries and the U.S. Government target appropriate malaria prevention efforts and understand the impact of PMI activities and interventions.

PMI At Work in Target Countries

PMI efforts in each country are coordinated by two PMI resident advisors (one CDC advisor and one USAID advisor), who are supported by country teams at headquarters (CDC/Atlanta and USAID/Washington). These teams work in partnership with host country governments to support the implementation of the national malaria control programs' plans. The PMI teams develop annual Malaria Operational Plans; participate in national malaria partner coordination mechanisms; and design, implement, monitor, and evaluate program activities.

Partnership Is Key

PMI works in partnership with host country governments in Africa and builds on existing national programs. CDC, USAID, and other U.S. Government agencies work with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria; the World Health Organization; the World Bank; Roll Back Malaria; UNICEF; and other organizations in supporting host countries' malaria control efforts. PMI also works with nongovernmental organizations, including faith-based and community groups, academia, and the private sector. Together we are making a difference.

For more information on PMI, see www.pmi.gov. For more information on CDC's malaria program, see www.cdc.gov/malaria