MAKING MALARIA CARE MORE ACCESSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE

Malaria remains a fact of life for billions of people around the world and is a leading cause of illness and death across sub-Saharan Africa. The disease is most entrenched in the poorest countries in the developing world where it traps families in a vicious cycle of disease and poverty. But the good news is that malaria is preventable by using effective vector control (which includes the use of insecticide-treated bed nets) and drug-based prevention for vulnerable groups, and is completely treatable with safe and reliable drugs.

Despite a concerted global effort that helped reduce malaria deaths by an estimated 62% from 2000 to 2015, malaria still kills far too many people—with more than 216 million cases and 445,000 deaths estimated in 2016, most of these in children under five. The remarkable gains achieved in the fight against malaria remain fragile without a rapid and substantial improvement in malaria service delivery. We need to make it easier for those most at risk to protect themselves and their families from illness and death caused by malaria. The U.S. President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI) Impact Malaria Project is working with PMI-supported countries and partners to help make this possible on a large scale.

1 Roll Back Malaria Factsheet on Malaria and the Sustainable Development Goals: Malaria and Education (September 2015).
BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO IMPROVE MALARIA SERVICE DELIVERY

Malaria disproportionately affects the rural poor who routinely end up walking for miles to access treatment, which is often unavailable. This barrier to care reflects an unacceptable reality: that quality malaria case management and malaria services for pregnant women are two of the poorest performing indicators in the fight against malaria. Challenges such as slow or ineffective uptake of new global guidance, supply chain management weaknesses, and poor case recording are greatly hindering improvements in malaria service delivery.

As PMI’s flagship global service delivery project, PMI Impact Malaria is working with national malaria control programs to help tackle these challenges by:

- **Closing the gaps in malaria service delivery** to get the right medicine, with the correct diagnosis, to patients in need, in the timeliest manner.
- **Unlocking the potential of key drug-based approaches**, by helping countries to introduce, implement, and scale-up proven innovations to move countries forward in their elimination efforts, according to each country’s unique malaria situation.
- **Strengthening malaria health systems and the use of data for decision-making** to link operational research and country-led dialogue with global technical leadership for the means of accelerating service delivery improvements and advancing key learnings.

FOSTERING TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE AND GLOBAL THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

In support of PMI’s goal to reduce malaria mortality and morbidity, PMI Impact Malaria is working with PMI focus countries and partners to make malaria diagnosis and drug-based prevention and treatment more accessible and effective for those most at risk, particularly young children and pregnant women. To this end, the PMI Impact Malaria team is providing implementation support and technical assistance in health facility and community settings in up to 24 countries in Africa and three in Asia, and is committed to delivering on four core principles across all activities:

1) **Deliver at scale**, addressing entrenched challenges and drawing on team members’ experience and thought leadership to scale proven interventions, overcome bottlenecks, and introduce innovations.

2) **Generate and share evidence to improve performance management**, by supporting solutions that rapidly deploy data “from field to fingertips” to empower teams and bring decision-makers closer to actionable evidence that can inform policy, practice, and funding.

3) **Build capacity for high quality malaria service delivery**, through rigorous in-country capacity building and country-to-country and global technical assistance from recognized malaria experts. PMI Impact Malaria is leveraging both in-house expertise and the extensive professional networks of its team members.

4) **Reinvigorate global technical leadership**, harnessing unparalleled technical expertise and leadership across all major global malaria technical working groups and longstanding relationships with national malaria control programs. PMI Impact Malaria is bolstering the linkage of global dialogue with country systems to improve malaria service delivery and accelerate the translation of country learning into international practice.

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**PMI IMPACT MALARIA FAST FACTS**

**Overview:** Five-year PMI contract (Feb 2018-2023) with a total estimated ceiling of about $163 million

**Core Team:** Prime contractor is PSI; Subcontractors are Jhpiego, Medical Care Development International (MCDI), Malaria Elimination Initiative (MEI) at UCSF, and several smaller resource partners

**Current Focus Countries:** Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Zambia

**Technical Focus Areas:** Diagnosis and Treatment, Malaria in Pregnancy, and Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention

**Cross-Cutting Focus Areas:** Behavior Change Communication, Health Systems Strengthening, Monitoring and Evaluation, Operational Research, and Elimination

**PMI Context:** For more information about how and where PMI works, visit www.pmi.gov

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