

Malaria—Protecting Mothers and Their Families



Pregnant woman receiving IPTp in Nigeria.

Malaria, an infectious disease transmitted by mosquitoes, is one of the most serious public health problems globally. **Yet malaria is 100% preventable and treatable.** Approximately 40% of the world's population, across 109 countries, is at risk of getting malaria. Every year, there are 247 million cases of malaria worldwide and nearly 800,000 deaths; 90% of these cases occur in Africa.¹

Pregnant women and their newborn children are particularly vulnerable to the disease. Eighty-five percent of all deaths from malaria are among children under five; every 45 seconds a child dies from malaria.² Each year, approximately 50 million women living in malaria-endemic countries throughout the world become pregnant and are at risk of getting malaria. In Africa, around 10,000 of these women and up to 200,000 infants die as a result of malaria infection during pregnancy.³

Jhpiego's Commitment

Jhpiego stands as a committed partner of the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partnership to fight malaria worldwide and achieve Millennium Development Goal 6—reduce malaria morbidity and mortality by half. For over a decade, Jhpiego has led and supported efforts to tackle malaria, working at global, regional and country levels. Jhpiego is a recognized leader in the prevention and control of malaria in pregnancy (MIP) and supports efforts worldwide to ensure that pregnant women and their unborn babies are safe from the harmful impact of malaria. Jhpiego also leads and supports efforts in multiple countries to ensure that young children and adults, in addition to pregnant women, are receiving prevention and treatment options for malaria.

Jhpiego's Approach

Malaria prevention and control is a maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) issue considering the impact of malaria on mothers and children. Jhpiego's approach has been to address malaria prevention and control comprehensively across the health "continuum of care," from the community to health facility to national level on an MNCH platform of care. Jhpiego recognizes that achieving goals for malaria at the global and country levels, including universal coverage and elimination of the disease, requires addressing the health system holistically.

Jhpiego's approach is inherently woman-focused—addressing the needs of pregnant women and young children; building malaria prevention and control services into the **MNCH platform** of care across the health continuum; **fostering partnerships** between reproductive health and malaria control as well as with HIV/AIDS; and focusing on **building country-level capacity and ownership** for "sustained gains" in malaria programming.

¹ Roll Back Malaria. 2011. *What is Malaria?* Fact Sheet. Located at: http://www.rbm.who.int/cmc_upload/0/000/015/372/RBMInfosheet_1.htm

² World Health Organization. 2011. *Malaria Fact Sheet*. Located at: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs094/en/>

³ Jhpiego. 2008. *Scaling up Malaria in Pregnancy Programs: What it Takes!* Citing World Health Organization (WHO). 2008. *Malaria in Pregnancy: Pregnant Women and Infants*.



ITNs provided during ANC in Mozambique.

There are eight building blocks to **Jhpiego's approach—to strengthen health systems, build capacity and sustain results**—across the continuum of care that are applied flexibly to meet the needs and situation of each country. These include supporting national governments to:

- Promote program *integration* by fostering partnerships among national reproductive health and malaria control programs as well as national HIV/AIDS programs
- Revise and disseminate malaria *policies*, standards and guidelines
- Ensure availability of malaria *commodities*
- Improve services through *quality assurance*
- *Build capacity* through strengthening pre-service education and in-service training, including development of training materials
- Increase *community awareness and involvement* (e.g., community-directed interventions [CDIs])
- Establish *monitoring and evaluation* systems
- Secure program *financing*

Jhpiego's Work

Global Level: Through participation in strategic partnerships, Jhpiego has extended its ability to make an impact on malaria globally. Jhpiego co-chairs and participates as a technical representative in the RBM MIP Working Group. Through this collaboration, Jhpiego has contributed to efforts that have reprioritized MIP as a core component of MNCH programming for both high and low malaria transmission settings. These efforts include support for the development of technical guidance for applications to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, focusing on MIP as a component of MNCH; a review of MIP in low transmission settings; and dissemination of best practices and lessons learned in MIP programming. Jhpiego is a technical representative in the RBM Harmonization Working Group, through which it has contributed to raising awareness among stakeholders at the global, regional and country levels and disseminating best practices in malaria prevention and control.

Regional Level: Jhpiego has supported program reviews in 18 countries, focusing on malaria comprehensively and MIP. In the “Southern African Development Community,” this work led to the documentation and review of malaria programming in each of the 15 member states and the development of regional, harmonized standards for care in malaria programming. In Malawi, Senegal and Zambia, these efforts resulted in the documentation of MIP programming, specifically best practices and lessons learned; bottlenecks addressed; and recommendations for moving MIP programming forward. Jhpiego also works closely with the RBM regional networks, including the East and West African Regional Networks (EARN and WARN), to support malaria prevention and control efforts in member countries. In addition, Jhpiego is expanding these reviews to malaria-affected countries in Asia and the Near East region.

Country Level: Jhpiego is currently supporting malaria prevention and control programs in 14 countries—Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ghana,

Guinea, India, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda and Tanzania—applying its core approach to strengthen human capacity and health services across the continuum of care and on a platform of MNCH services. Highlights from some of these country efforts, as of 2011, are described below.

Burkina Faso: Jhpiego is working nationally in Burkina Faso with support from the President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI). Jhpiego is leading an effort through the Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP), funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), to support the National Malaria Control Program in upgrading health workers’ skills in malaria diagnosis, case management, promotion of insecticide-treated bed nets (ITNs), monitoring and evaluation, and MIP control through in-service training, improved supervision, communication messaging and pre-service education. This program is entering its third year and will continue to provide technical support to the Burkinabè Ministry of Health (MOH) to expand and accelerate efforts that will contribute to: 1) upgraded capacity of health providers and supervisors; 2) improved quality of care; and 3) strengthened pre-service education.



Client receiving rapid diagnostic test for malaria in Burkina Faso.

Ghana: Jhpiego’s technical support in Ghana shows how the private sector can contribute to strengthening malaria prevention and control through improved primary health care services. Tullow Oil and the other partners of the Jubilee Ventures Consortium have engaged Jhpiego to work in 61 communities of the Western Region to strengthen malaria services delivered under Ghana’s Community Health Planning and Services. Jhpiego will support the development of health standards in care to strengthen quality of services—specifically, to improve diagnostics, treatment and prevention messaging as well as to increase community engagement. In partnership with PMI, Jhpiego is also providing technical support to help Ghana strengthen pre-service education at both nursing and midwifery schools to ensure graduates have the right knowledge and skills to correctly support malaria prevention and control based on the country’s national guidelines.

India: Jhpiego has been working with the Government of India to improve MNCH services. Recognizing the high burden of malaria in India, especially in the North Eastern States, Jhpiego wanted to gain a better understanding of the malaria situation in the country, especially in Jharkhand State, where malaria is endemic and Jhpiego is currently supporting MNCH services. Currently, Jhpiego is conducting a malaria review of India’s successes in malaria prevention and control and existing challenges, including how these challenges are being addressed. It is expected that this review will inform ways to accelerate malaria prevention and control in India on an MNCH platform. The review includes a desk review and interviews with key stakeholders including government officials, MOH staff, private sector representatives, health providers, donors and employees from implementing NGOs.

Mozambique: Beginning in 2011, with funding from USAID and PMI, Jhpiego, through MCHIP, began efforts to scale up Mozambique’s Model Maternity Initiative, which included the development and rollout of the Integrated Services Packages for MNCH and sexual and reproductive health/family planning, which includes new malaria case management protocols. Jhpiego will advocate for and encourage approaches that result in integration of

malaria prevention and control with the MNCH platform. Key components to Jhpiego's support include: strengthening malaria prevention and treatment through antenatal care (ANC) services; improving quality of services through application of "standards of care" during routine supervision; supporting in-service training and pre-service education in diagnosis and treatment based on national malaria treatment norms; developing an integrated package for child health, including malaria prevention and case management; and assisting the MOH to update its approach to case management of uncomplicated malaria through community-based, integrated management of childhood illness.

Nigeria: In an effort to increase intermittent preventive treatment (IPTp) and ITN use among pregnant women, Jhpiego introduced an MIP intervention in Akwa Ibom State, targeting six local government areas (LGAs). Three LGAs were selected for a complementary CDI. Based on needs identified through a baseline assessment, all six LGAs received training for providers in focused ANC services and quality improvement, as well as supervision support. The three LGAs selected for the CDI intervention received the following additional support: volunteer, community-directed distributors were appointed by communities and were trained to deliver ITNs and IPTp drugs, as well as basic counseling services to pregnant women. The results of the CDI program were highest for IPTp adherence, increasing the fraction of pregnant women taking at least two doses of sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine during pregnancy by 35.3 percentage points relative to the control group.

Malaria Materials and Resources

Jhpiego has developed critical, Web-based materials and resources for country adaptation and use to support effective and accelerated malaria programming, including:

Malaria in Pregnancy Resource Package: The updated Malaria Resource Package is a compilation of tools and resources for countries to adapt to their context as they work toward the prevention and control of MIP.

Prevention and Control of Malaria in Pregnancy in the Africa Region: A Program Implementation Guide: This guide details a step-by-step process for implementing programs for MIP, targeting policymakers, program managers and health care providers. The Web site also features three case studies of country assessments using the implementation guide as a framework for analysis of program successes and challenges.

Malaria Case Management Orientation Package for Service Providers: This package is targeted to the front-line provider with information from Kenya's national malaria policy guidelines about treatment of malaria using artemisinin-based combination therapies.

Community-Directed Interventions/Community Case Management: A new set of training/learning materials has been assembled based on Jhpiego's experience in Nigeria delivering basic malaria interventions through community participation.

For more information on Jhpiego's malaria programs and resources, visit:
<http://www.jhpiego.org/en/content/malaria-prevention-and-treatment>