

Malaria—Protecting Mothers and Their Families



Pregnant woman receiving intermittent preventive treatment (IPTp) in Nigeria.

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.

Malaria, an infectious disease transmitted by mosquitoes, is one of the most serious public health problems globally. 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 **Yet malaria is 100% preventable and treatable.**

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 Preventing malaria in pregnancy (MIP) significantly reduces both maternal and neonatal mortality.^{4,5}

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 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.

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:

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*.

⁴ Menéndez C, Bardají A, Sigauque B, Sanz S, Aponte JJ, et al. 2010. *Malaria Prevention with IPTp during Pregnancy Reduces Neonatal Mortality*. PLoS ONE 5(2): e9438. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0009438

⁵ Eisele TP, Larsen DA, Anglewicz PA, Keating J, Yukich J, Bennett A, Hutchinson P, Steketee RW. 2012. Malaria prevention in pregnancy, birthweight, and neonatal mortality: a meta-analysis of 32 national cross-sectional datasets in Africa. *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* 18 September 2012 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099\(12\)70222-0](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(12)70222-0)



Rapid diagnostic test for malaria in Burkina Faso.

- **Advocate** for and support development and dissemination of evidence based *policies*
- Promote program **integration and coordination** by fostering partnerships among national Reproductive Health and Malaria Control Programs as well as national HIV/AIDS programs
- **Build capacity** through strengthening pre-service education and in-service training including development of training materials
- Improve services through **quality assurance** including support supervision
- Establish **monitoring and evaluation** systems
- Increase **community engagement**
- Help to ensure availability of malaria **commodities**
- 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, contributing to efforts that have reprioritized MIP as a core component of MNCH programming for both high and low malaria transmission settings. These efforts include 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, raising awareness among stakeholders at the global, regional and country levels and disseminating best practices in malaria prevention and control. Through participation in the RBM Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group, Jhpiego contributes to providing technical guidance on monitoring and evaluation to national malaria programs.

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 15 member states and the development of regional, harmonized malaria standards of care. In Malawi, Senegal and Zambia, Jhpiego documented best practices, lessons learned and recommendations for advancing MIP programming, which led to country action based on the findings. The same MIP program review framework has been applied through the RBM MIP Working Group and the World Health Organization/Regional Office for Africa to assist other countries with assessing progress of their MIP programs. 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 program reviews to malaria-affected countries in Asia and the Near East region.

Country Level: Jhpiego is currently supporting malaria prevention and control programs in 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia, providing quality technical assistance across the health system elements outlined above. These efforts are helping countries achieve improved outcomes for malaria prevention and control. For more information on our country programs, visit <http://www.jhpiego.org/en/content/malaria-prevention-and-treatment>.

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

Available at:
<http://www.jhpiego.org/en/content/malaria-resources>