



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



U.S. President's Malaria Initiative

COMBATING MALARIA

There are at least six million cases of malaria per year in Malawi. The disease is endemic in 95 percent of the country, with 98 percent of infections due to *Plasmodium falciparum*, the most severe form of the parasite. As a result, malaria is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in children under five in Malawi, and accounts for 25 percent of all outpatient visits and 37 percent of all hospital admissions among children under five. U.S. interventions to combat Malaria have helped reduced child mortality in Malawi by 48 percent.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Since 2006, the U.S. Government, through the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), has provided over \$246 million to combat malaria in Malawi, \$22 million in 2017. With U.S. support, the Malawian Ministry of Health's National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) has scaled up the distribution of artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs), intermittent preventive treatment for pregnant women (IPTp) using sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP), and insecticide-treated nets (ITNs). PMI works with the Malawian NMCP to procure and distribute Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT) and provide critical training to health workers on Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy, malaria diagnosis, and ITN use.

IMPACT

- Since PMI began in Malawi, child mortality has decreased by 48 percent – substantially due to malaria interventions. With PMI support, prevalence among children under five dropped from 33 percent in 2014 to 24 percent in 2017.

In FY 2017, the Presidential Malaria Initiative:

- Procured 802,400 and distributed 689,700 long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets for pregnant women and children.
- Distributed over 6 million lifesaving malaria treatments.
- Procured 2 million SP treatments, which prevents malaria during pregnancy.
- Procured 4.1 million and distributed 6.5 million RDT kits (including some purchased by other partners) to properly diagnose malaria.
- Trained 420 health workers to improve malaria case management in communities and facilities.
- Provided preventive services to nearly 14,000 pregnant women through antenatal care.
- Mentored and provided supportive supervision to health care workers nationwide.
- Supported behavior change communication activities to improve care-seeking behaviors for malaria prevention and treatment.