

U.S. President's Malaria Initiative in Mali



A health campaign in Kayes region helped distribute insecticide-treated bed nets to local community members.

Photo: Suyene Garcia, USAID/Mali

The President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) is led by USAID and implemented with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It was launched in 2005 as a billion dollar commitment to reduce the burden of malaria in Africa. The goal is to reach 450 million people and to remove malaria as a major public health problem.

Mali is one of 19 focus countries benefiting from PMI. Malaria is the primary cause of morbidity and mortality in Mali, particularly among children under the age of five and pregnant women. Forty-two percent of all reported deaths are attributed to malaria and 72 percent of Malaria fatal cases are attributed to children under 5 years of age.

In line with Mali's national malaria control strategy, PMI supports the following four major interventions to prevent

and treat malaria: 1) Sleeping under insecticide-treated mosquito nets, 2) Indoor residual spraying, 3) Intermittent preventive treatment for pregnant women and 4) Diagnosis and treatment.

Since 2008, PMI has distributed over five million insecticide-treated mosquito nets in Mali. PMI will continue to help strengthen net distribution systems at the district and community levels and support information and education activities at the national and community levels. In 2012, PMI has supported indoor residual spraying campaigns in the districts of Bla and Koulikoro and Barouelli during the rainy season from mid-July through September protecting more than 750,000 people.

PMI supports engaging community and religious leaders in promoting intermittent preventative treatment for pregnant women as a highly effective means of reducing the serious consequences of malaria in both pregnant women and their unborn child. Since 2008, PMI has distributed 1.5 million tablets for the prevention of Malaria during pregnancy.

Diagnosis and treatment of malaria depends on rapid diagnostic tests and prompt treatment with an effective drug. In four years, PMI has procured and distributed 1.6 million rapid diagnostic tests in combination with 2.4 million courses of therapy treatment that were provided to health facilities and community health workers.

To reach these goals, PMI works with Mali's national malaria control programs and coordinates its activities with national and international partners, including the Roll Back Malaria Partnership; The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the World Health Organization; the World Bank; and numerous nongovernmental organizations, including faith-based and community groups; and the private sector.