

USAID/Zimbabwe Presidential Malaria Initiative

Malaria is the third leading cause of illness and mortality in Zimbabwe. Forty-five of the country's 62 districts are malarial, with 33 categorized as high burden malaria areas. The 2002 malaria stratification estimates that about half the population is living in high-risk areas. Malaria incidence in Zimbabwe appears to be decreasing nationally, while remaining a major challenge in certain districts. According to an external program review done in 2011, malaria incidence decreased from 1.8 million cases in 2006 to about 600,000 in 2010. Yet it still accounts for 30 percent of all outpatient cases and 12 percent of hospital admissions. The National Malaria Control Program estimates that 50 percent of the Zimbabwe population is at risk.

The worldwide goal of the Presidential Malaria Initiative (PMI) program is to reduce malaria deaths by half in 15 target countries in Africa by reaching 85 percent of the most vulnerable groups (children under five years of age and pregnant women). USAID leads this program in Zimbabwe and works closely with the U.S. Center for Disease Control. Activities support the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare's National Malaria Control Program.

The PMI program in Zimbabwe began in 2011. Prior to this, USAID provided limited funds for malaria drugs (treatment and prophylaxis) and insecticide spraying. The Global Fund was the primary donor 2008-2010, with total funding for this period amounting to nearly \$38 million.

The primary malaria zones in Zimbabwe are in the northern and eastern areas bordering Mozambique and Zambia. However, of the 62 total districts in Zimbabwe, 45 are considered malarious.

The only other donor who is currently involved in malaria activities is the Global Fund, which has awarded Zimbabwe a grant through 2014 for prevention and control activities which are similar to PMI's: mosquito nets, malaria drugs, malaria testing kits, and training health care workers. The National Malaria Control Program coordinates and monitors the assistance activities of PMI and the Global Fund to insure that the programs are complimentary and do not duplicate efforts.

The Presidential Malaria Initiative support for malaria activities in Zimbabwe spans both prevention and treatment and includes: distributing insecticide-treated nets to achieve universal coverage; indoor insecticide spraying; supplying anti-malarial drugs to pregnant women; training health workers in proper malaria case management; supporting malaria graduate-level training for public health students; providing malaria test kits and therapy drugs; strengthening outreach for prevention and treatment at the community level; and improving monitoring and evaluation processes.