

PROVIDING SUPPORT TO MALARIA CONTROL PROGRAMS

! GLOBAL MALARIA SITUATION

According to the latest WHO estimates¹, there were about 219 million cases of malaria worldwide in 2010 and an estimated 660,000 deaths. Africa is the most affected continent with about 90 percent of all malaria deaths. Between 2000 and 2010, malaria mortality rates fell by 26 percent around the world. In the WHO African Region, the decrease was 33 percent. During this period, an estimated 1.1 million malaria deaths were averted globally, primarily as a result of a scale-up of interventions.

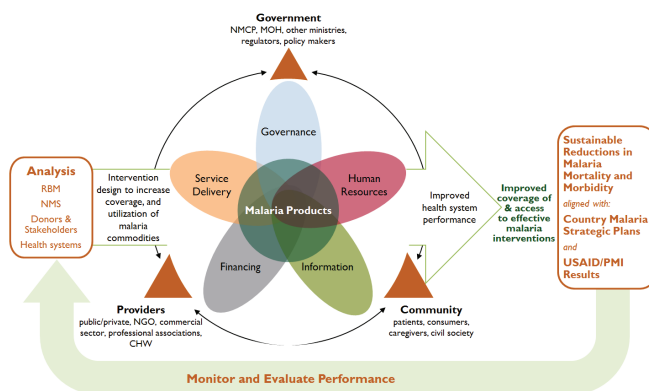
However, much remains to be done. Although 50 countries are on track to reduce their malaria case incidence rates by 75 percent, in line with the World Health Assembly and Roll Back Malaria (RBM) targets for 2015, these countries only account for 3 percent of the total estimated malaria cases. Furthermore, the gains made over the past decade are threatened by *P. falciparum*'s resistance to artemisinins, which has been detected in South East Asia, and mosquitos' resistance to at least one insecticide used for malaria prevention. Scale-up of artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) for the treatment of uncomplicated malaria and the use of injectable artemisinin derivatives for the management of severe malaria continue to fall short of targets.

↻ SIAPS' TECHNICAL APPROACH

Working closely with the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), the Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS) Program aims to ensure the availability of quality products and effective services to achieve desired health outcomes in support of PMI objectives. Toward this end, SIAPS endeavors to improve pharmaceutical governance and build national-level capacity to manage malaria products, improve the quality of information systems, strengthen financing strategies, and improve the quality of pharmaceutical services provided to malaria patients. The SIAPS technical approach emphasizes governance, human resources, information and metrics, financing, and service delivery, thereby capacitating local governments and organizations and increasing country ownership.

At the country level, SIAPS collaborates with national malaria control programs (NMCPs) and Central Medical Stores to strengthen pharmaceutical management to prevent malaria and improve case management, specifically in Angola, Benin, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, and South Sudan, as well as providing regional support in Latin America.

SIAPS System Strengthening Approach to Malaria



¹WHO: World Malaria Report 2012. Geneva: World Health Organization [http://www.who.int/malaria/world_malaria_report_2012/en/]



INTERVENTIONS TO IMPROVE MALARIA TREATMENT

Policies, Guidelines, and Regulations

- Participating in various RBM working groups and technical advisory groups
- Presenting at various global and regional conferences, including the American Society for Tropical Medicine & Hygiene
- Updating national essential medicines lists with new recommendations for malaria medicines for DRC, Ethiopia, Guinea, and Mali
- Developing severe malaria guidelines to include new recommendations for South Sudan and Mali
- Strengthening the National Drug Regulator Authority (NDRA) in South Sudan
- Developing joint, integrated annual work plans and operational plans with NMCPs in Burundi and DRC

Case Management

- Supporting integrated community case management for malaria in Burundi and Benin
- Implementing continuous quality improvement strategies for malaria case management at the facility level in Burundi

Quality Control and Pharmacovigilance

- Implementing pharmacovigilance systems to monitor adverse drug reactions in Ethiopia and DRC
- Introduced Minilab in South Sudan; identified illegally imported antimalarials from Uganda (official response from Ministry of Health was to remove products)

Capacity Building and Supportive Supervision

- Training in quantification of antimalarial commodities in Burundi, Uganda, and Mali

Supply Chain Management

- Building capacity by disseminating the Manual for *Quantification of Malaria Commodities: Rapid Diagnostic Tests and Artemisinin-Based Combination Therapy for First-Line Treatment of Plasmodium Falciparum Malaria*, written by SIAPS in conjunction with its many partners
- Preventing stock outs; in Burundi, SIAPS supported the shortening of the requisition process and improved the timeliness, completeness, and accuracy of data to inform the supply chain
- Conducting monthly pipeline analyses in Burundi and DRC
- Distributing ACTs on an emergency basis in DRC and Guinea
- Quantifying of ACTs, rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs), and severe malaria medicines in Guinea, South Sudan, and Burundi
- Developing SOPs for management of antimalarials in Mali, Honduras, Colombia, Peru, and Burundi
- Conducting operational research to determine the causes of stock outs
- Conducting gap analyses for malaria commodities
- Performing supportive supervision in DRC, Ethiopia, Burundi, Columbia, Bolivia, and Brazil
- Supporting the establishment of an intra-agency coordination committee for logistics to manage stocks including antimalarials in Angola
- Developing MIS in Burundi

Private Sector Interventions

- Performing operational research to determine the feasibility of implementing ACTs and RDTs through the private sector in Liberia
- Accrediting retail outlets to provide quality antimalarials in Liberia