

# Eliminating the threat of malaria

Malaria is a devastating mosquito-borne disease that sickens millions of people and kills hundreds of thousands each year. The majority of people affected by malaria are young children in sub-Saharan Africa, but pregnant women, the elderly and the chronically ill all are also particularly vulnerable.

In the last several years, remarkable progress has been made in fighting this killer disease. Advancements in prevention and treatment have resulted in marked reductions in illness and death. Now it is time to strive for a more ambitious target—to end malaria illness and deaths in Africa altogether. Eliminating malaria is achievable using existing tools and a focused strategy, and the Malaria Control and Evaluation Partnership in Africa (MACEPA), a program at PATH, is charting the way forward for the global community.

## An effective approach to malaria control

MACEPA is a leader in the fight against malaria, investing directly in country-level action, refining existing tools and approaches and developing new ones, and providing the data for decision-making that empowers national governments to pursue elimination. In 2005, MACEPA began partnering with national governments and ministries of health in sub-Saharan Africa to develop national strategies and action plans to control malaria. This initial effort focused on rapid, nationwide delivery of lifesaving tools like insecticide-treated bednets, indoor spraying of insecticides (IRS), new diagnostics, and effective medicines, while documenting progress and impact. The results have been dramatic—

A young boy gets tested for malaria during a national malaria indicator survey activity.



*MACEPA is partnering with the global community to eliminate malaria in Africa.*

## Where MACEPA works



countries using this approach have experienced significant decreases in malaria illnesses and deaths in just two to three years. Since 2000, rates of childhood death have dropped by 20% in countries that have adopted aggressive malaria control. More than an estimated 300,000 children were saved from dying from malaria in 2010 alone.

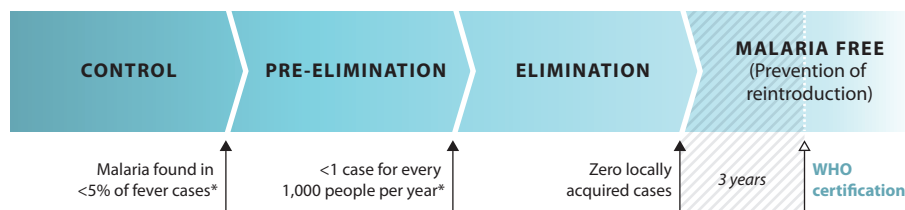
### Strengthening malaria control programs

MACEPA develops and documents approaches for reducing malaria illness and death, with the long-term goal of elimination. Program approaches and tools are developed based on national experiences and then shared with country partners through trainings, meetings, and other shared learning platforms, ensuring broad uptake across the region. MACEPA is a global resource to national governments and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership.

### Stepping up control, pushing toward elimination

Countries that have achieved high impact on the malaria burden have the potential to eliminate malaria altogether. This is exciting new territory for Africa, and MACEPA is developing an evidence-based framework to guide countries through a comprehensive set of program interventions to elimination. Efforts must aim to further drive down parasite infection through broad use of diagnostics and treatment, maintenance of high levels of coverage with bednets and IRS, and the use of advanced surveillance methods to track and treat the remaining cases of the disease.

The malaria control continuum.



\*Measures are indicative only.

### Data for decision-making

A strong evidence base is critical for effective program planning and implementation, and MACEPA is working to build systems and processes to improve access to and quality and consistency of data for decision-making. Countries with strong data systems in place can better track malaria infections and prioritize program action, while leveraging information about coverage gaps and impact to inform policymaking and secure continued funding.

### Advocating to end deaths due to malaria

Working towards elimination requires continued political commitment, sustained and predictable financing, and a higher level of local ownership than ever before. We must continue to build on investments in malaria control; failure to do so will result in a rapid reversal of progress and immediate increases in illness and death. MACEPA is forging the evidence needed to inform global guidelines on standards of practice and mobilize the donor and partner community to ensure long-term support for malaria control and elimination efforts. MACEPA advocates for evidence-based planning and policy development at all levels, and supports countries to embark on the pathway to elimination.



PATH

### Success story

In just a few years, Zambia cut the number of children infected with malaria in half. As malaria parasite infection steadily decreases and becomes more localized in Zambia, the country's National Malaria Control Centre has developed a rapid reporting system to enable faster better to real-time data on malaria burden. Health care workers now use mobile phones to report weekly on malaria transmission patterns, allowing the Government of Zambia to inform decision-making and respond quickly to potential resurgences in the disease.

**MACEPA**  **PATH**  
Malaria Control and Evaluation Partnership in Africa

macepa@path.org  
www.path.org/macepa