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MALARIA CONTROL AND EVALUATION PARTNERSHIP IN AFRICA

Scaling up for impact: a model for malaria control

The Malaria Control and Evaluation Partnership in Africa (MACEPA), a program at PATH, is infusing new commitment and leadership into the control of malaria, a disease that takes the life of an African child every 30 seconds but is largely preventable. MACEPA advocates for African nations to scale up the use of proven interventions—including insecticide-treated bednets; application of insecticides in homes; preventive treatment for pregnant women; and effective treatment of infected persons, especially for young children and pregnant women—that will greatly improve health in Africa.

The MACEPA partnership

MACEPA, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, works with the Government of Zambia, the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) partnership, and many regional and global partners to scale up malaria control in Zambia. MACEPA is expanding its work in sub-Saharan Africa, providing technical assistance and partnering with governments in as many as five eastern and southern African nations to rapidly scale-up malaria prevention and control, constituting a network called the MACEPA Learning Community.

MACEPA's engagement with multiple countries will serve as a regional platform for shared learning and provide critical technical resources for planning, program management, monitoring and evaluation, and national advocacy. The tools and methods developed in the context of Zambia's ambitious effort are the groundwork that will enable countries to optimally apply their resources for malaria control and to collaborate to build programming approaches tailored for their national circumstances.

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

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About MACEPA

MACEPA works to demonstrate that scaling up malaria prevention and control under national leadership saves lives, reduces illness, and increases economic opportunity. MACEPA works with African governments to develop their success stories—the most powerful case for national and global commitment to malaria control.

Through responsive partnerships with governments, MACEPA works to:

- Support governments to lead a rapid, coordinated scale-up effort in order to achieve and sustain high coverage of proven malaria interventions.
- Demonstrate the impact and benefits achievable through full implementation of malaria control interventions.
- Establish and advocate for a proven, flexible model for national malaria control.

In two years of partnership with the Government of Zambia, MACEPA has supported national leadership to become the standard-setter in malaria control in the region, and is now poised to help additional countries leverage that experience through the Learning Community.

This multi-year effort is focused on working with partners to support national ownership of malaria control programming and demonstrating the health and economic impact of this approach. MACEPA will support each national partnership to document and share information about the health and economic impact of scaling up the package of proven control strategies, constructing a platform for sustaining global commitment to malaria control and prevention.

MACEPA's goals are ambitious, and results will dramatically change the face of malaria in Africa. Zambia, with support from MACEPA, aims to reach 80 percent of its population with proven interventions and to cut malaria incidence by 75 percent within three years—goals that will significantly curtail the burden that malaria exacts on families, communities, and their economies.

Ultimately, each country in the Learning Community will add a new chapter, chronicling national success stories to fuel regional and global advocacy for malaria control. The collective impact will be measured in terms of lives saved, communities strengthened, and each country's capacity to secure resources necessary for sustained success.

Scaling up for impact

MACEPA is committed to the scale-up for impact approach, distinguished by the “three ones,” where partners commit to work from:

- One national plan.
- One coordination mechanism for implementation of the plan.
- One monitoring and evaluation system.

MACEPA's focus on rapidly scaling up proven interventions at the national level, achieving and documenting impact on mortality and morbidity rates, and demonstrating the benefits in social, economic, and human terms are what sets MACEPA's approach apart in terms of scope and ambition.



Measuring impact

Consolidating the evidence base, demonstrating that national scale-up of malaria programming is feasible, will be supported by donors and partners, and will have near-term health and economic impacts essential to building a case for scale-up of malaria control efforts. To ensure comparability of impact across Learning Community countries, MACEPA is developing a comprehensive performance monitoring and impact evaluation system in collaboration with Zambian and global partners. This vital coordination will make it possible to measure impact in a range of settings, thus enabling the development of national case studies that document the health and economic benefits of rapid scale-up in consistent, comparable terms for presentation on the world stage.

Equally important, MACEPA is supporting Zambia in strengthening staff capacities in terms of technical ability, data collection, management, and analysis. Performance feedback is central to these efforts, fostering a continuous cycle of planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating that informs program planning and effectiveness.

Documenting and sustaining success

Documentation of the scale-up process, currently underway in Zambia, is essential to helping countries transition from implementing disparate, localized efforts, to implementing a comprehensive, coordinated strategic plan. With MACEPA's support, Zambia is making history and, without chronicling how it is occurring, history can easily be forgotten.

MACEPA is documenting the process, challenges, and achievements of national scale-up by developing case studies examining specific aspects of scale-up, fact sheets summarizing research and activities, and personal narratives providing insights from stakeholders and beneficiaries. To foster sound decision-making and program progress, MACEPA will ensure that these materials are accessible, accurate, and appropriate for decision-makers' needs and disseminated to all the relevant stakeholders. As new countries are engaged, Zambia will serve as an enduring example of the meticulous and practical process of designing, implementing, and measuring progress in malaria control.

Case study in national scale-up: Zambia

In Zambia—home to 11 million people—malaria is the leading cause of death of children under five. Based on its demonstrated leadership and commitment to malaria control, Zambia has become the focus country for MACEPA.

The National Malaria Control Centre in Zambia's Ministry of Health has committed to a six-year, evidence-based strategic plan for malaria control. Developed with technical support from MACEPA and other partners, the plan targets delivering preventive interventions throughout the country and making effective drug treatment available to the sick. The goal is to achieve 80 percent coverage and to provide these interventions at minimal or no cost to the people in need.

MACEPA supports the Zambian government in strategically mobilizing the resources of public and private partners, and all partners are committed to implementing a single national plan. The result of the Zambian partnership is significant—in 18 months, Zambia has more than doubled its coverage with insecticide-treated bed nets, and is on target to meet its goals of 80 percent coverage by the end of 2007. A state-of-the-art system is in place that all partners are committed to using to measure the impact of interventions and assess future needs. Finally, additional financing and technical assistance partners are coming on board in support of the national plan—forming the heart of successful scale-up of malaria control and prevention. Zambia is setting the standard for the scale-up for impact approach and serving as the pacesetter for achieving results in Africa.



Partnering to support national leadership

In recent years, resources to support malaria control in Africa have increased substantially: the US President's Malaria Initiative; the World Bank's Global Strategy and Booster Program; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have infused substantial resources to support broad-scale malaria control in the Africa region. Increased resources, however, do not directly translate into improved results. Partner commitment—both global and local—to coordination in support of national leadership is essential. This historic moment of intensified global interest in malaria control will only result in sustained impact if governments first commit to the scale-up approach, and are then supported in that commitment.

The MACEPA partnership in Zambia—which includes PATH, the Government of Zambia, and the Zambia Roll Back Malaria Partnership—works in close collaboration with local and global organizations, including:

- Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Roll Back Malaria Partnership Secretariat
- United Nations Children's Fund
- US Agency for International Development
- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- World Bank
- World Health Organization (Headquarters and Regional Office for Africa)

For MACEPA, entering into a partnership involves negotiating with countries to identify gaps and determine how MACEPA can help to address them. Striving to support the accomplishments of other partners is a critical endeavor—no single partner can succeed alone, and near-term success is dependent on collaboration regardless of credit. As partners come to the table in support of Zambia's national malaria control plan, they are collectively setting the stage for regional and global cooperation that has the power to turn around the tragedy of malaria in Africa.

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