



# Malaria Control and Evaluation Partnership in Africa (MACEPA) Learning Community

## Overview

The Malaria Control and Evaluation Partnership in Africa (MACEPA) at PATH received a grant of \$29 million dollars from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to expand its work in sub-Saharan Africa. This project grant will support MACEPA to provide technical assistance and partner 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 Learning Community.

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



## Key Facts about MACEPA and the Learning Community

### What is the focus of MACEPA in Zambia?

MACEPA is working in close collaboration with the government of Zambia and its other Roll Back Malaria partners to rapidly scale up access to proven malaria control interventions known to work well to prevent and treat the disease (insecticide-treated mosquito nets, insecticidal spraying in houses where nets are not used, and medicines). MACEPA is providing intensive technical, logistical, and financial support to apply, evaluate, and document the impact of Zambia's ambitious national plan.

### What is the purpose of the Learning Community?

The Learning Community will engage other countries in the region to adapt lessons learned in Zambia, providing a forum for pioneering ideas, documenting and sharing challenges, and ultimately conveying national African success stories to countries, to the region, and to the world. MACEPA, through the Learning Community, will support countries as they contribute to the growing body of evidence surrounding the rapid scale-up of proven malaria control methods. The collective impact will be assessed in the context of lives saved, communities strengthened, and by

### For more information, please contact:

Carlos C. (Kent) Campbell MD MPH  
Program Director  
cccampbell@path.org

Meg DeRonghe  
Director of Advocacy  
and Communications  
mderonghe@path.org

PATH  
1455 NW Leary Way  
Seattle, WA 98107 USA  
Tel: 206.285.3500  
Fax: 206.285.6619  
www.path.org/macepa

African nations leading the demonstration of the feasibility and benefits of malaria control to secure resources for sustaining success.

### **How many countries will be in the Learning Community?**

While it is anticipated that five countries will be invited to become Learning Community members, it is possible that more or fewer will be involved, depending upon each country's resource requirements.

### **How and when will countries be selected?**

MACEPA is developing country selection criteria now; three countries will be selected in 2007 and two more can be selected in 2008. Countries will be selected in a way that will ensure that the Learning Community reflects a diverse range of country programming settings. MACEPA is committed to complementing the inputs of other partners and to support national ownership and capacity in planning and evaluating their national scale-up programs. This multi-country testing and adaptation of scale-up methodology in various country settings will contribute to the development of a flexible and relevant program scale-up model for the Africa region.

### **What will countries gain from Learning Community involvement?**

Learning Community countries will receive technical expertise from MACEPA; access to and assistance using tools and methods; and intensive assistance to governments focused on planning, implementing, and evaluating rapid scale-up strategies. Ultimately, Learning Community countries will have an established blueprint for achieving their ambitious goals and securing sustained impact and financial support. MACEPA will engage national programs and partnership specifically in the areas of common planning and monitoring and evaluation systems.

### **What benefits does the Learning Community offer to countries not selected?**

The Learning Community will generate collective knowledge about the impact that well-designed, implemented, evaluated, and documented scale-up efforts can have in a range of settings. Tools tested and validated in Learning Community countries will be made broadly available to other countries. Ultimately, the Learning Community will produce irrefutable evidence that scaling up malaria prevention and control measures saves lives, reduces illness, and increases educational and economic productivity—evidence upon which national, regional, and global audiences can make informed programmatic, policy, and investment decisions in support of the scale-up approach.

### **What is the timeframe for discussions with countries and partners?**

MACEPA will initiate formal discussions with countries and key partners in March 2007, and plans to engage the initial 3 countries by June 2007.

*The Learning Community will generate collective knowledge about the impact that well-designed, implemented, evaluated, and documented scale-up efforts can have in a range of settings.*