



MACEPA's program mission

MACEPA's mission is 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.

Malaria Control and Evaluation Partnership in Africa Learning Community

The Malaria Control and Evaluation Partnership in Africa (MACEPA), a program at PATH, works with national governments committed to rapidly scaling up malaria control and prevention efforts in their countries. Using tested management, monitoring, and advocacy tools, MACEPA fortifies government capacity to lead rapid, coordinated scale-up of proven interventions for nationwide health and economic impact.

MACEPA is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and currently works with the Government of Zambia, the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partnership, and many global and regional partners to scale up malaria control in Zambia. In 2007 MACEPA is expanding to engage additional African governments to rapidly scale up malaria prevention and control over the next five years, constituting a network called the Learning Community.

In recent years, support for malaria control in Africa has increased substantially, with several new funding mechanisms offering resources and drawing attention to the fight against the disease. This unprecedented infusion of new program funds from multiple donors with varying priorities and deliverables has added complexity as well as opportunity to the malaria control landscape. MACEPA focuses its contributions to ensure that national programs can translate today's opportunities into sustained benefit by leading ambitious, impact-focused malaria control scale-up efforts and then maintaining high coverage levels.



Elements of success

Certain core capacities allow national programs to lead rapid scale-up and maintain high coverage:

Planning and management—building the administrative systems and program capabilities to accomplish impact-focused goals; developing consensus strategies with partners; focusing resources toward priorities on an annual basis.

Aligning resources—matching available resources—both human and financial—to the national plan; defining resource gaps and developing strategies to fill them.

Implementation—executing the plan in a coordinated manner; developing the appropriate capacities to address logistics.

Monitoring and evaluation—systematically tracking the delivery, use, and performance of key interventions; measuring the program's health and economic impact so that results are unambiguous and appropriate adjustments can be made in future planning.

Documentation and advocacy—building credible technical documentation of impact and compelling stories of process, achievements, and challenges; making a strong case to decision-makers from the community to the global level.

The MACEPA Learning Community will be a forum for leading-edge malaria control programs to showcase their existing strengths, share their lessons, and build on each other's experiences in order to develop excellence in all areas.

Reinforcing national leadership

MACEPA is committed to rapid national scale-up led by governments and guided by the “three ones”—one national plan, one coordination mechanism, and one monitoring and evaluation system.

MACEPA works with national leadership to design a partnership tailored to support the government's malaria control scale-up goals within its unique country context. Listening to national leaders' aspirations and priorities, MACEPA works with the government to determine how to improve operations and scale up coverage, while optimizing existing financial and human resources and developing national capacity to monitor program performance and impact. The terms of the partnership will be adjusted annually to incorporate lessons, address new challenges, and promote a cycle of evidenced-based program management.

Strategic support for national goals

MACEPA is engaging new countries in 2007 that, with Zambia, will launch the Learning Community. These leading countries in malaria control will define national approaches for rapid program scale-up, setting a new standard for malaria control in sub-Saharan Africa. These countries will share tools, successes, and lessons to inform each other's work, while each country's unique challenges and achievements contribute to a comprehensive set of documented strategies for other national programs to draw upon. Documenting each country's experience will demonstrate that rapid scale-up works in a variety of circumstances, and will help catalyze national, regional, and global support for achieving and sustaining high coverage of proven malaria interventions.

MACEPA will support these countries through a combination of funding, expertise, and staff placed within the national program on a long-term basis. Areas of support and staff assignments will depend on each country's goals and needs, and may focus on planning, implementation science, monitoring and evaluation, and advocacy. As a committed RBM partner, MACEPA will continue to work with RBM's sub-regional networks and working groups and to coordinate with malaria program funders including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Bank Global Strategy and Booster Program, and the US President's Malaria Initiative.



Collaborative learning

Through the Learning Community, MACEPA will foster collaboration and provide a forum for peer-to-peer exchange among countries building the model for rapid malaria control scale-up in Africa. A Secretariat based in the sub-region will facilitate the development of national case studies that demonstrate the health and economic benefits of rapid scale-up in consistent, comparable terms. The Learning Community will showcase these success stories on the world stage as a new standard for malaria control in Africa.

The MACEPA Learning Community will consist of African countries and program leaders that share a commitment to:

- Prioritizing rapid national malaria control scale-up.
- Implementing a consensus national plan for program scale-up and for investment in a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system to assess program progress and impact.
- Participating in collaborative learning with peers in participating countries.
- Contributing to the scientific evidence and advocacy case for malaria control scale-up in the Africa region.

MACEPA is developing adaptable program tools, in collaboration with Zambia and global RBM partners, to address critical components of rapid scale-up and to ensure comparability of impact across Learning Community countries. These include tools for planning, assessing human and financial resources, monitoring performance, evaluating impact, and documenting progress. These tools will be available to Learning Community countries which, with support from MACEPA, will adjust them to national circumstances.

MACEPA's role in Zambia

MACEPA's contribution to Zambia's ambitious malaria control strategy is framed around the consensus national planning and evaluation cycle. With staff posted in the National Malaria Control Centre, MACEPA works with Zambia and its partners to actively strategize, troubleshoot, and resolve bottlenecks and challenges as they arise. MACEPA's Lusaka-based staff contributes technical insight on operations management and systems strengthening and bolsters national staff capacity for management, data collection, and analysis.

In Zambia, MACEPA has provided intensive support for planning processes that have produced well-aligned, impact-focused multi-year strategic, annual operation, and activity-specific plans. MACEPA has supported, with funding and expertise, the government's use of innovative tools to make those plans a reality, including a comprehensive Malaria Indicator Survey and a human resources assessment.





Achieving impact together

The Learning Community will craft an adaptable blueprint for nationally led malaria control scale-up, and MACEPA will work with each member country to develop program plans and evaluation capacity tailored to its unique context. Countries will receive technical expertise from MACEPA and from each other; access to and assistance using innovative tools and methods; and targeted support for planning and strengthening systems for rapid scale-up strategies, as well as crucial evaluation support. The Learning Community will be a forum for peer-to-peer exchange that will generate concrete evidence that well-designed, implemented, evaluated, and documented scale-up efforts have positive, measurable impact in a range of settings.

Each Learning Community member country will contribute its own unique story of rapid national malaria control scale-up, fostered by collaboration and peer-to-peer exchange. Their collective experience will demonstrate the health and economic benefits of national-scale malaria control in consistent, comparable terms for presentation on the world stage. MACEPA will support the Learning Community countries—individually and as a group—as they contribute to the scientific evidence and advocacy case for rapid national scale-up of proven malaria control methods.

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Zambia's accomplishments

In 2005 Zambia, with support from MACEPA, set out to reach 80 percent of its population with proven interventions by 2008, in order to cut malaria incidence by 75 percent. In the first two years of this partnership, remarkable progress has been made toward these ambitious goals. Zambia has more than doubled its coverage of insecticide-treated bed nets, and is on target to meet its goal of 80 percent coverage by the end of 2008. More than 60 percent of pregnant women now receive preventive treatment, and ITNs are available through all antenatal clinics nationwide.

All malaria control partners in Zambia now participate in an annual planning process led by the National Malaria Control Centre, and have committed to using a state-of-the-art monitoring system to measure the impact of interventions and assess future needs. Additional financing and technical assistance partners are coming on board in support of the national plan, contributing resources and capabilities toward national program goals.

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