



Learning together: a collaborative approach to rapid scale-up

Opportunity and expectations

The Malaria Control and Evaluation Partnership in Africa (MACEPA), a program at PATH, works with African governments to support national leadership for coordinated scale-up of proven malaria control interventions for health and economic impact. MACEPA is forming a Learning Community of leading countries in malaria control that together will demonstrate a flexible model of rapid national scale-up, setting a new standard for sub-Saharan Africa. MACEPA, a Roll Back Malaria (RBM) partner, collaborates with RBM's sub-regional networks and working groups and 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.

MACEPA advocates for and supports rapid national scale-up led by governments and guided by the “three ones”—one national plan, one coordination mechanism for implementation, and one monitoring and evaluation system. The Learning Community will be a forum for exchange among countries that have made a commitment to planning, implementing, and evaluating a rapid effort to scale up malaria control and prevention efforts nationwide. MACEPA will support these countries through a combination of funding, expertise, and staff placed within the national program on a long-term basis.

Perhaps the greatest challenge facing malaria control programs today is that of putting the best research and science into the day-to-day practice of delivering health care in systems that are facing devastating health workforce shortages and major infrastructure challenges. At the same time, they may be receiving substantial new financial resources that come with the expectation of measurable results. The spread of best program management and health care delivery practices must be accelerated so that countries committed to controlling malaria can benefit from each other's experiences, rather than learning difficult lessons repeatedly.



The Learning Community will be a forum for exchange among countries that have made a commitment to planning, implementing, and evaluating a rapid effort to scale up malaria control and prevention nationwide.

Each Learning Community member country will contribute its unique experience with rapid national malaria control scale-up, fostered by collaboration and peer-to-peer exchange. The 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 collectively—as they contribute to the scientific evidence and advocacy case for rapid national scale-up of proven malaria control methods.

Partnering with MACEPA

MACEPA works with governments 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. In consultation with national leadership, MACEPA will design a package of support for the government's malaria control scale-up goals within its unique country context.

Each government will establish a memorandum of understanding with MACEPA, detailing the terms of partnership, which may be updated annually to incorporate lessons, address new challenges, and promote a cycle of evidence-based program management.

Applying new tools

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. Member countries will adapt and apply these tools, with support from MACEPA, and share their experience with peers and the global community through the Learning Community.

Documenting the results

Together, the Learning Community countries will develop a strong case for rapid national scale-up to decision-makers from the community to the global level. Each country will document the process and results of their rapid scale-up efforts, contributing credible technical documentation of impact and compelling stories of the process, achievements, and challenges along the way. National monitoring and evaluation staff, as well as communications staff, will devote significant time to documenting their work in standardized Learning Community formats.

Sharing with peers

The Learning Community Secretariat, based in Lusaka, Zambia, will coordinate regional meetings, facilitate cross-country exchanges and ongoing communication, support the development of case studies and documentation of best practices, provide technical support, and consolidate data and lessons learned for broader dissemination.

Frequent interaction will allow national staff to build on each other's methods, findings, lessons, and successes. A schedule of twice-annual meetings with rotating hosting arrangements will be established. National program

leadership and technical staff will participate regularly and host at least one meeting in their country. They will also host their counterparts and make occasional learning visits to member countries.

Between meetings and learning activities, the Learning Community Secretariat will facilitate ongoing interaction through online resources. National staff from member countries will contribute lessons and documentation of experience on a regular basis to stimulate continuous, rapid group learning.

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Advocating for national-scale malaria control

The Learning Community will facilitate the development of national case studies that demonstrate the health and economic benefits of rapid scale-up and showcase these success stories on the world stage as a new standard for malaria control in Africa. Program staff and national leadership will be featured in high-profile advocacy initiatives that may include media coverage and international travel.

Succeeding 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.

For more information

NORTH AMERICA
1455 NW Leary Way
Seattle, WA 98107, USA
TEL +1.206.285.3500
FAX +1.206.285.6619

EUROPE
Bâtiment Avant Centre
13 Chemin du Levant
01210 Ferney-Voltaire,
France
TEL +33 450.28.00.49
FAX +33 450.28.04.07

AFRICA
Postal Net Box 370
P/Bag E10
Lusaka, Zambia
TEL/FAX +260 01 285 249