



MALARIA CONTROL AND EVALUATION PARTNERSHIP IN AFRICA

Scaling up for impact through comprehensive program improvement

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 helps strengthen government capacity to lead rapid, coordinated scale-up of proven interventions for nationwide health and economic impact. Through its Learning Community and targeted country support, MACEPA works with African governments to develop their success stories—the most powerful case for national and global commitment to malaria control.

MACEPA's approach: scaling up for impact

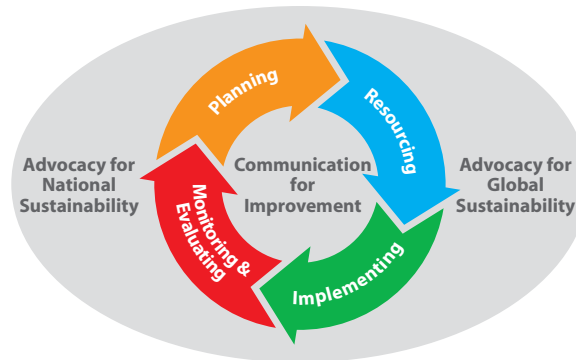
MACEPA advocates for and supports the *scale-up for impact* approach to national malaria control, partnering with national governments that are committed to deploying a comprehensive package of evidence-based malaria prevention and control strategies. This intensive, coordinated partnership is an effort to rapidly achieve high nationwide coverage, reducing mortality and morbidity and demonstrating benefits in economic and human terms.

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 scale-up for impact approach has been embraced by the Roll Back Malaria (RBM)

Partnership and is grounded in a commitment to the “three ones”—where malaria control partners commit to work from one national plan, one coordination mechanism for implementation,

Cycle for optimizing program performance



and one monitoring and evaluation system.

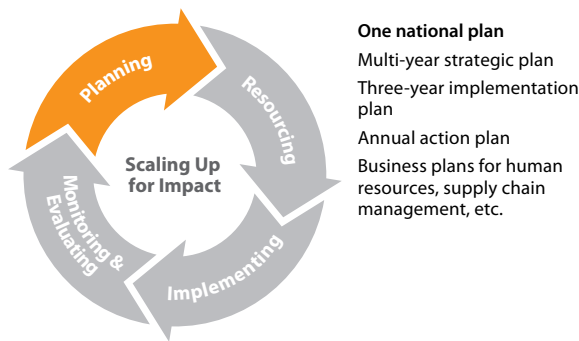
Scale-up for impact is achieved and sustained through a cycle of multi-partner consensus planning, alignment of financial and human resources, well-coordinated implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Continuous documentation of the scale-up process for program performance improvement and impact

is integral to this cycle. Advocacy based on programming success bolsters national and global leadership to provide ongoing support for the approach.

Scaling up for impact: the elements of success

There is consensus among RBM partners that the core capacities that contribute to a successful program cycle, drawn from a classic public health model and adapted to the realities of national malaria control programs in sub-Saharan Africa, are essential in order for national programs to lead rapid scale-up efforts and maintain high coverage.

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. MACEPA provides targeted support to Learning Community countries, individually and collectively, to apply these tools and ensure programmatic excellence and capacity for rapid program scale-up. MACEPA's tools and capabilities span the program cycle and are detailed below.

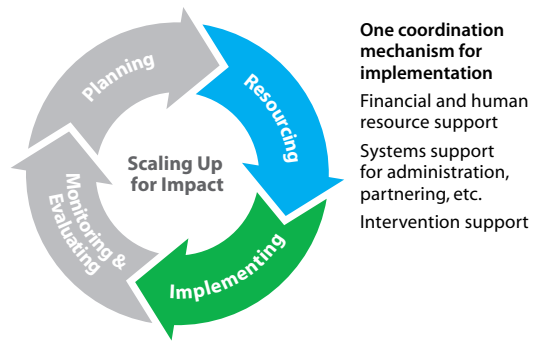


Planning

Successful scale-up efforts begin with strong government-led planning, focused on developing consensus strategies with partners and targeting resources toward priorities on an annual basis. To lead coordinated consensus planning efforts,

governments must build the administrative systems and program capabilities to accomplish impact-focused goals.

MACEPA'S CONTRIBUTIONS: MACEPA helps governments develop systems that support complementary planning at all levels—including multi-year strategic plans and implementation plans for specific interventions or services, such as human resources, supply chain management, and monitoring and evaluation. MACEPA has worked with the Government of Zambia, with the Government of Ethiopia, with regional entities, and with the RBM Partnership Secretariat in developing comprehensive plans that map the inputs of all implementing partners under national program leadership. MACEPA has supported multi-partner training workshops and planning activities with technical expertise and with financial and logistical support for meetings and document finalization.

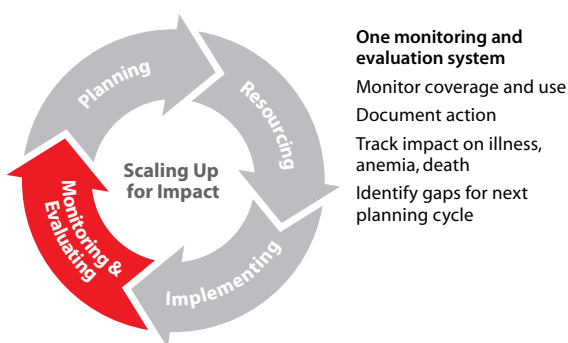


Resourcing and implementing

To coordinate implementation effectively through a single system, governments must be able to match available resources—both human and financial—to national plans and be able to work with partners to define resource gaps and develop strategies to fill those gaps. They must also have the logistical capacities to systematically deliver the proven interventions nationwide.

MACEPA'S CONTRIBUTIONS: MACEPA helps national governments and their partners to identify and optimally use available financial and human

resources to achieve program goals as part of a consensus planning process. With the Ministry of Health in Zambia, MACEPA has supported a systematic assessment of human resource needs from the national to the local level for malaria control scale-up. MACEPA also supports national and partner systems in addressing the full spectrum of implementation systems, including procurement and supply chain strengthening, communications, administrative management, and reporting.



Monitoring and evaluating

A critical component of a successful scale-up effort is a single monitoring and evaluation system to which all partners contribute. The system must track the delivery, use, and performance of key interventions; measure the program's health and economic impact; and produce unambiguous results to inform appropriate adjustments in future planning. Strong monitoring and evaluation provide evidence of the health and economic impact of rapid scale-up, which is essential to ensuring long-term support for high levels of nationwide coverage of proven malaria interventions.

MACEPA'S CONTRIBUTIONS: MACEPA works with national programs and their partners to identify monitoring and evaluation needs, gather essential information, and use that information to inform subsequent planning cycles. MACEPA has worked within the RBM Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group at the global level and with

national programs to support the development of strong monitoring and evaluation plans, to undertake a malaria indicator survey, to strengthen sentinel sites for reporting, and to strengthen national health and management information systems. Equally important, MACEPA is supporting Zambia in strengthening staff capacities in terms of technical infrastructure, data collection, management, and analysis.

MACEPA is developing a comprehensive performance monitoring and impact evaluation system for the Learning Community in collaboration with Zambian and global partners. Measuring impact in a range of settings will make it possible to document the health and economic benefits of rapid scale-up in consistent, comparable terms for presentation on the world stage.

Advocating and communicating

Advocacy and communication in support of program improvement are critical to the success of the "three ones." Advocating for national commitment to malaria control efforts and communicating the benefit of program scale-up locally help to ensure that malaria control will be sustained nationally. At the global level, advocacy and communication are critical to securing long-term commitment to malaria control.

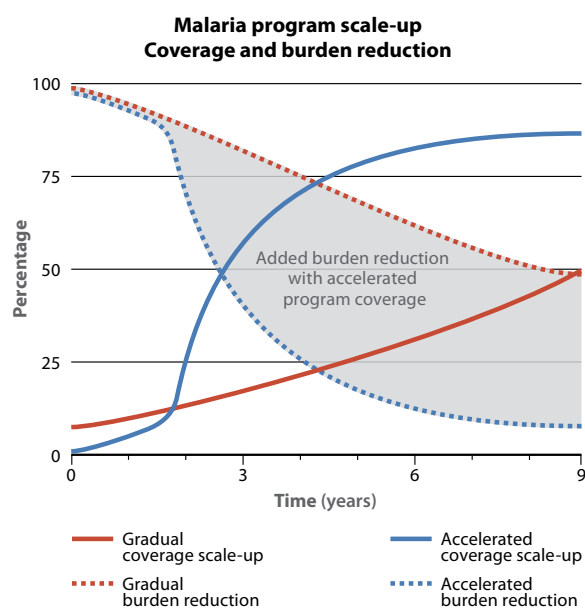
MACEPA'S CONTRIBUTIONS: MACEPA works with national programs and their partners to build communications capacity, assess advocacy needs, and strategically focus activities to reinforce malaria control interventions. MACEPA supports advocacy efforts at all levels within its partner countries to ensure ongoing support for malaria control programs' ambitious, impact-focused efforts. Together with national staff, MACEPA is committed to ensuring consistent communication in order to continuously strengthen program performance.

MACEPA works with the RBM Malaria Advocacy Working Group at the global level to ensure that stories of successful scale-up reach

key stakeholders and to showcase its partner governments and the Learning Community as examples on the global stage.

Achieving impact

Scale-up for impact is an ambitious approach that requires investment, commitment, and action from governments and malaria control partners from the national to the local level.



When that investment is made, remarkable impact against the disease can be achieved in a short period of time. The figure below illustrates the difference in the impact of gradual increases

in coverage and the dramatic impact that results from rapid scale-up.

MACEPA's experience working with Zambia since 2005 shows that in a relatively short interval, significant progress can be made and documented.

Data from malaria indicator surveys conducted in 2006 and 2008 has demonstrated that dramatic progress has been made towards this goal. Two-thirds of households are now protected by either an ITN or indoor residual spraying, two-thirds of pregnant women are taking the recommended two doses of preventative medicine, and malaria parasite prevalence rate in children under age five has dropped by 50%.

Solid advances in intervention coverage, coupled with significantly strengthened government capacity and infrastructure to manage rapid scale-up, have positioned Zambia to achieve its goal of reducing malaria incidence by 75 percent by 2011

With partners, MACEPA has demonstrated that when governments lead focused, coordinated efforts, Abuja targets and RBM Global Strategic Plan targets can be reached within three years in many countries, leading to dramatic impact on disease burden within five years. It is this high level of impact that MACEPA commits to achieve and sustain with its Learning Community partners. MACEPA's focused contributions help ensure that national programs can translate today's opportunities into sustained benefit for their people and their economy.

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