Fighting Malaria, Saving Lives

The White House Summit on Malaria

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WHITE HOUSE SUMMIT ON MALARIA

December 14, 2006

www.FightingMalaria.gov

The White House Summit on Malaria was held to engage worldwide support for the fight against the disease. The effort was organized through the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) at the United States Agency for International Development, assisted by Malaria No More (a non-profit organization), and in partnership with the U.S. Department of State.

"One million last year alone died on the African continent because of malaria. And in the overwhelming majority of cases, the victims are less than five years old, their lives suddenly ended by nothing more than a mosquito bite. The toll of malaria is even more tragic because the disease, itself, is highly treatable and preventable. …the world must take action."

President George W. Bush
June 30, 2005, Washington DC

Sterling Ribet / USAID

The Challenge of Malaria in Africa

Malaria—a preventable and treatable disease—kills about 3,000 children every day and claims more than a million lives a year. Defeating malaria is an urgent and achievable goal. While malaria once afflicted many Americans, the disease has been eliminated in the United States and elsewhere through science, medical advances, and education. The challenge now is to make sure this progress benefits people still at risk in Africa.

President Bush announced the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) in June 2005. PMI is a $1.2 billion program that challenges the private sector to join the U.S. government in combating malaria in Africa. The initiative aims to cut malaria-related deaths by 50 percent in 15 focus countries over five years by distributing long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets to families; spraying the inside of homes with insecticides; providing the new, artemisinin-based combination drugs to treat patients with malaria; and treating pregnant women with anti-malarials. The initiative also includes education and evaluation programs.

Through partnerships working in the first three focus countries—Tanzania, Angola, and Uganda—aid from the American people has already reached 5 million Africans.

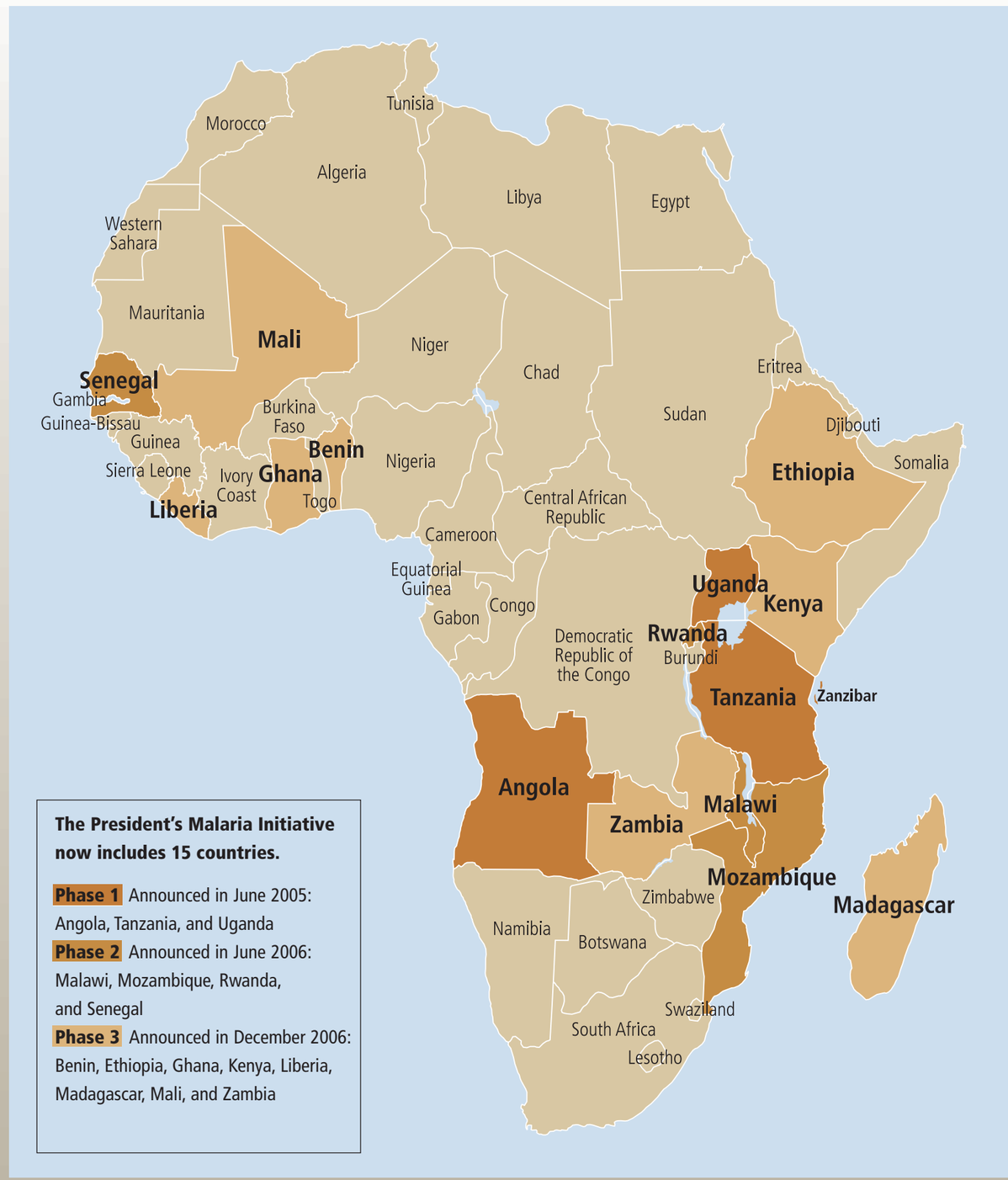
The vast majority of all deaths from malaria have been young children. About 1 million infants and children under the age of 5 in sub-Saharan Africa die each year from the mosquito-borne disease. Older children and adults who do get malaria lose an average of six weeks at school or work from illness. This disrupts business and leaves poor families short of income, food, and medicine.

Atsa Namuy Omba's three small children were bitten by mosquitoes and infected each year with malaria. But now mosquito nets shelter Mrs. Omba's family from the parasite that causes malaria.

"Before we bought the nets, my kids were getting malaria every two months," said Mrs. Omba, who lives near Kampala, Uganda. "Since our use of the nets, my 2-year-old son has only been infected once in one year."

"To end malaria, more people must be educated—because life-saving nets, sprays and medicines work better when people know how to use them. And too few people know how malaria is transmitted. …This is especially important for women, so that they can make wise choices that will keep them, and their children, healthy and safe."

First Lady Laura Bush
June 8, 2006, Washington DC



The President's Malaria Initiative now includes 15 countries.

Phase 1 Announced in June 2005: Angola, Tanzania, and Uganda

Phase 2 Announced in June 2006: Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Senegal

Phase 3 Announced in December 2006: Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, and Zambia

The Power of Public-Private Partnerships

Mobilizing private sector support is a key component in controlling malaria in Africa. When governments partner with NGOs, corporations, foundations, faith-based and service organizations, and private citizens, the combined effort can save lives, educate the public about malaria, and send a global message.

Between January and October 2006, more than 5 million Africans received help in preventing and treating malaria through the PMI. In Zanzibar, malaria was greatly reduced among children under age 5 after new U.S. and other assistance began, according to local health officials. The success in Zanzibar shows that there is a good chance that malaria can be controlled in larger regions.

Public-private partnerships enable the U.S. government and its other partners to maximize their effectiveness and support a comprehensive approach to control malaria.

Growing the Grassroots

Powerful grassroots movements can raise awareness of malaria and highlight ways that organizations and individuals can get involved in combating this preventable disease in Africa.

U.S. corporations and foundations, nongovernmental organizations, and America's youth are being challenged to save lives and build a bridge between peoples.

One American with just $10 can save a life in Africa. A school, a church, or a team can save a village. Together, Americans can help protect an entire continent. Visit www.FightingMalaria.gov to learn how you can help save the life of another.

Four Ways to Save Lives

Insecticide-Treated Bed Nets

Blocking Mosquitoes

- **Challenge:** Most mosquitoes transmit at night the parasite that causes malaria.
- **Meeting the Challenge:** Insecticide-treated bed nets can save a child's life because they repel mosquitoes or kill them outright.
- The nets are non-toxic to humans and do not need re-treatment with insecticide for up to four years.
- Millions of nets have been given away free or sold at reduced cost across Africa under the PMI, Global Fund, and other aid programs.
- **Results:** Mustafa Luvega's children sleep under the protective drapery of insecticide-treated bed nets he bought for $4.00 each after health workers told him how to stop malaria.
- As of November 2006, the United States gave out 200,000 nets in Zanzibar, preventing tens of thousands of malaria cases.

RTI International

Indoor Spraying

Killing Mosquitoes

- **Challenge:** In addition to bed nets, spraying insecticide on inside walls is another crucial component in fighting malaria.
- PMI works with partner countries on their plan to fight malaria, including the selection and safe use of insecticides that are lethal for mosquitoes, but safe for humans.
- **Meeting the Challenge:** Teams equipped with portable sprayers treated more than 400,000 houses, protecting over 2 million people total in Angola, Tanzania, and Uganda.
- When adult female, malaria-carrying mosquitoes rest on these sprayed walls, they pick up the residual insecticide, killing or shortening their lives.
- **Results:** "Since the spraying, none of my family members has gotten malaria," said Sheha Aseidi Mvita Aseidi of Kianga Village in Zanzibar.

Novartis Pharma AG

New Antimalarial Drugs

Treating Malaria

- **Challenge:** The Plasmodium parasite that causes malaria became resistant to old antimalarial medicines. Artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) is extremely effective against malaria when combined with other drugs. Treatment for three days can rapidly reduce parasites in the blood and control fever.
- **Meeting the Challenge:** In 2007, PMI plans to give out up to 3 million pediatric doses of these drugs in Uganda. The medicine costs about $1.50 per adult and $.50 per child. Because of its effectiveness, children recover quickly from illness.
- **Results:** Zainabu Hamis Maubi, 2½ years old, would not be alive today without lifesaving antimalarial drugs from the United States. Zainabu was very sick with malaria for three days before coming into the health center in Rujfiji, Tanzania, where she was given medicines to cure her malaria.

Preventive Treatment

Protecting Pregnant Women from Malaria

- **Challenge:** Millions of pregnant women are at risk of being infected with malaria and resulting anemia. This contributes to low birth weight in their babies and is a leading cause of infant deaths. Each year about 1.7 million pregnant women are infected with malaria in Tanzania, one of the African countries burdened by the disease.
- **Meeting the Challenge:** Two or more preventive treatment doses of an effective antimalarial drug during routine antenatal clinic visits has been shown to be safe, inexpensive, and effective in saving lives.
- **Results:** In October 2006, a pregnant 28-year-old, Halima Athmani, received her first dose of the preventive medicine in Tanzania's Morogoro District to protect both herself and her unborn baby from the effects of malaria.

www.FightingMalaria.gov

Every 30 seconds an African child will die of malaria, unless…

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We know the cause. We know the cure. We must act now.

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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE