



AMAZON MALARIA INITIATIVE

Malaria in Low-Incidence Settings

TREATMENT: ENSURING ACCESS TO QUALITY MEDICINES

May 2016

Ensuring rigorous quality control and supply chain management of antimalarial medicines is more difficult in low-incidence settings, particularly when the affected population is highly mobile, remote, or dispersed.¹

The main trends are that:

- Pharmaceutical vendors no longer have a business interest in selling the reduced volumes of antimalarial medicines that are required in these contexts.
- Areas with low or no malaria incidence fail to receive antimalarial medicines, even when the risk of reintroduction is high.
- Poor quality or counterfeit medicines exist on the market, some with little or no active ingredients.
- The long storage periods of medicines in poor conditions (e.g. high temperature, humidity, direct exposure to sunlight, deficient refrigeration) may lead to a decline in medicine efficacy.
- Medicines may expire before they are needed.
- Insufficient resources for ensuring medicine quality control limit the ability of health professionals to collect statistically representative samples of medicines for quality testing.²
- As countries move closer to elimination, providing access to quality medications, particularly to mobile, migrant, and indigenous populations becomes more important to the overall success of malaria programs in low-transmission settings.³

Expanded access to free, quality antimalarial medicines through the public sector helps to make unregulated medicines less appealing. The region's national health systems, in collaboration with AMI, continue to



Photos: USP/PQM

improve pharmaceutical access and storage conditions of antimalarial medicines. Moreover, AMI works with health systems to improve key populations' access to prevention, diagnosis, and quality treatment.

For example, AMI has facilitated the joint procurement of antimalarial medicines through the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) Strategic Fund and created reference standards for the procurement of medicines in low-incidence areas. AMI also provides trainings, manuals, and supplies to countries' medicine regulatory agencies and official medicine control laboratories.

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- 1 Management Sciences for Health. Malaria Pharmaceutical Management in Low-Incidence Settings: Lessons Learned from the Americas. PowerPoint presentation made on behalf of the USAID-funded Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS) program. April 25, 2014. <http://usaidami.org/extras/MalariaPharmMgmt.pdf>
 - 2 Barillas, E, Barojas, A, and Pribluda, V. 2011. *Strategic Orientation Document on Supply Management and Quality Assurance for Drugs and Supplies Used in Malaria Diagnosis and Treatment*. Produced by the Strengthening Pharmaceutical Systems Program (SPS) of Management Sciences for Health (MSH), the Promoting the Quality Program of Medicines (PQM) Program of the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) and Links Media, LLC. for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of the Amazon Malaria Initiative (AMI). Gaithersburg, MD: Links Media, LLC. http://usaidami.org/extras/SOD_Meds_Mgmt_En.pdf
 - 3 World Health Organization. 2015. *Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030*, p. 8



Photo: Marieke Heemskerk