

# Country Profile | President's Malaria Initiative (PMI)

## MALAWI

December 2006



### At a glance: Malaria in Malawi

Population: 13 million<sup>1</sup>

Life expectancy at birth: 42 years<sup>1</sup>

Reported malaria cases: over 2.8 million\*<sup>2</sup>

Under-5 child mortality rate: 175/1000, or approximately 1 in 6 children<sup>3</sup>

Proportion of child deaths attributable to malaria: 14%<sup>4</sup>

\* Actual numbers of malaria cases are considered to be much higher since the majority of cases in Africa are unreported.

<sup>1</sup> CIA World Fact Book

<sup>2</sup> Roll Back Malaria 2005 World Malaria Report

<sup>3</sup> UNICEF

<sup>4</sup> WHO/AFRO, WHO CHERG (2000)

### Background

All Malawians are at risk of contracting malaria. Malaria is responsible for up to 40 percent of outpatient visits, and it is estimated that there are 8 million episodes of malaria a year in Malawi.

Malawi is one of four second-round target countries to benefit from the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), a five-year, \$1.2 billion program led by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), the Department of State, and the White House.

### Goal

The goal of PMI is to cut malaria deaths by 50 percent in 15 countries in Africa by reaching 85 percent of the most vulnerable groups – principally pregnant women, children under 5 years of age, and persons living with HIV/AIDS – with lifesaving services, supplies, and medicines.

PMI coordinates with national malaria control programs and international partners, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the World Bank Malaria Booster Program; the Roll Back Malaria partnership; nongovernmental organizations, including faith-based and community groups; and the private sector.

### Key Interventions

In support of Malawi's national malaria control program, PMI backs four key intervention strategies to prevent and treat malaria:

- Spraying with insecticides (“indoor residual spraying,” or IRS)
- Insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs)
- Lifesaving drugs
- Treatment for pregnant women (“intermittent preventive treatment,” or IPT)

### Preliminary Activities to Date

- 165,000 long-lasting ITNs (LLINs) will be distributed to Malawi's poorest of the poor, to children under age 5, and to pregnant women. This will greatly increase net ownership and the quality of nets owned by the poorest of the poor.

### PMI Funding

In fiscal year 2007, PMI has set aside \$15 million for malaria prevention and treatment in Malawi.

**Upcoming PMI Activities**

- Purchase the first year's supply of artemisinin-based combination treatment drugs for Malawi and assist in the rollout by providing training for health workers on their proper use, support for logistics, and distribution of the new medications.
- 750,000 LLINs will be purchased and distributed to the most vulnerable populations, pregnant women and children under age 5, through clinics nationwide.
- Training of community health workers on IPT will be supported to further promote and encourage the practice of IPT.
- IRS will take place in the Dwangwa sugar estates in the Nkhotakota district. This activity will protect approximately 100,000 people from malaria.