

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

## UGANDA

December 2006



### At a Glance: Malaria in Uganda

Population: 28.2 million<sup>1</sup>

Life expectancy at birth: 52 years (male),  
54 years (female)<sup>1</sup>

Reported malaria cases (2003):  
12.3 million\*<sup>2</sup>

Under-5 mortality rate: 160/1000, or  
approximately 1 in 6 children<sup>3</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

### Background

Malaria is endemic in 95 percent of Uganda. It is the leading cause of illness and death in the country and responsible for up to 40 percent of hospital outpatient visits, 25 percent of hospital admissions, and 14 percent of hospital deaths. Nearly half of hospital inpatient deaths among children under age 5 are attributable to malaria.

Uganda is one of three first-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 Uganda'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)

### Results to Date

- **ITNs in displaced person camps:** To address the alarming rates of malaria mortality in internally displaced person (IDP) camps in northern Uganda, PMI began distribution of long-lasting ITNs (LLINs), free of charge, to children and pregnant women. By the end of March 2006, PMI provided more than 215,000 LLINs through house-to-house distribution methods and through antenatal care clinics, benefiting approximately 300,000 people.

- **Treatment drugs:** PMI procured over 290,000 pediatric doses of artemisinin-based combination treatment drugs (ACTs) for free distribution as part of Uganda's home-based management of fever program in the IDP camps in northern Uganda.
- **IRS:** Over 480,000 people in over 100,000 houses in the Kabale District were protected from malaria through an IRS campaign completed in August 2006, and over 400 people have now been trained in conducting IRS.
- **Other LLIN distribution:** In early 2006, PMI purchased and distributed 60,000 free LLINs in five districts with historically low mosquito net coverage rates.
- **ITN sales:** PMI support for local commercial ITN distributors, which included communication and information campaigns and credit guarantees to establish a regional warehouse, resulted in the sale of more than 370,000 ITNs via the commercial sector.

### **PMI Funding**

For fiscal year 2006, PMI set aside \$19 million in funding for malaria prevention and treatment in Uganda.

### **Upcoming PMI Activities**

- **LLINs:** Procure 650,000 LLINs for free distribution to the most vulnerable populations through mass campaigns and PMI nongovernmental, faith-based, and community-based partners.
- **IRS:** Continue IRS through a second round of IRS in parts of Kabale district, one round in parts of Kanugu district, one round in Apac district. PMI will partner with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to conduct two rounds of IRS in IDP camps in the northern part of Uganda.
- **ACTs and diagnostics:** Pediatric doses of Coartem and other lifesaving malaria medications will be procured, which will also support improvements in Uganda's pharmaceutical management system. Diagnostic capabilities will also be improved through training of laboratory technicians to better identify malaria parasites.