Photo: Jhpiego

MALARIA

In malaria-endemic areas, 50 million women will become pregnant each year. These women are highly susceptible to the consequences of malaria, which lead to increased maternal death, severe maternal anemia, low birth weight, and infant death. An estimated 85% of all deaths from malaria occur in children under five.

USAID's flagship Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) has a strategy that is woman-centered, recognizing that women are the primary care takers of children under five and are themselves at higher risk during pregnancy. Working closely with national malaria control programs and national maternal, newborn and child health programs, we are strengthening country health systems across the continuum of care. The Program is building capacity for lasting results in malaria in pregnancy (MiP), facility-based case management, integrated community case management, and community involvement, addressing comprehensive malaria prevention and treatment needs.

Through partnerships at the global and country levels, MCSP is advancing evidence-based policies and successful approaches for achieving malaria prevention and treatment goals, leading to universal coverage, and eventually, elimination of the disease. Specifically MCSP:

- Contributes to the Roll Back Malaria partnership, which aims to reduce the global burden of malaria morbidity and mortality by reaching universal

KEY FACTS

- In 2013, malaria caused an estimated 584,000 deaths, mostly among African children (WHO)

- Malaria in pregnancy continues to be responsible for 400,000 cases of severe maternal anemia, 10,000 maternal deaths, and 200,000 newborn deaths every year (WHO)

- Pregnant women and children are most vulnerable to malaria (WHO)

coverage and strengthening health systems;

- Supports the President's Malaria Initiative goal of reducing malaria deaths by half in target countries by reaching at least 85% of the most vulnerable groups (children under five and pregnant women) with proven and effective prevention and treatment measures;

- Assists Ministries of Health in countries affected by malaria, contributing to increased use of malaria prevention and treatment measures including: intermittent preventive treatment for pregnant women; distribution and use of long-lasting insecticide treated bed nets; and introduction and scale up of rapid diagnostic tests and artemisinin-based combination therapies. Many of these interventions are carried out at the community level.

Photo: A young girl is tested for malaria at Sinza Hospital in Dar Salaam, Tanzania (Kate Holt/MCHIP)

- Promotes use of data for decision-making in malaria programming through standardization of malaria indicators and strengthening of routine data collection systems.

Fortunately, malaria is an entirely preventable and treatable disease, and MCSP is increasing control measures to dramatically reduce the malaria burden in many places, including in pre-elimination contexts.

ABOUT MCSP

The Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) is a global, USAID Cooperative Agreement to introduce and support high-impact health interventions with a focus on 25 high-priority countries with the ultimate goal of ending preventable child and maternal deaths within a generation. The Program is focused on ensuring that all women, newborns and children most in need have equitable access to quality health care services to save lives.

MCSP supports programming in maternal, newborn and child health, immunization, family planning and reproductive health, nutrition, health systems strengthening, water/sanitation/hygiene, malaria, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and pediatric HIV care and treatment.

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