

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

## GHANA

April 2010



### At a Glance: Ghana

Population – 2010: 24 million<sup>1</sup>

Life expectancy at birth – 2010:  
59 years (male), 62 years (female)<sup>1</sup>

Population at risk of malaria – 2008:  
100%<sup>2</sup>

Under-5 mortality rate – 2008:  
80/1,000, or approximately 1 in 13  
children die before their fifth  
birthday<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> US Census Bureau, International Data Base 2010

<sup>2</sup> WHO World Malaria Report 2009

<sup>3</sup> Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2008

### Background

Malaria is transmitted throughout Ghana and is responsible for more than 44 percent of outpatient visits and approximately 22 percent of deaths in children under the age of five. Recent household surveys show that progress against malaria is being made in Ghana. During the period of 2006–2008, household surveys showed that insecticide-treated net (ITN) ownership increased from 19 to 33 percent and ITN use in children under five went from 22 to 28 percent. In addition, between 2003 and 2008, ITN use in pregnant women increased from 3 to 20 percent nationwide. The surveys have also shown that the all-cause mortality rate in children under the age of five declined, from 111 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2003 to 80/1,000 in 2008.

### The President's Malaria Initiative (PMI)

Ghana is one of the 15 original countries benefiting from PMI, which was launched in 2005 and is led by the U.S. Agency for International Development and implemented together with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As a key component of President Obama's Global Health Initiative and with the Lantos-Hyde Act of 2008, PMI's funding has been extended through fiscal year (FY) 2014 and a new six-year malaria strategy has been developed. Under the new strategy, the goal of PMI is to work with partners to halve the burden of malaria in 70 percent of the at-risk populations in sub-Saharan Africa (approximately 450 million residents), thereby removing malaria as a major public health problem and promoting development throughout the African region.

PMI works with national malaria control programs and coordinates its activities with national and international partners, including the Roll Back Malaria Partnership; The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; UNICEF; the World Health Organization; the World Bank; Malaria No More; the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; nongovernmental organizations, including faith-based and community groups; and the private sector.

### Key Interventions

In line with Ghana's national malaria control strategy, PMI supports four key interventions to prevent and treat malaria:

- **Insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs):** Sleeping under a long-lasting ITN provides protection from malaria-carrying mosquitoes. The nets are nontoxic to humans, but can repel and kill mosquitoes for up to three years.
- **Indoor residual spraying (IRS):** IRS involves the coordinated, timely spraying of the inside walls of houses with insecticides. Mosquitoes are killed when they land on these sprayed walls, reducing malaria transmission.
- **Intermittent preventive treatment for pregnant women (IPTp):** IPTp is a highly effective means of reducing the serious consequences of malaria in both the pregnant woman and her unborn child, which include maternal anemia and lowbirth weight babies. IPTp consists of the administration of at least two doses of the antimalarial drug sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP) given not less than one month apart during the second and third trimesters of pregnancy. In most countries, SP needs for IPTp are being met by national governments and other donors.
- **Diagnosis and treatment:** Effective case management of malaria depends on early, accurate diagnosis with microscopy or rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) and prompt treatment with an effective drug. Artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) are the recommended first-line treatment for uncomplicated *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria in most malaria-affected regions of Africa and are extremely effective against malaria parasites; they have few or no side effects.

### Progress to Date

Ghana is in its third year as a PMI focus country. With support from PMI and its partners, malaria control interventions are being implemented, and vital commodities are being distributed to vulnerable populations.

PMI-Supported Activities	2007	2008	2009	Cumulative
IRS: Houses sprayed <sup>1</sup>	-	254,305	284,856	-
IRS: Residents protected <sup>1</sup>	-	601,973	708,103	-
ITNs: Procured	60,023	350,000	955,000	1,365,023
ITNs: Distributed	60,023	-	350,000	410,023
ITNs: Procured by other donors and distributed with PMI support	-	750,000	-	750,000
ITNs: Sold with PMI marketing support	612,000	1,234,159	347,520	2,193,679
ITNs: Redeemed through voucher programs with PMI support	-	236,789	102,833	339,622
ACTs: Procured	-	1,142,759	-	1,142,759
ACTs: Distributed	-	-	1,028,000	1,028,000
RDTs: Procured	-	-	1,850	1,850
RDTs: Distributed	-	-	1,850	1,850
Health workers trained in IPTp <sup>2</sup>	-	464	1,170	-
Health workers trained in ACT use <sup>2</sup>	-	368	1,144	-
Health workers trained in diagnostics <sup>2</sup>	-	-	46	-

<sup>1</sup> A cumulative count of the number of houses sprayed and residents protected is not provided since some areas have been sprayed on more than one occasion.

<sup>2</sup> A cumulative count of individual health workers trained is not provided since some health workers have been trained on more than one occasion.

### PMI Funding

The proposed FY 2010 PMI budget for Ghana is \$34 million. Of this amount, 22 percent will support the procurement of ACTs and improvements in case management, 37 percent procurement and distribution of ITNs, 20 percent IRS, 4 percent malaria in pregnancy activities, 7 percent monitoring and evaluation, and 10 percent for nongovernmental organization collaboration, capacity building, HIV/AIDS-malaria collaboration, and in-country staffing. A total of 45 percent will be spent on commodities.

	FY 2007 Jump start funds	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Budget	\$5 million	\$16.8 million	\$17.3 million	\$34 million

For details on FY 2010 PMI activities in Ghana, please see the **Ghana Malaria Operational Plan:** [http://www.pmi.gov/countries/mops/fy10/ghana\\_mop-fy10.pdf](http://www.pmi.gov/countries/mops/fy10/ghana_mop-fy10.pdf).

