

Across Nigeria, malaria is a major cause of sickness and death, responsible for the deaths of 300,000 children a year and 60% of all hospital admissions.

Modern mosquito nets, diagnosis kits and medicines can all help to eliminate malaria – but only when staff are trained to use them correctly and public facilities are properly managed.

The President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) of USAID helped Ebonyi State to conduct a rapid assessment of malaria control services in state health care facilities. It found that health facilities were hampered by irregular supplies of medicines and other supplies for the diagnosis and treatment of malaria, and that health workers lacked the skills and support to provide malaria services effectively. The assessment also found that the state didn't know enough about levels of service in facilities.

A key reason for lack of supplies, training and record-keeping; that there was no clear plan or budget for malaria control services.



Success Story

Better planning helps control malaria in Ebonyi State

Annual planning helps ensure sufficient malaria supplies are available in facilities at all times



Releasing state funds

PMI supported MAPS and identified a core team of officials in the state who were responsible for planning malaria services.

MAPS then arranged training to improve the team's knowledge and skills in planning and budgeting.

The team developed the 2013 and 2014 Annual Operational Plans for malaria control for the state. These plans covered all the activities needed to improve malaria service delivery, with funds from government, PMI and other sources.

The 2014 Annual Operational Plan was then adopted in the state's annual health budget.

As well as improving management and staff training, sustained advocacy from MAPS staff and regular supportive engagement with state officials resulted in the unlocking of over \$600,000 of state funds to support AOP implementation.

Ebonyi State Malaria Elimination Program Manager, Mr Lawrence Nwankwo, says:

“Support from USAID and MAPS enabled us to prepare a comprehensive plan and budget, based on sound evidence. The state government supported it by releasing 108 million Naira (about \$660,000) to buy long-lasting insecticidal mosquito nets, test kits, medicines and other supplies.”

The results¹ have been impressive: in just one year, Ebonyi more than doubled the number of pregnant women receiving mosquito nets and getting treatment to prevent malaria affecting their pregnancy. It also doubled the number of fever patients tested for malaria.

Annual Operational Planning and budgeting for malaria has been so successful that it has been adopted elsewhere in Ebonyi. The Ebonyi State AIDS Control Agency has now adopted this planning and budgeting approach to improve funding for HIV/AIDS activities in the state, and the fight against malaria continues.

¹ District Health Information System; Jul –Dec 2014 compared with Jul – Dec 2013

September 2015

Cooperative Agreement Holder:



Implementing Partners:



Supporting:



MAPS is funded by the USAID through the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), implemented in nine states (Benue, Cross River, Ebonyi, Kogi, Nasarawa, Oyo, Kebbi, Akwa Ibom and Zamfara) across Nigeria between 2010 and 2016. FHI 360 is collaborating with Health Partners International and Malaria Consortium to support the implementation of the National Malaria Strategic Plans (2014–2020).