

MSH IN NIGERIA



MANAGEMENT SCIENCES FOR HEALTH (MSH) is a global nonprofit advisory organization that provides governments, health organizations, and the private sector with the strategies, tools, and management support to effectively and efficiently deliver high-functioning health systems.

Photo Credit: Adaeze Umolu/MSH

For nearly two decades, MSH has partnered with Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), state ministries of health, local partners, and health service providers to control infectious diseases and improve child and maternal health. In addition to our years of support to fight tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and other epidemics, we are supporting Nigeria's National Malaria Elimination Program (NMEP) across nearly 60% of Nigeria—from the ministry to the facility level—which comprises 15% of the global malaria response. We've provided malaria preventive treatment to close to 4 million children under the age of five and maintained services despite disruptions from civil conflicts and the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have partnered with the Nigerian Government through the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control to strengthen laboratory systems for diagnosis and provide test kits and personal protective equipment (PPE) to health workers. To combat COVID-19 misinformation and encourage vaccination, we partnered with Meta to create and run a social behavioral change campaign on Facebook and Instagram that reached more than 2 million Nigerians.

OUR APPROACH

We work to ensure long-lasting health results by strengthening local health systems; building local capacity for management, leadership, transparency, and accountability; and working through existing health structures rather than building parallel ones. In partnership with the Government of Nigeria, we have established effective policies, addressed gaps in supply chains for medicines and commodities, and strengthened leadership and management within the public and private health sectors, all of which has been critical in preventing deaths and controlling infectious diseases.

FIGHTING MALARIA IN NIGERIA



In the midst of a year of challenges, from the pandemic to civil conflict to the effects of climate change, we collaborated with governments, front-line workers, and community members to deliver preventive treatments to millions of children and maintain a consistent supply of malaria commodities.

Each year, more than half of all malaria deaths are children under the age of 5. To protect these young children during the rainy season, when the risk of malaria rises, Nigeria organizes monthly distribution of longer-lasting malaria medicine via seasonal malaria chemoprevention campaigns. In 2021, dashboards were used to monitor the process, enabling real-time analysis and more efficient commodity management practices. At the end of the campaign, with USAID and Global Fund support, we exceeded coverage goals in Katsina State, with 2.1 million children treated, and Taraba, with more than 433,000 treated. In Zamfara State, the campaign reached more than 1.2 million children.

In Nigeria's Plateau State, the scarcity of pastoral land resulting from severe climate change exacerbates regular conflict and infighting between pastoralists and farmers, impacting the delivery of health services. In 2021, farmer-herder clashes made 15 of 18 MSH-supported health facilities inaccessible for 10 months. Putting innovation into practice, we adopted a remote mentoring system using WhatsApp and Zoom to provide clinical guidance and coaching to local health center staff and a platform for health care workers to share the latest data on malaria services.

OUR WORK

US President's Malaria Initiative for States (PMI-S)

We lead the US President's Malaria Initiative for States (PMI-S) project in partnership with Banyan Global, Thinkwell, and the Nigerian Interfaith Action Association. The project supports the Government of Nigeria at the federal, state, and local levels in improving the quality of and access to services for the prevention and management of malaria and its complications. PMI-S helps reduce child and maternal mortality by delivering quality services for the management of malaria and its complications and the prevention of malaria during pregnancy. In line with the vision of the NMEP and PMI's long-term goal of elimination, since 2018 PMI-S has supported improvements in:

Quality of and access to comprehensive malaria diagnosis, treatment, and prevention services • Quality of data for decision making • Drug-based malaria prevention and treatment approaches • NMEP management • Existing health systems

Global Fund Malaria Grant

As a subrecipient to Catholic Relief Services, MSH partners with the Government of Nigeria to combat malaria and strengthen health systems at the national and subnational levels. Working with the NMEP in 13 states, we helped to train more than 20,000 Nigerian health workers on treating severe and uncomplicated malaria and more than 1,000 health workers on integrated management of childhood illnesses. In the second phase of the grant (2021-2023), we are supporting the distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets to over 6 million people in Delta State and the implementation of seasonal malaria chemoprevention campaigns in Katsina and Taraba States.

Meta Social Behavioral Change Campaign

We're partnering with Meta to use social media platforms to build on ongoing malaria activities and promote better health-seeking behaviors by encouraging pregnant women to embrace malaria preventive treatments and adults and children to adopt preventive measures such as sleeping under insecticide-treated mosquito nets. These efforts support national malaria elimination efforts while countering misinformation online and expanding the reach of our activities.

USAID Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPS)

The MTaPS Program strengthens technical and managerial capacities within the human and animal health systems under the program's mandate to achieve a world safe and secure from global health threats posed by infectious diseases. To improve the country's preparedness in addressing antimicrobial resistance, MTaPS is working with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control to strengthen infection prevention and control measures and foster antimicrobial resistance stewardship activities in health facilities. In 2021, pilot programs were established in three hospitals to serve as models for adoption nationwide.

Tobacco Policy Action Fund for Africa

With funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, MSH is leading and managing the Tobacco Policy Action Fund for Africa, launched in October 2019. The fund supports governments in sub-Saharan African countries to implement tobacco control policies through results-based grants and peer-to-peer learning.

Nigeria Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health (RSSH)

With support from the Global Fund, the MSH-led Nigeria Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health (RSSH) project (2019-2020) worked to strengthen and expand the capacity of Nigeria's national- and state-level health systems. RSSH strengthened laboratory system governance and the COVID-19 response by establishing the first State Laboratory Technical Working Groups in Imo, Kaduna, Lagos, Niger, Osun, and Taraba States—home to an estimated 20% of the Nigerian population—and provided them with funding and technical assistance. RSSH also provided test kits and PPE to health workers. Despite the disruptions of COVID-19, RSSH helped the FMOH unveil national tools and documents to guide the planning and use of medicines and other health commodities and foster the smooth and effective operation of the supply chain, ensuring that medical products are available when and where they are needed, even during crises.

SOURCES OF SUPPORT

In addition to the Government of Nigeria, our partners in Nigeria have included the US Agency for International Development (USAID), US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Global Fund, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and President's Malaria Initiative (PMI).

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For more information on our work in Nigeria, please visit www.msh.org or contact us at communications@msh.org.