

MSH IN MADAGASCAR

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: MSH/Samy Rakotoniaina

Since 1983, we have worked in Madagascar to strengthen primary health care and improve equitable access to high-impact, evidence-based health services. Our programs support the Ministry of Public Health at the national, regional, and district levels to strengthen the continuum of care for improved maternal, newborn, and child health and family planning. Our work helps ensure that health workers and community health volunteers (CHVs) can deliver quality care in facilities and villages across the country.

OUR APPROACH

As a partner under two USAID-funded health programs in Madagascar, we work with the Ministry of Public Health and partners to strengthen the health system and ensure that quality health services are available and accessible to all Malagasy communities where we work. We strengthen the public-sector supply chain from the national to the district and community levels, improving access to medicines and people-centered services. And we build on that work by strengthening the clinical skills of health workers so that quality services are available and used across the country.

PROVIDING MALARIA SERVICES DURING COVID-19



ACCESS supported the development of a COVID-19 module on DHIS2 the open source web-based health management information system platform used by Madagascar's Ministry of Public Health. Photo credit: MSH/Misa Rahantason

Providing CHVs with mobile technology improves their ability to deliver quality health care. In Madagascar, where malaria is a leading cause of child mortality, what began as a pilot to guide CHVs through app-based malaria counseling and case management has been scaled up to more than 4,000 CHVs in 10 regions. The use of the app has helped keep malaria services accessible and reliable despite the COVID-19 health crisis.

The mHealth app provides step-by-step instructions on using rapid diagnostic tests and indicates needed treatments. Users can also access digital forms via the app that feed into the national health reporting system, quickly relaying information to health officials and informing the distribution of essential supplies to prevent shortages. Following the outbreak of COVID-19, the app was updated to include a COVID-19 module so that CHVs can conduct contact tracing and education activities aimed at preventing COVID-19.

Accessible Continuum of Care and Essential Services Sustained (ACCESS)

Through the USAID-funded ACCESS program, we support the Government of Madagascar in ensuring that quality health services are sustainably available and accessible to all Malagasy communities in 14 target regions. The program supports the Ministry of Public Health as it works to reduce maternal, infant, and child morbidity and mortality by increasing access to quality integrated health care services and medicines and promoting the adoption of healthy behaviors. Since 2018, ACCESS has supported more than 18,000 CHVs, nearly 2,000 health centers, and more than 1.7 million regular users of family planning; enabled more than 450,000 women to complete antenatal care; and helped empower CHVs to test more than 1.3 million children for malaria and treat more than 400,000 children with first-line malaria treatment. In response to COVID-19, ACCESS has reached more than 4.3 million people with prevention information, such as promotion of vaccination sites, and has trained more than 180 vaccination teams and close to 1,000 COVID-19 hotline responders.

Improving Market Partnerships and Access to Commodities Together (IMPACT)

Using a total market approach, USAID-funded IMPACT is building Madagascar's capacity to deliver quality health products and strengthen its supply chain to increase cost efficiency while enabling the health system to harness private-sector contributions, including those from retail pharmaceutical outlets. Led by Population Services International (PSI) with MSH, PATH, Banyan Global, and the Telma Foundation as partners, we help build capacity at the national level needed to procure and dispatch medicines and health commodities for the entire population. IMPACT partners with the Ministry of Public Health to strengthen its staff's skills for generating multiyear national forecasts and supply plans for malaria; family planning; reproductive health; and maternal, newborn, and child health commodities. These plans are then used to coordinate donor procurements and to advocate for and mobilize national-level financial contributions. Our support builds local leadership for improved supply chain practices and enables the transportation of essential medicines requiring refrigeration from district pharmacies to health centers, ensuring equitable distribution and availability at the point of care. IMPACT also helps district teams redistribute stock among health centers to avoid expiries and stock-outs.



IMPACT technician mentoring a midwife. Photo credit: MSH/ Samy Rakotoniaina

SOURCES OF SUPPORT

In addition to the Government of Madagascar, our work is supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US President's Malaria Initiative (PMI).

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 MSHHealthImpact

 Management Sciences for Health

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