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STEERING NIGERIA'S JOURNEY TO ZERO MALARIA

Fiscal Year 23 BULLETIN



The PMI-S team facilitating a mentoring session for community health volunteers during the SMC campaign in Zamfara State (Photo credit: PMI-S)

The U.S. President's Malaria Initiative for States (PMI-S) Bulletin highlights information about the significant achievements of the project during this fiscal year. These highlights provide an overview of the project and focus on PMI-S' success at improving the quality of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of malaria; enhancing data quality; and improving collaboration with the National Malaria Elimination Program (NMEP) to enable the best malaria service delivery in health facilities across eight supported states in Nigeria.

COVERAGE

PMI-S provides technical support to improve malaria service delivery and data management in more than 6,000 health facilities in Nigeria through training, supervision, and mentoring of health workers. This is done in coordination with the NMEP, State Malaria Elimination Programs, State Primary Health Care Development Agencies, and State Hospital Management Boards across the eight supported states. The project also supports 644 communities across Benue, Ebonyi, and Zamfara states to provide integrated community case management (iCCM) of malaria services.

HIGHLIGHTS AND MILESTONES

PMI-S support facilitates the provision of lifesaving malaria prevention, diagnosis, and treatment services

PMI-S support has significantly improved malaria prevention, diagnosis, and treatment services across eight supported states in Nigeria, positively impacting millions of lives.



More than **6** million fever cases were seen, with 98% tested for malaria using malaria rapid diagnostic test (mRDT) kits or microscopy in PMI-S-supported health facilities.



Of these cases, **65%** (close to 4 million) tested positive for malaria, and 98% of those received timely treatment with artemisinin-based combination therapy.

- More than half a million pregnant women received two doses of sulphadoxine-pyremethamine (SP) to prevent malaria in pregnancy during antenatal care visits.

- About 54,000 children under the age of 5 received malaria treatment through iCCM and the Community Health Influencers, Promoters, and Services (CHIPS) program in Benue, Ebonyi, and Zamfara states.
- More than 1.5 million children under the age of 5 received SP and amodiaquine during the Zamfara State 2023 seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) campaign.



A PMI-S-trained CDD administering medicine to prevent malaria to a child under the age of 5 during the SMC campaign in Zamfara State (Photo credit: PMI-S Project)

PMI-S Advocacy Drives Local Investments in the Fight against Malaria

PMI-S' sustained advocacy activities enabled stakeholders and malaria actors to commit to investing in malaria interventions across supported states.

- The Oyo State Government sustained the procurement of SP to prevent malaria in pregnancy. The state government procured and distributed 595,000 doses to nearly 200,000 women, representing about 41% of the estimated population of pregnant women in the state. This enabled significant improvement in preventive treatment uptake in the state from 35% in 2022 to 53.3% in 2023.
- State governments renovated and operationalized quality assurance/quality control reference laboratories, leading to enhanced accurate malaria diagnosis and reduced mRDT positivity rates. Akwa Ibom dropped from 68% to 49%, Cross River from 75% to 60%, Ebonyi from 64% to 55%, and Oyo from 74% to 51%.
- Ebonyi State leveraged the Basic Health Care Provision Fund to procure nonmalaria commodities for iCCM/CHIPS implementation, ensuring continuous availability of medicines for diarrhea and pneumonia. Additionally, the state supported the disbursement of stipends for CHIPS agents. As a result, 1,340 and 2,338 children under the age of 5 received treatment for diarrhea and pneumonia, respectively, in the areas where iCCM/CHIPS is implemented. This has contributed to enhanced health outcomes in these hard-to-reach communities.

PMI-S Support Promotes Data-Driven and Evidence-Based Decisions for Malaria Interventions

Data-driven decision making is a cornerstone of PMI-S interventions, and the project has made significant strides in improving data quality and its utilization for decision making. Through effective surveillance, monitoring, and evaluation, the project has contributed to increased availability of malaria data in supported states.



PMI-S support enabled a commendable **95%** data reporting rate across supported health facilities.

- This support has also increased the timeliness of data reporting from 75% to 88%.
- The integration of Health Management Information System and Logistics Management Information System data, along with the establishment of data control rooms, enhanced accountability in the utilization of malaria commodities.
- PMI-S support has facilitated the use of data for decision making by all coordination fora in the states.



PMI-S-trained data validators during a DQA exercise at PHC Big Qua, Calabar, Cross River State (Photo credit: PMI-S Project)



National CHIPS M&E Officer Uju Okonkwo addressing participants during the data quality assurance exercise (Photo credit: PMI-S Project)

PMI-S Support Makes Health and Malaria Service Systems Resilient

PMI-S' commitment to building resilient health and malaria service systems is evident in its approach to improving the performance of supported health facilities.



Ndidiama using a microscope for malaria diagnosis (Photo credit: PMI-S Project)

- By enabling regular NMEP technical meetings, PMI-S strengthens capacity on malaria programmatic thematic areas from the grassroots to the national level.
- PMI-S enabled continuous joint planning and implementation with the NMEP branches' technical staff. This significantly improved program performance rates and enabled the development of a harmonized NMEP and partners' surveillance, monitoring, and evaluation work plan. This resulted in an increase in coordination and implementation of planned activities from 68% completion in 2022 to 89% in 2023.

- Program interventions strengthened the host government's capacity to lead strategic planning, coordination, and activity implementation.
- PMI-S strengthened capacity to conduct state-based malaria diagnostic training (microscopy and mRDT training).
- PMI-S enabled the conduct of malaria annual operational plan reviews without donor funds across supported states.



PMI-S supported the training of more than **1,700** health care workers across supported states on malaria case management (malaria treatment), and more than 1,400 were trained on malaria diagnosis (mRDT and microscopy) for accurate diagnosis..

PMI-S Leads Surveillance for Effective Malaria Treatment

PMI-S supported the implementation of the 2023 Therapeutic Efficacy Study in four approved sites (Oyo, Bayelsa, Anambra, and Yobe States) to assess the effectiveness of antimalarials.

The US President's Malaria Initiative for States (PMI-S) project is USAID Nigeria and PMI's flagship project to reduce malaria mortality and morbidity in Nigeria. The project supports the Government of Nigeria through its agencies at the federal, state, local government area, and community levels to improve the quality of and access to services for the prevention and management of malaria and its complications. PMI-S is led by Management Sciences for Health (MSH) and implemented in partnership with Banyan Global, ThinkWell, and the Nigerian Interfaith Action Association.