

Fighting malaria today and tomorrow

PATH helps developing countries combat the deadly disease

Malaria kills more than one million children in sub-Saharan Africa each year. Despite the complexity of the disease, we believe it can be overcome with strategic leadership, strong partnerships, and a commitment to sustained resources. PATH is taking a dual approach to fighting malaria: we are helping governments deliver the best existing methods for prevention and treatment and we are bringing together public- and private-sector partners to accelerate the development of promising malaria vaccines.

MACEPA: partnering for success

The Malaria Control and Evaluation Partnership in Africa (MACEPA), a program at PATH, was established in 2004 with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. MACEPA works with African governments and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership to rapidly deliver proven malaria control and prevention interventions for nationwide health and economic impact.

The key to the success of this approach—scale-up for impact—is country leadership through the “three ones”: one national plan, one coordination mechanism for implementing the plan, and one monitoring and evaluation system. Partners work through a cycle of planning, aligning resources, coordinating implementation, and monitoring and evaluation to scale up malaria control and prevention.

Progress in Zambia

MACEPA works with the Zambian Ministry of Health to provide and ensure the use of cost-effective tools such as insecticide-treated bed nets, safe household insecticide spraying, preventive treatment for pregnant women, and powerful artemisinin-based medicines that can dramatically reduce the human and economic costs of malaria.

Tools and methods for monitoring and evaluation, work planning, managing logistics, and conducting human resource assessments are strengthening Zambia’s ability to fight malaria and providing valuable templates for adaptation and use in other countries. Recent progress in making prevention and treatment methods widely available and in strengthening national systems in Zambia strongly positions the country to achieve significant, sustainable impact.

Shared learning with other countries

MACEPA is expanding the approach used in Zambia to help other countries accelerate their national malaria control programs. Launched in 2006, the MACEPA Learning Community uses a dynamic model of shared learning and technical support.

Success stories

Zambia setting standards for malaria control

With PATH’s support, more people in Zambia have the tools to protect themselves from malaria. Zambia has distributed 5.3 million insecticide-treated bed nets, and more than 60 percent of pregnant women now take malaria prevention medicine. Eighty-five percent of households in 15 targeted districts have been sprayed to keep mosquitoes at bay. The country is poised for sustained success in tackling the disease.



Malaria scale-up in Ethiopia

During a recent two-year malaria control effort, Ethiopia distributed 20 million bed nets—enough for at least two in every household at risk for the disease. In 2007, Ethiopia completed its first national malaria indicator survey, with support from MACEPA and other Learning Community partners. The survey measures the coverage of key malaria interventions and will inform future national malaria control planning.

The Learning Community works with its member countries to incorporate the best tools, methods, and knowledge into their national programs, building capacity in the process. It also facilitates exchange among countries, bringing peers together to showcase their existing strengths, share lessons, and build on each other's experiences. Together, these countries are demonstrating that scaling up malaria control can have a rapid impact in a range of settings.

MVI: promoting progress through collaboration

The PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI) is a global program committed to accelerating the development of safe, effective, and affordable malaria vaccines for children through age five in sub-Saharan Africa. No licensed vaccine against malaria currently exists.

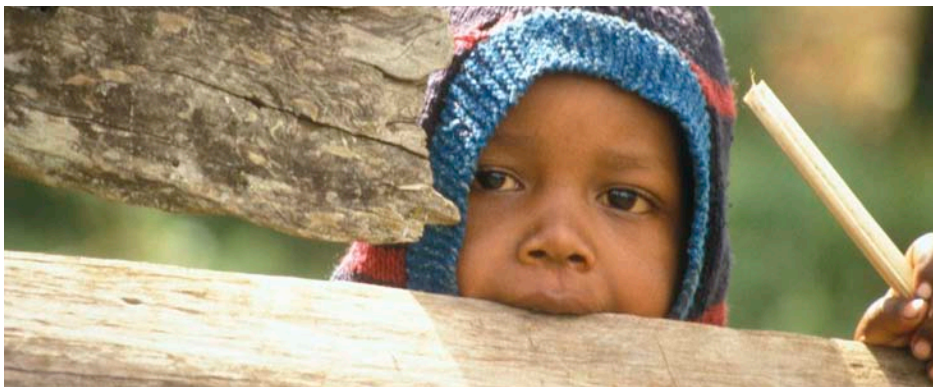
Established as a PATH program in 1999 through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, MVI works with government, academic, and industry experts to identify potentially promising vaccine candidates and systematically move them through the development process. MVI also works with malaria-endemic countries and with a range of international institutions to ensure rapid and appropriate use of a malaria vaccine as soon as the first one is available.

Protection against most dangerous parasite

The world is closer than ever to developing a vaccine to defeat *Plasmodium falciparum*, the most dangerous malaria parasite. The malaria vaccine community aspires to develop, by 2015, a first-generation vaccine with at least 50 percent protective efficacy against severe disease, with protection lasting at least one year without the need for boosting. MVI and its partners are well positioned to meet that goal.

Focus on affordability

Malaria remains a complicated foe, however, and its defeat requires continued commitment to innovative partnerships and financing strategies. MVI and its partners are building on the momentum of recent years to bring more potent vaccine candidates into the pipeline and to pursue appropriate business models to ensure that a vaccine, once ready for use, will be affordable.



Richard Lord

For more information:

- PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative website, www.malariavaccine.org
- MACEPA Learning Community website, www.macepallearningcommunity.org
- MACEPA overview and materials, www.path.org/macepa

Progress toward a promising vaccine

MVI's leading vaccine candidate, GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals' RTS,S, is poised to enter a pivotal Phase 3 trial in 2008. Study results in 2004, 2005, and 2007 have positioned RTS,S as the most advanced malaria vaccine candidate. RTS,S requires several more years of clinical investigation, but if all goes well, the vaccine could be submitted to relevant international organizations for licensing as early as 2011.



David Jacobs

Accelerating the search for malaria vaccines

MVI and Seattle Biomedical Research Institute are collaborating to open a human challenge trials center to test potential malaria vaccines in human volunteers. The new center will be one of only a handful of facilities of its kind worldwide and will help meet the growing demand to test new interventions against the deadly malaria parasite.

PATH is an international nonprofit organization that creates sustainable, culturally relevant solutions, enabling communities worldwide to break longstanding cycles of poor health. By collaborating with diverse public- and private-sector partners, PATH helps provide appropriate health technologies and vital strategies that change the way people think and act. PATH's work improves global health and well-being.



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