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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is Africa’s 2nd largest country—and has the 2nd highest burden of malaria in the world. Malaria is the primary cause of death and sickness in the country, and only 30% of the DRC’s population has access to life-saving health services. The U.S. President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI) joined forces with the DRC in 2011, concentrating its efforts in 9 of the DRC’s 26 provinces, protecting around 33 million people in the DRC’s fight to eliminate malaria.



↓ 56%

REDUCTION IN ALL-CAUSE MORTALITY
IN CHILDREN UNDER 5 SINCE 2010

ONE CAMPAIGN, TWO DISEASES: HOW THE DRC FOUGHT EBOLA AND MALARIA AT ONCE

In 2018, health workers in eastern parts of the DRC were battling two major health crises—an ongoing Ebola outbreak and a spike in malaria cases that overburdened many Ebola responders. With fever one of several overlapping symptoms of both infectious diseases, up to 50% of people screened in Ebola treatment centers only had malaria.

In response, the DRC’s National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) teamed up with PMI, UNICEF, the Global Fund and the World Health Organization to launch a four-day mass drug administration campaign. The campaign aimed to: 1) reach people with life-saving malaria interventions and stop malaria transmission; 2) prevent malaria cases and reduce the disease’s burden on the health system and communities.

Working collaboratively, the NMCP and partners reached 450,000 people with insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs) to prevent malaria. They also provided anti-malarial medicines to treat people who contracted it. While these steps were critical to stopping malaria transmission within the community and beyond at the time, strengthening the health infrastructure and early diagnosis of fevers by community health workers continues to be an essential goal for identifying and preventing infectious disease spread.



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This anti-malaria campaign [also helped] reduce the pressure on the overall health system, which [was] striving to protect people from the ongoing Ebola threat in the region.

– Dr Yokouide Allarangar,
WHO’S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE DRC IN 2018