



15X MALAWI

Malawi and the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) first teamed up to fight malaria in 2007. Malaria is endemic in more than 95% of Malawi and is one of the major causes of illness and death across all age groups in the country. With support from PMI, Malawi's government scaled up the distribution of anti-malaria treatments, including for pregnant women, and insecticide-treated nets, along with a renewed focus on indoor residual spraying in the country's hardest hit district.

MALAWI'S FIGHT TO END MALARIA

1 OF 3

African countries
selected to pilot
**the first malaria
vaccine**

1 OF 6

African countries piloting
a new type of net that is
**more effective against
insecticide-resistant
mosquitoes**

↑44%

Increase in percentage of
**insecticide-treated
net ownership**
from 2006-2017



↓48%

REDUCTION IN ALL-CAUSE MORTALITY
IN CHILDREN UNDER 5 SINCE 2006



THE WOMEN HELPING LEAD MALAWI'S MALARIA FIGHT

Between 2012 and 2018, indoor residual spraying (IRS) was not used in Malawi, a likely contributor to a more than doubling of malaria cases in the same timeframe. IRS involves spraying homes with an insecticide on the walls and ceilings where mosquitoes carrying the malaria parasite tend to rest. In 2018, Malawi's government partnered with PMI to reintroduce IRS in the country's most vulnerable district: Nkhosakota District.

Recognizing the benefits of employing women in the malaria fight, PMI and its partners encouraged women to apply for all positions on the IRS project and ensured equal opportunity for women in supervisory roles. As IRS sprayers, women often could have greater access to homes, due to cultural norms that prohibit men from entering a home if the male head of household is not home. In addition, earning a salary helps to empower the women economically, which studies have shown can have greater impact on their household's health and economic status.

In total, the 2018 IRS campaign helped protect over half a million people in the Nkhosakota District, including those at greatest risk: pregnant women and children under 5. As a result of the campaign's efforts, Malawi's National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) hopes to see a reduction in malaria cases in the district by more than 50% in the coming years. PMI is also helping Malawi's NMCP develop a roadmap for its Insecticide Resistance Management Plan to ensure the long-term effectiveness of IRS. In the 2018 IRS campaign's first year, women accounted for 40% of all seasonal IRS staff. Promoting the role of women in IRS is not only a critical step in the malaria fight, it also helps to improve overall economic power of women in countries like Malawi.



When I walk by, some of the mothers in the community tell their children, 'Look at her. She's a woman in an important job. If you work hard, you can do something important, too.'

– Agbethia Malenga
IRS SITE MANAGER IN MALAWI'S
NKHOTAKOTA DISTRICT

