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NIGERIA

Nigeria and the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) first teamed up to fight malaria in 2011. This West African nation is the most populous country in Africa with an estimated population of 191 million and the highest malaria burden in the world. PMI supports malaria control and prevention programs in 11 out of 36 states in Nigeria, reaching approximately 56 million people. In recent years, Nigeria made substantial progress toward malaria control with malaria deaths reducing from 200,000 in 2006 to 95,000 deaths in 2019.

FIGHTING FOR A MALARIA-FREE NIGERIA

↓ 16%

Reduction in
all-cause mortality in children under 5
since 2008

↑ 27%

Increase in percentage of
2 doses of intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in pregnancy
from 2010 to 2018



REDUCED MALARIA DEATHS FROM

200K

IN 2006

TO

95K

IN 2019

REVAMPING NIGERIA'S APPROACH TO MALARIA TESTING

Historically, healthcare facilities in Nigeria required patients to see a provider before receiving a malaria test. At times, this led to misdiagnosis and overuse of malaria medications as providers relied on clinical intuition rather than data to prescribe treatment. To address this issue, starting in 2019, PMI and the Nigeria National Malaria Elimination Programme worked with providers to understand pain points in current clinic practices and began testing new approaches to malaria diagnosis in healthcare settings. As a result, Nigeria's clinics and hospitals began offering a new check-in procedure in 2020: testing patients with fever as soon as they check in.

The new approach relies on using rapid diagnostic tests to confirm malaria presence, improving providers' adherence to malaria testing and treatment guidelines. This process change ensures the provider gets the results immediately and makes an informed treatment decision faster. For patients, what was once an all-day wait in the clinic is now shortened to just a few hours and a confirmed diagnosis. Nigeria's new approach to malaria testing eases overburdened health systems dealing with malaria, saves patients' time and reduces overuse of malaria medications—a common issue in the country.

