



BOOSTER PROGRAM

FOR MALARIA CONTROL IN AFRICA

Booster Program for Malaria Control in Africa – Intensifying the Fight against Malaria

An Overview of Booster Phase II

The World Bank is committed to the global malaria effort not only because it is a major public health issue but also because it costs Africa US\$12 billion a year and helps keep families and communities in poverty. Our mission to fight poverty demands that we help our client countries remove this disease as a hindrance to their development.

In its first three years (2005–2008), the World Bank’s Malaria Booster Program committed over US\$465 million to malaria control on the continent. Focusing on a two-pronged approach of combining disease control interventions and health systems strengthening, the program worked with countries and other partners to contribute significantly to the global effort to fight the disease. These resources are on track to help purchase and distribute at least 21 million long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) and 42 million doses of artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT).

Several countries are showing concrete signs of progress as they expand their malaria fighting programs to get more bed nets per household, indoor residual spraying (IRS), and stepped up access to low-cost, effective drugs for preventing and treating the disease.

Expanding the Effort

On December 4, 2008, in Abuja, Nigeria, the World Bank launched Phase II (2008–2011) of the Booster Program. Building on prior successes, the World Bank will make available US\$1.1 billion to expand programs to combat malaria in Africa. The new financial commitment will help African countries over the next three years to scale up their malaria prevention, care, and treatment programs and to sharply reduce the numbers of malaria-related deaths and illness that afflict their communities each year.

In Phase II, The World Bank has made a strategic priority of working in two of the hardest-hit countries in Africa – the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria. These countries account for 30 to 40 percent of all malaria deaths worldwide. Both countries are undertaking massive bed net campaigns, expanding treatment to the rural poor, and improving the overall health system so that the gains made through rapid control can be sustained. Ongoing support also will be provided to countries currently participating in Booster and to other countries where Booster funding can have significant impact.

National Plans and a Regional Approach

The Booster Program makes available flexible, cross-border, and multi-sector funding for country-led initiatives to scale up proven malaria control interventions and strengthen health systems. Countries take the lead in prioritizing, planning, implementing, and evaluating the initiatives within their borders.

The World Bank will use its comparative advantages vis-à-vis other partners to help countries identify and fill gaps in financing, break through bottlenecks, and achieve the goals of their National Malaria Control Plans. Phase II also will increase support for regional efforts, which are essential to the elimination agenda. This includes allocating US\$500 million for cross-border programs to help ensure that no household is left uncovered.

A Critical Role in Attaining a Shared Goal

Malaria can be prevented and cured. Major reductions in malaria deaths and illness are possible within the next several years. Attacking the disease full-force with a front-loaded effort will have tremendous impact on health and economic outcomes. African nations and the global community are gearing up to meet the ambitious new goals of universal coverage and malaria elimination. As one of the top three funders of malaria control, the World Bank is called upon to play a substantial role in this effort. Phase II of the Booster Program is the Bank’s affirmative and emphatic response to that call.