

Scaling up for universal coverage and impact

Reducing malaria morbidity and mortality in South Sudan by 80 percent by 2020

Background

Malaria infected more than 1.3 million people in South Sudan in 2017 and accounted for 65 percent of all illnesses reported in health facilities. That same year, the disease killed 220 people weekly in the country, most of them children under five.^[1]

For over 35 years, armed conflict has worsened public health issues in South Sudan. Insecurity and hyperinflation continue to complicate health service delivery, resulting in limited access to basic malaria diagnostic, treatment and vector control interventions across the country. This places the entire population at high risk of contracting the disease.

Country

South Sudan

Donor

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Length of project

January 2018 – September 2020

Partners

Aweil State Ministry of Health

County Health Departments (Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Western Bahr el Ghazal)

Population Services International South Sudan

Republic of South Sudan's National Malaria Control Programme

Project outline and objectives

In collaboration with the National Malaria Control Programme, the Scaling Up for Universal Coverage and Impact project aims to:

- reduce malaria morbidity and mortality by 80 percent and malaria parasite prevalence by 50 percent by 2020, compared to 2013 levels^[2]
- protect 85 percent of the population through recommended malaria prevention methods — such as long lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) — by end of project
- ensure that at least 90 percent of all malaria cases are diagnosed and treated according to national guidelines by end of project
- ensure 80 percent of health facilities routinely report on core malaria indicators by end of project
- help put malaria emergency preparedness and control response measures in place in all communities affected by conflict, natural disaster or epidemics.

Project activities

To help achieve these goals, Malaria Consortium will:

- organise mass distribution campaigns of 330,200 LLINs in former Western Bahr el Ghazal state and 736,118 LLINs in former Northern Bahr el Ghazal state
- train a network of 580 volunteer community health workers (CHWs) to conduct malaria rapid diagnostics tests (mRDTs) on children 6–59 months, provide artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) to positive cases and refer severe cases to the formal health system for treatment in the counties of Aweil Centre and Aweil North in former Northern Bahr el Ghazal state
- train 28 supervisors to guarantee the quality of services and supply the CHWs with the necessary equipment
- facilitate the supply chain management of mRDTs and ACTs
- provide supportive supervision visits as well as on-the-job mentoring to improve clinical practices
- support county health departments to report health facility data monthly through the Health Management Information System and participate in data quality audits in former Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Western Bahr el Ghazal states.

References

1. World Health Organization. South Sudan's malaria toll highlights disease burden in war-torn nation. Geneva: WHO; 2017. Available from: www.afro.who.int/news/south-sudans-malaria-toll-highlights-disease-burden-war-torn-nation.
2. National Malaria Control Programme. Malaria Indicator Survey 2013. Juba: NMCP; 2013. Available from: www.malariasurveys.org/documents/MIS%20Report%202013%20Final%20Pages.pdf.

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Cover image: LLIN distribution in South Sudan

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