

Fighting Malaria on the “River of Life”

An opportunity to join an historic, illuminating voyage



Under the political sponsorship of SADC, the RBM Zambezi Expedition – a voyage on the 2,500 km Zambezi River - will be a world's first to show the successes and the challenges faced by six malaria-endemic African countries – Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The journey will draw attention onto remote populations at the water's edge who are anxious to receive protective treated nets and malaria treatments. It will also help document the disease, highlight the success and challenges of meeting SADC countries' pledge to eradicate malaria and help make the case for this ambitious health goal.



- The Zambezi Expedition will showcase the successes in the fight against malaria and highlight the challenges to be tackled and overcome, such as education, access to effective treatment and drug resistance.
- The Zambezi expedition will highlight the plight of babies and young children, and the very high price they pay: 75% of all malaria-related deaths occur in pregnant women and children. There is no reason why so many pregnant women and children are dying of malaria, a preventable and treatable disease.
- The Zambezi Expedition illustrates the vital importance of regional cooperation and cross-border collaboration to the SADC region's long term goal of elimination. It demonstrates that success is within reach.
- The Zambezi Expedition demonstrates the need for partnerships to fight malaria. The Expedition would not have been possible without partnership.
- The Zambezi River has the potential to represent the 'River of Life' among the six countries and serve as a communications and development pathway. Instead, the high burden of malaria today creates a river environment of illness and suffering.

Country Profile - Malaria control | ZIMBABWE



Courtesy of World Factbook

Zimbabwe in Figures

General (2005)¹

- Population: 13.1 million
- Life expectancy: 40.9 years
- Under-five mortality: 132 per 1,000
- Doctors/people: 16 per 100,000 people

Malaria (2007)²

Estimated cases - 1.8 million

Reported deaths - 1500

Source: 1 UNDP, 2 Global Fund and NMCP

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Background

Malaria affects two thirds of the Zimbabwean population of 11.2 million. Annually 1.4 to 1.8 million cases and up to 1500 deaths. Only the main watershed area or high veldt is spared from malaria, i.e. most large urban areas.

Key Interventions

Malaria control activities include: Indoor Residual Spraying; Insecticide Treated Nets; Larviciding; Case Management - ACTs & RDTs; Information, Education and Communication; Research & Surveillance

Results to Date

Malaria morbidity and mortality has generally been coming down over the years because of intensified efforts aimed at reducing the mosquito-human contact, with the exception of 2003-4 which witnessed major outbreaks across the country.

Rapid Assessment April 2006 (5 of 10 GF Districts)

- 43% of under fives and 36% of pregnant women reported to were sleeping under and net
- 61% of surveyed households had at least one net
- 73% of pregnant women had taken IPT
- 65% of under five children with fever had sought treatment within 24 hours of onset of fever
- 81% of households had been sprayed

Program Focus and Strategic Direction

- Improve data and information management
- Increase malaria free areas especially the southern part of the country
- Work on cross border collaboration with all neighboring countries
- Introduce quality control and quality assurance into all aspects of the program
- Introduce the home management of malaria with ACTs

Country partners and financing

The National Malaria Control Programme is implementing programmes with the collaboration of the following partners:

- World Health Organization
- UNICEF
- Plan International
- Population Services International / Zimbabwe
- Syngenta
- CESVI and the Italian Cooperation
- Nets for Africa
- The Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Sector Ministries (Defense, Transport & Energy, Agriculture)
- Community-based organizations (CBOs)