

# 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 | MOZAMBIQUE



*Courtesy of World Factbook*

### Mozambique in Figures

#### General (2005) – Source: UNDP

- Population: 20.5 million
- Life expectancy: 44 years
- Under-five mortality: 145 per 1,000
- Doctors/people: 3 per 100,000 people

#### Malaria

Estimated cases - 5.9 million

Source: Global Fund

\* Actual numbers of malaria cases and deaths are considered to be much higher since the majority of cases in Africa are unreported.

### Contact Information

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### Background

Malaria accounts for a large percentage of Mozambique's disease burden. Under-five mortality rate in Mozambique is about 145/1000, and about 30% of the deaths are due to malaria. The maternal mortality rate is estimated at 410/100,000 live births, with many of these deaths considered to result directly or indirectly from malaria infection. The true scale of the economic losses attributable to malaria in-country is unknown, but it severely limits productivity and reduces school attendance. (Data from Global Fund Round 6 application)

Mozambique is prone to natural disasters such as drought, cyclones and floods, and these can contribute to dramatic increases in malaria transmission.

### Key Interventions

The national malaria control strategy has six elements:

- Diagnosis, case management and provision of drugs
- Integrated vector management and personal protection
- Health promotion and community mobilization
- Emergency response
- Programme management and systems development
- Monitoring and evaluation (surveillance, information and research).

### Results to Date

Early in 2006 the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Mozambique declared malaria a national emergency, and determined to catch up on lagging progress towards the 2015 malaria-related targets of the Millennium Development Goals by undertaking an all-out effort to scale up key interventions before 2010. Ambitious short-term targets have been set, and malaria has been given high priority in the Government Guidelines for the Health Sector and Second Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. A unique opportunity arose in 2006 when strong government support combined with increased external interest.

### Major funding partners

US President's Malaria Initiative: \$17 million in 2007  
The Global Fund: Round 2 & 6 - Approved \$53.7 million; Disbursed to date \$24.5 million  
World Bank Booster Programme: anticipated \$10 million for 2008.

*Information gathered from the National Malaria Control Strategic Plan, The Global Fund and PMI Websites. March 2008*