

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 | **NAMIBIA**



Courtesy of World Factbook

Namibia in Figures

General:

Population 2.06 million (2007)

Life expectancy: 54 (2004)

Infant mortality rate: 42 (2004)

Doctors/People: 3 per 100,000 people

Malaria (annual average 96-03)

Reported cases: 450,000

Reported deaths: 1,000

Contact Information

Contact information

Dr. Peticia N. Uusiku

National Malaria Country

Programme Manager

Ministry of Health

Tel: +264-61-203-2867

Email: uusiku@nacop.net

Background

Malaria is one of the major public health problems in Namibia. About 68% of the total population (~1.4 million) lives is at risk of malaria. In 2005/06, malaria has been reported as the first cause of illness and death accounting for 17.4% of outpatient visits, 12.21% of admissions and 6.5 % of in-patient deaths. Annually 450000 malaria cases are reported by health facilities. *P.falciparum* constitutes up to 98 % of the cases and 2% due to *P. vivax*. The malaria prevention and control goal in Namibia is to achieve 50% reduction in malaria burden by 2010.

Access to health-care in Namibia is uneven; there are good facilities available, but not in rural or poor urban areas. In total, Namibia has 35 state hospitals, 12 private hospitals, 37 state health centers and 246 state clinics providing together 7,653 beds. Despite this network of facilities, many communities, particularly in sparsely populated rural areas, must depend on mobile outreach services for health care.

Namibia experienced epidemics in 1990, 1996, 1997, 2000 and 2001, with the worst scenario in 2001. During the last epidemic, over 500,000 malaria cases and more than 1,000 deaths were reported country wide, amounting to an incidence rate of 248/1000 and mortality rate of 45/100,000 population.

Results to date (2006)

The malaria prevention and control program in Namibia was first launched in 1991 and at the same time was integrated into the basic health service system.

As Namibia's main funding partner for malaria control, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria disbursed \$5,055,109.00 in 2003 for Round 2; and approved \$8,538,063.00 for Round 6.

Upcoming activities and expected results

In May 2007, a new Round 6 grant worth US\$8.5 million to scale up the fight against malaria in the country was signed. The Round 6 funded activities focus on strengthening malaria case management, increasing the coverage of ITNs among vulnerable groups, strengthening operational research, promoting knowledge and awareness on malaria prevention and treatment, increasing quality and coverage of IRS and strengthening the health systems for effective malaria control.

The expected results over the next five years are:

1. Reduction of malaria mortality by 50% from 42/100,000 in 2000 to 22/100,000 in 2011
2. Reduction of malaria morbidity by 50% from 282/1,000 in 2000 to 141/1,000 in 2011