



UGANDA



OVERVIEW

Uganda launched a national Mass Action Against Malaria (MAAM) campaign as part of the continent-wide Zero Malaria movement in 2018. Led by the National Malaria Control Division, the country has achieved commendable progress in driving action and accountability from senior government, private sector and civil society leaders, as well as increased funding and engagement from local communities to take ownership over the fight to end malaria. According to the latest WHO World Malaria Report, Uganda was the only high-burden country in Africa to significantly reduce its number of malaria cases between 2017-2018. However, it still remains one of the 11 highest burden countries in the world having recorded 12.3 million cases of malaria in 2018.





Photography by Caitlin Christman U.S. President's Malaria Initiative

SPOTLIGHT: STRENGTHENING SCHOOL HEALTH THROUGH MUSIC DANCE AND DRAMA

As a result of Parliamentary advocacy during a countrywide malaria outbreak in 2019, the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and Sports collaborated to integrate malaria prevention messaging into primary and secondary schools nationwide. Malaria was chosen as the theme of the annual Music Dance and Drama inter-school competition with over 80 primary and secondary schools across Uganda producing and performing interactive skits focused on educating community members about

proper malaria prevention and control actions. District Education Officers and Head Teachers remain critical champions that disseminate health information to communities they serve, while School Management Committees ensure malaria control interventions are properly implemented, including Indoor Residual Spraying for dormitories and classrooms, screening of windows, and encouraging students to use protective clothing to limit mosquito bites.

STRATEGIC APPROACHES TO DRIVE ACTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY, INCREASED FUNDING, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AROUND ZERO MALARIA STARTS WITH ME

- With a robust Parliamentary network, the Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Malaria (UPFM) was established in 2018, in partnership with the National Malaria Control Division. The Forum is a platform for members of parliament to generate visibility, and use their position in Parliament to advocate for accelerated malaria prevention and control efforts.
- A two-year strategic plan to operationalize the UPFM was developed with support from the WHO, UNICEF, RBM Partnership to End Malaria and African Leaders Malaria Alliance and is currently being implemented.
- In order for members of parliament to track progress, increase accountability and address bottlenecks, a Parliamentary Malaria Scorecard was created with data at the constituency, district and national level.
- In response to the need for increased action and funding, the Ministry of Finance directed all sectors to integrate malaria prevention activities into their workplans and budgets for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. This mainstreaming of malaria programs across government sectors will help accelerate national efforts to end malaria.
- The government signed a data sharing agreement to establish a repository on malaria data with a dedicated data analytics team to monitor progress and outbreaks.
- The Mass Action Against Malaria initiative led to the development and rollout of the first MAAM district taskforce and multi-sectoral malaria oversight committee.
- In 2020, the government is working with influential private sector companies and trade groups to establish an End Malaria Council and Fund.