

Life-saving malaria project in Zambia to expand

**MAMaZ against Malaria at Scale set to benefit four times more people
at risk of malaria in rural Zambia**

London, UK & Geneva, Switzerland, 24 April 2019. A consortium of partners comprising Development Data, DAI Global Health, Disacare, Transaid and Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) are working with the National Malaria Elimination Centre (NMEC) in Zambia to scale up the highly successful MAMaZ against Malaria (MAM) pilot project. This comes after securing matched funding from Grand Challenges Canada (GCC) and the Government of Canada that will allow the project to benefit around four times as many people living in rural Zambia (from 54,000 to 200,000).

The new project – MAMaZ against Malaria at Scale – follows a 12-month pilot from 2017 to 2018, which reduced severe malaria fatality by 96% (from 8% to 0.25%) in Serenje district.¹ This was achieved through effective community engagement, a functioning drug supply chain, implementing an innovative emergency transport system for patients using bicycle ambulances and increased access to key medicines for severe malaria.

Caroline Barber, CEO of Transaid, says: “Together with our partners, this new 18-month project will see us supporting a four-fold increase in population coverage with the potential to reach five districts, 200 communities and 38 health facilities, and save hundreds more lives. The consortium will provide strategic and technical support to NMEC as Zambia transitions to scale.”

Tendayi Kureya, the CEO of Development Data says, “In Zambia, our government is determined to eliminate malaria by 2030. This project, when fully implemented in all the districts where needed, will go a very long way in cutting child deaths due to malaria. The current funding will take us to five districts and 200,000 people. Further funding will be needed to reach all those at risk in the country.”

The project will continue to see the MAM at Scale consortium in collaboration with NMEC procure WHO quality assured Rectal Artesunate (RAS) 100mg –used to help manage severe malaria in children less than six years old at a community level before they are referred to a healthcare facility to receive injectable artesunate.

“Malaria can become deadly all too quickly, especially for children under 5 living far from health facilities,” said George Jagoe, Head of Access & Product Management, MMV. “The dramatic 96% reduction in case fatality achieved by the pilot project, demonstrates not only the undeniable benefit of using RAS and emergency transport in tandem but also the incredible life-saving impact this project could have at full scale in Zambia as well as other high-burden malaria countries.”

¹ The 12-month MAMaZ Against Malaria (MAM) pilot project was led by Transaid and MMV, in collaboration with a consortium of partners and the Zambian National Malaria Elimination Centre.

ends

Footnotes

¹ Expected deaths calculated based on the case fatality rate measured during the baseline (8 per cent) and the elevated suspected severe malaria cases (1,215 cases) measured during the project compared to the baseline (224 cases), the project would have expected 97 deaths without any intervention.

Notes to editors

This project is undertaken with the financial support of Grand Challenges Canada and the Government of Canada, through Global Affairs Canada (GAC). Their support must be included when referencing this project.

About malaria

Malaria places a heavy burden on the health of children. With intensive global effort, it is estimated that 6.2 million deaths due to malaria were prevented between 2001 and 2015, 5.9 million (95%) of which were those of young children. However, malaria continues to take its toll. A child under 5 dies every 2 minutes from the disease.

For information on the project and the disease go to the [Severe Malaria Observatory](#) (SMO). The SMO has been created to shine a light on severe malaria and is a repository of information about this fatal disease and is a knowledge based platform used by the malaria community to share experience and guidance on severe malaria.

About MAM and MAM at scale

In the MAM pilot project, once a suspected severe malaria case was identified in the community, RAS was administered and the child referred to a health facility, in many cases via bicycle ambulance. During the pilot phase, the project's emergency transport scheme made 1,066 transfers to a health facility – with local volunteers riding bicycle ambulances placed strategically within local communities. Once at the health facility, the child could be administered WHO recommended first-line treatment for severe malaria injectable artesunate, followed by a course of artemisinin combination treatment (ACT) as soon they are able to take oral medication and after at least 24 hours of parenteral therapy.

Alongside funding from the Canadian Government, MAM at Scale is being made possible thanks to a consortium of partners – Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) provides technical malaria expertise and secured funds while Development Data and Transaid are implementing the project on the ground with partners, DAI Global Health (formally Health Partners International), Disacare, and District Health Management Team.

About Transaid

Transaid transforms lives through safe, available, and sustainable transport. Founded by Save the Children, The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, and its Patron, HRH The Princess Royal, the international development organisation shares 25 years' worth of expertise in 23 countries with partners and governments – empowering people to build the skills they need to transform their own lives.

Transaid's core work includes creating transport management systems for the public sector and assisting with the provision of professional driving qualification development and the training of driver trainers. It also assists with teaching preventive vehicle maintenance management and introducing local, low cost transport solutions including its innovative bicycle ambulance. Transaid also helps promote road safety awareness and shares its specialist knowledge with the humanitarian aid sector.

Transaid enjoys strong backing from the transport and logistics industry and the active involvement of its patron, HRH The Princess Royal.



<http://www.facebook.com/Transaid>



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<http://www.youtube.com/user/Transaid1>

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About DAI Global Health

DAI Global Health delivers holistic, tech-enabled solutions to save lives and improve well-being worldwide. With more than 20 years of health experience, we apply a proven 'whole-of-systems' approach to strengthen health systems, global health security, and digital health to take solutions to scale and achieve impact.

In 2017, DAI Global Health's capacity was augmented by the acquisition of Health Partners International (HPI), adding a wealth of technical 'know-how' in health systems strengthening, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health including immunisation, nutrition, malaria, and other communicable diseases. DAI and IntraHealth International joined forces the same year to amplify development impact. IntraHealth is a nonprofit with notable expertise in health workforce development, digital innovation, and reproductive, maternal, and child health, including HIV/AIDS. IntraHealth is now a strategic affiliate of DAI Global Health.

Since 1970, DAI has delivered results in agriculture, environment, economic growth, governance and post-conflict stabilisation, and was named one of the world's top 40 international development innovators. DAI has provided technical assistance and programme delivery services in more than 150 countries across the spectrum of development and humanitarian contexts.

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About Development Data

Development Data is a regional organisation set up in Southern Africa to provide technical support to governments, civil society and private sector entities. Development Data has provided technical

support in data, information and project management for development practitioners since 2004. The technical support offered extends to both financial and programme data for organisations addressing key development issues of poverty, health, education, gender, water and sanitation, sexual reproductive health and HIV and AIDS. The organisation has its head office in Zambia and offices in Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Development Data offers an integrated and holistic approach to capacity development that acknowledges the importance of participation, strategic direction, skills, knowledge and attitudes, and good governance.

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About Disacare

Disacare Wheelchair Centre Trust is a self-help disability NGO that is involved in the production and repair of wheelchairs and other mobility aids, and providing employment to persons with disability. The organisation was formed by persons with physical disabilities in 1991, and has over the years worked with a number of international organisations involved in wheelchair technology. As a result of this work, Disacare now specialises in producing whirlwind wheelchairs (locally known as the Kavuluvulu), tricycles, and other mobility aids which have been designed specifically to cope with the rough terrain of Zambia. In 2006 Disacare diversified into building emergency transport systems, in the form of bicycle ambulances.

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About MMV

Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) is a leading product development partnership (PDP) in the field of antimalarial drug research and development. Its mission is to reduce the burden of malaria in disease-endemic countries by discovering, developing and facilitating delivery of new, effective and affordable antimalarial drugs.

Since its foundation in 1999, MMV and partners have built the largest portfolio of antimalarial R&D and access projects ever assembled, have brought forward ten new medicines and have assumed the access stewardship of a further two. An estimated 1.9 million lives have been saved by these MMV co-developed medicines. MMV's success is based on its extensive partnership network of around 150 active partners including from the pharmaceutical industry, academia and endemic-countries.

MMV's vision is a world in which innovative medicines will cure and protect the vulnerable and under-served populations at risk of malaria, and help to ultimately eradicate this terrible disease.
<https://www.mmv.org/>

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We ask you not rely unduly on these statements. Such forward-looking statements reflect the current views of Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) and its partner(s) regarding future events, and involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties.

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