

Harnessing the Private Sector for Malaria Elimination in Guyana

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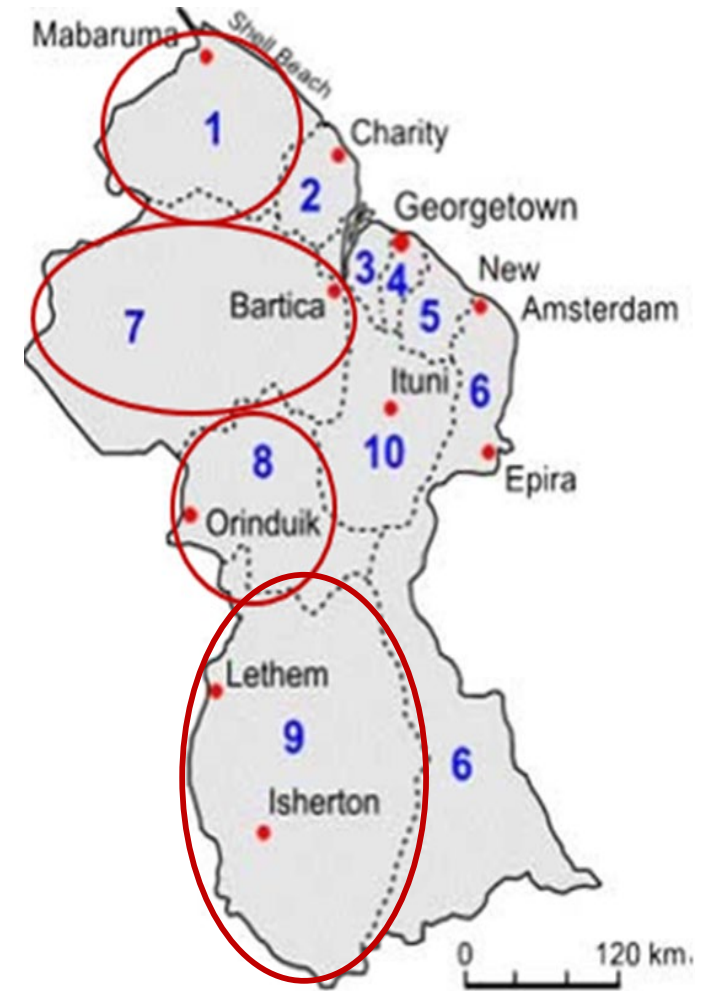


Background on Breakthrough ACTION Guyana

- USAID's flagship global social and behavior change (SBC) project, led by the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs
- Using a human-centered design approach in Guyana to support malaria control and elimination efforts
- Partnering with the National Malaria Programme & Public Relations/Health Promotion Unit, Ministry of Health, to improve malaria outcomes among mining communities in three of the four endemic regions of Guyana

Background on Malaria Situation

- Malaria prevalence in Guyana is highest among men in the hard-to-reach malaria-endemic mining communities in the hinterland regions
- Mining activities create favorable environments for mosquito breeding
- Malaria services are very limited in these remote hinterland areas
- Guyana's population is about 750,000 persons; there were 21,138 reported malaria cases in 2021
- Four regions accounted for 98% of the total cases



Importance of Gold Mining in Guyana

- The gold mining sub-sector accounted for 8.8% of GDP in 2021
- 3rd largest non-oil sector of the economy – and more than 60% of total non-oil export earnings
- US\$808,587,118 earned in 2020
- 15,000+ employed involved in the sector
- Potential gold reserves: US\$35 billion



Malaria Funding Gap Challenge

- The National Malaria Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025 estimates that the funding gap is expected to increase to US \$397,972 in 2023 and **US \$2.5 million** in 2024
- The Global Fund disbursed US \$5.6 million in support of malaria activities since 2005
- Guyana's new classification as an upper-middle income country makes it ineligible for continued Global Fund support



NATIONAL MALARIA PROGRAMME STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025

The Big Idea

- Desire to formalize a public-private partnership, however...
- For over 2 decades, the private sector mining organizations had made attempts to engage the National Malaria Programme in participating in the malaria response
- These attempts were mostly unsuccessful:
 1. No follow through from NMP
 2. Blaming the private sector
- Over the years, a build up of frustration, dissatisfaction, and mistrust developed



Advancing the Big Idea

- Breakthrough ACTION had dialogue with both sectors to hear their interest in co-developing a framework for collaboration
- Breakthrough ACTION, the NMP and the private mining organizations developed the **Guyana Malaria Public Private Partnership Platform (GMP4) Framework** that outlines how the two sectors can partner to foster collaboration and sustainability of national malaria programming



Inception Workshop

Breakthrough ACTION hosted an inception workshop in November 2022 that further fleshed out additional ideas for collaboration and identified several quick wins



Quick Win #1

1. Sharing of information to update NMP LLIN plans.

Benefits:

- ❑ The NMP can use the data to procure accurate amounts and types of treated nets
- ❑ The private sector can ensure that their employees have access to treated nets
- ❑ NMP can get transportation support for commodities/supplies/reports



Quick Win #2

❑ Dissemination of SBC Materials:

- NMP, PR/HPU and Breakthrough ACTION co-developed a suite of social and behavior change materials tailored to miners
 - Seek prompt and appropriate care for signs and symptoms of malaria
 - Adhere to malaria test results and treatment regimen
 - Sleep under a LLIN every night



Launch of GMP4

Immediately following the inception workshop, we had a “soft” launch of GMP4 on Malaria Day in the Americas

Public and private sector partners launched the framework together



Lessons Learned

- Engage partners individually prior to bringing them together – this helps to ensure better understanding and reduces the potential for conflict
- Identify innovative ways to keep the partners engaged and maintain momentum
- Remain calm and neutral during any “venting” and seek to find joint solutions



Next Steps

- Implement the quick wins from the inception workshop
- Update the GMP4 Framework based on inputs from stakeholders and the workshop report
- Organize planning meetings to:
 1. Finalize the framework
 2. Finalize the governance structure of GMP4
 3. Discuss budgetary issues

Thank You

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