

# The Pathfinder Endeavour

## The Comprehensive Multisectoral Action Framework – Malaria and Sustainable Development

**The risk of not meeting the global malaria elimination milestones and targets is very high. In fact, over the past five years or more it has gone the wrong way in several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The reasons are many and complex.**

**Inequality and lack of development nurture malaria – and malaria slows development and fuels inequality. Together they form a vicious cycle blocking both malaria elimination and equitable development.**

**The **Pathfinder Endeavour** will unlock synergies and release co-benefits across all sectors and actors to sustainably achieve malaria elimination and the development goals (SDG).**

### **Try, learn and share ... in real-life**

- Dare to think and try new ways of working
- Learn from experience along the path
- Continuously share learning and adjust

### **Collaboration ... existing structures and resources**

- Districts / local councils
- Public and private sector actors, and citizens
- Partners (multi- and bilateral, NGO, CSO, CBOs)
- Adapt and use already existing tools better

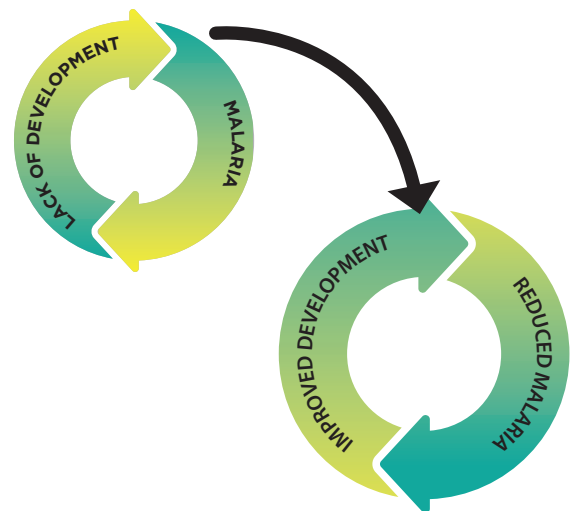
### **Three themes ... to drive multisectoral action**

- Overall: leave no one behind and sustainability
- Action (vision): a malaria free world/district
- Collaborative: co-benefits

### **Mutual and public accountability ... malaria impacts all SDGs and all SDGs impact malaria.**

*The Malaria Global Technical Strategy (GTS) indicators, and two malaria-critical indicators for each of the 17 SDGs will guide at local level. Additional indicators for enteric and neglected tropical diseases as relevant in local contexts.*

### **Inverse the vicious cycle**



Connect demand and supply – and **engage citizens directly and in real-time** with accountability in three directions: political, technical, and public.



# 5 STEPS

TO BECOMING MALARIA-SMART



## SUSTAINABLE ELIMINATION



### Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The SDGs are integrated, indivisible and balanced.

*The furthest behind should be reached first.*

### Sustainable malaria elimination

Achievements last also after malaria specific programmes have ended; and with

*No one left behind.*

### Health benefits beyond malaria

The determinants of population health.

*Health equity.*

**Districts of countries** with diverse challenges join in the pathfinding on the ‘5-steps to becoming malaria-smart’. The Endeavour is comprehensive – embracing and complementing conventional malaria interventions, selective sectoral and SDG approaches through a structured participatory process.

Project phases (each phase lasts about six months):

*Pre-assignment* – rapid appraisal within each country to identify and select three of the ‘hardest’ districts: development and malaria challenges, and local commitment.

*Phase I* – understand the local situation and its determinants; and anchor the multisectoral action in local ownership. Boost efforts to reduce malaria among own staff and clients (Step 1 and 2).

*Phase II* – stop producing malaria (do-no-harm) and start reducing malaria (do-good) (Step 3 and 4).

*Phase III* – address the priority socioeconomic determinants of malaria and health inequity across all sectors (Step 5)

*Phase IV* – maintain and institutionalize the new ways of working.

**Activities** – training; tool adaptation and application; results-planning, milestones, and action; analyses and peer-reviews; workshops (virtual / physical); real-time learning and sharing; support and documentation.

## Back-office operations

The **Pathfinder Endeavour** is a work-stream of the RBM Multisectoral Working Group with a dedicated Steering group and a Secretariat. UNDP and UNHABITAT provide home and backup. Central to the comprehensive multisectoral action is to synergize with already existing resources – whether these are structural, programmatic, human, physical, or financial.

**Initiating/onboarding** – reaching out to and partnering with a wide range of collaborators. Activities include, e.g., consultations with core partners, launch with missions and partners, and resource mobilization.

**Tools adaptation** – most tools required already exist in one form or the other. The tasks thus include mapping existing tools, tools workshop with partners, expanding existing smartphone apps, new and adaptation of existing tools and materials, etc.

**Digital presence** – ‘sharing on-the-go’ is one of the pivots. Digital presence will provide platforms for sharing the ‘tries’ and the ‘learnings’ among the participating districts and countries as well as to the development, health, and malaria communities at large.

**Documentation and analysis** – the **Pathfinder Endeavour** will move into uncharted land in different locations and circumstances simultaneously. Systematic and near-real-time formal and participatory analysis and documentation will be essential for effective ‘**cross-learning**’.

**The Secretariat** – provides facilitation, guidance and drives the endeavour forward.

**Partners** – the endeavour’s key tenet is that partners should do “*what they do best – but do it malaria smart*”.

## District implementation

In each country, a champion team will work directly with the Pathfinder Secretariat for the roll-out. In turn, these country champion teams will work with similar teams within each of their three participating districts.

- Country champion teams consist of Ministry of Local Government/Planning, Ministry of Health/NMCP and a Lead Development Partner
- District champion teams consist of local government officer, health/malaria officer, and locally present development partner

**‘Try, learn and share’** – comprehensive multisectoral action for development and malaria is entering uncharted territory with no universal blueprint but a well-stocked toolbox and knowledgeable local pathfinders. This means to move forward and to adjust continually based on collective experience in a structured, cross-learning process that includes phased ‘pausing’, reviewing and setting of new ‘bearings’.

**Planning and accounting for results** – success criteria to be considered in the planning include reduced malaria burden (cases and deaths), co-benefits across sectors, leaving no one behind and sustainability of achievements. The results will be measured through the global malaria indicators, malaria-critical SDG indicators, other indicators relevant to the local context, as well as process milestones.

- *Mutual accountability* across participating districts and countries through formalized reporting and peer-review processes
- *Unlock synergies* – capitalize on existing structures, tools, programmes, and resources to enhance effectiveness, and to reduce risks of ‘verticalism’ and failure to sustain achievements
- *Fixed budget envelopes* – adaptability for in-country programming in each phase (I-IV) within defined-item boundaries to optimize fit-for-context. Non-permissible items are salaries, purchase of vehicles and commodities, etc.

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