



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SUCCESS STORY

US Malaria Effort Helps to Save Lives in Angola



PHOTO: PRI

Two at-risk girls in southern Angola. Thanks to the President's Malaria Initiative, they have been protected from malaria.

In Angola, children suffer most from malaria - but USAID is leading the way in fighting this scourge.

Recently, USAID spoke with Mr. Antonio Perreira, a manager in the anti-malaria spraying effort in the southern Angolan city of Lubango. As both a resident of Lubango and a soldier in the war against this disease, malaria is an issue that lies very close to his heart.

Antonio emphasized the desperate need for anti-malarial work. He said, "Malaria is the greatest danger to health in the neighborhoods and communities of Lubango, especially in outlying areas where basic sanitation is often lacking."

Although it is a threat to all levels of society, Antonio said that malaria posed the greatest danger to the young. "It is most dangerous for the children. [For them,] malaria is often not diagnosed quickly enough." Antonio knows from personal experience. "I've seen friends and family whose children were taken to the hospital and never returned." Although it was too late for them, there is hope for the future.

Angola is among the first countries to benefit from the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), a \$1.2 billion, five-year U.S. government initiative to control malaria in Africa.

Antonio's city, Lubango, has been one of the first to benefit. A PMI-supported spraying campaign between December 2005 and March 2006 in homes in the malaria prone southern Angolan cities of Lubango and Ondjiva protected about 555,000 people and 210 sprayers were trained. Indoor residual spraying with a residual insecticide is an effective malaria prevention method because it kills the mosquitoes that enter the house before they can infect someone. Once a house has been sprayed in this way, the insecticide provides protection for up to six months.

Yet, the work does not end here. The next step begins in July 2006, when USAID is partnering in the countrywide distribution of around one million long life insecticide-treated mosquito nets (LLIN) to children under age five as part of a combined nationwide measles vaccination/ITN distribution campaign. The distribution of LLINs will be focused in seven provinces that are highly endemic for malaria with the aim of supplying a net to every child in these areas. As many houses will have more than one LLIN, follow up information campaigns will be supported by USAID to ensure pregnant women also have access to these life saving materials in their homes.

Working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and ExxonMobil, USAID is participating in a number of campaigns to reduce illness and death from malaria in Angola.