



Credit: WHO/M.Nieuwenhof

Malawi country experience

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National Cold Chain Manager & MVIP Focal Person

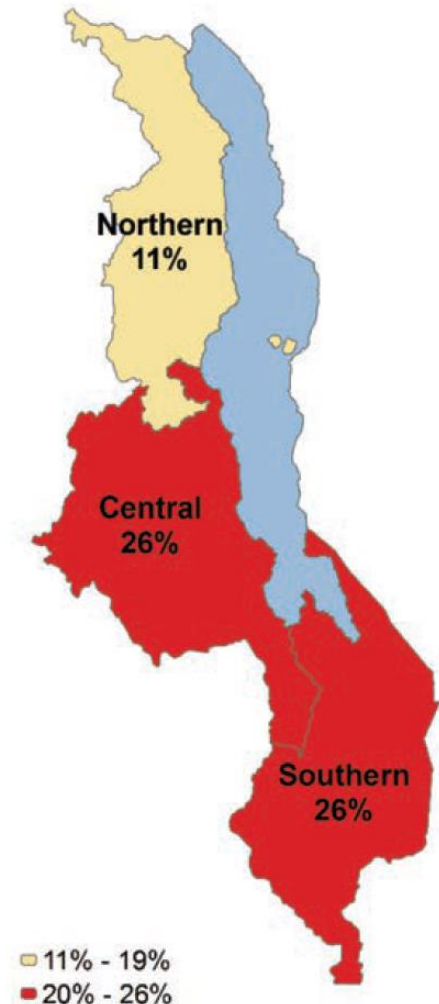
ADP workshop - 24 Feb 2022

Malaria in Malawi

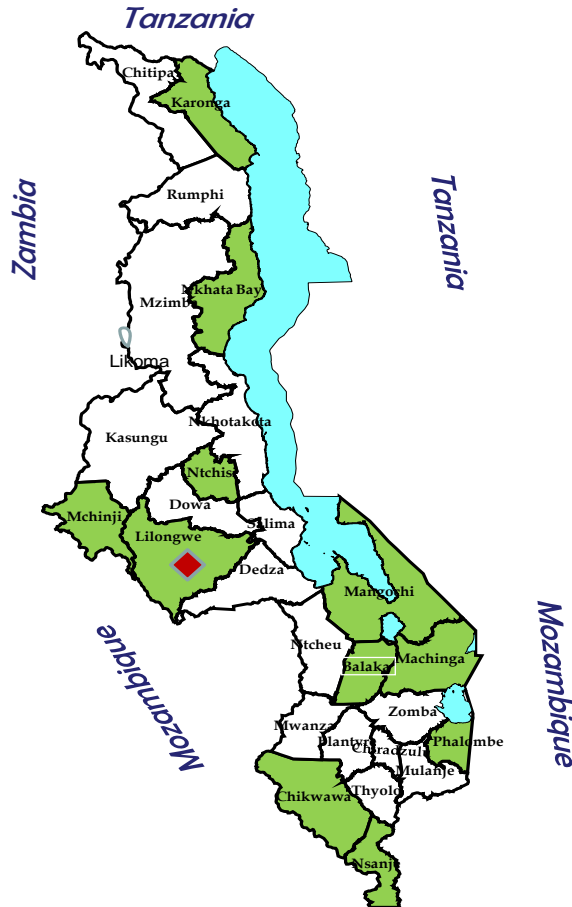
- Leading cause of death among children under age 5
- High transmission throughout the year
- World Malaria Report estimates for 2019¹:
 - 3.9 million cases [range 2.9-5.0 million]
 - 6,308 deaths [5,610-7,240]
- Malaria prevalence in children under age 5 has decreased from 43% in 2010 to 24% in 2017
- MIS 2017²:
 - ITN use in children under age 5 : 68%
 - Women receiving preventive treatment (IPTp1+ / IPTp3+): 92% / 41%

Figure 4.4 Prevalence of malaria in children by region

Percentage of children age 6-59 months who tested positive for malaria by microscopy



Malaria vaccine introduction in Malawi



Pilot districts: Karonga, Nkhatabay, Ntchisi, Mchinji, Lilongwe rural, Balaka, Mangochi, Machinga, Phalombe, Chikwawa, Nsanje

- Application for participation
 - Involved partners: PATH, UNICEF, MHEN, JSI, Evaluation Partners
- Governance structures pre-introduction – NTF then MVCG
- Planning and coordination of introduction
 - Coordination at national level (involved MOH partners, EPI and NMCP)
 - District selection (Including randomization)
 - Partners involved
- Malawi introduced malaria vaccine into its routine immunization programme in April 2019 in 11 districts
 - Vaccinating and non-vaccinating clusters within each district

Two years of malaria vaccine in Malawi



- Malawi dose schedule: 5, 6, 7 and 22 months
- Cumulatively from April 2019 to September 2021:
 - 907,919 dose of the malaria vaccine administered (310,805 children have received the first dose)
- Reporting period January – December 2021:
 - MV1: 126,577 (93%)
 - MV3: 110,925 (81%)
 - MV4: 66,658 (49%)
 - Drop-out rate MV1-MV3: 12%

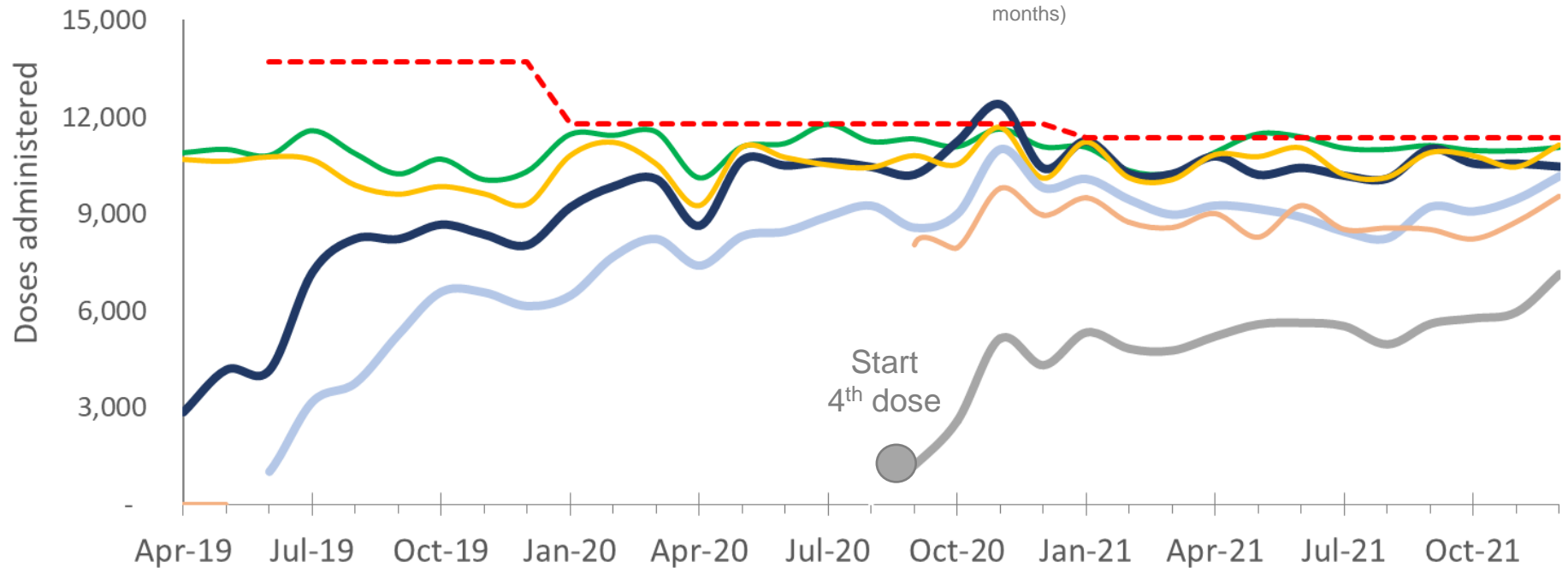
Malawi Vaccination Schedule

Child Age	Birth	6 wks	10 wks	14 wks	5 mo	6 mo	7 mo	9 mo	12 mo	15 mo	18 mo	22 mo	24 mo
Vaccine													
BCG	1												
Oral polio (up to 2 weeks)	0	1	2	3									
DTP-HepB-Hib (penta)		1	2	3									
Pneumococcal conj.		1	2	3									
Rotavirus		1	2										
Inactivated Polio				1									
Measles-Rubella								1		2			
Vitamin A						1			2		3		4
Malaria Vaccine (MV)					1	2	3					4	

Malawi immunization performance

- Pentavalent-3 (at 14 wks)
- Measles rubella (at 9 mos)
- Measles rubella (at 15 months)
- Monthly Target
- RTS,S 1 (at 5 mos)
- RTS,S 3 (at 7 mos)
- RTS,S 4 (at 22 mos)

Dose 4 uptake:
~75% of dose 3 (after 16 months)



Lessons learnt



The following actions proved critical for the success of MVIP

- Ministry of Health commitment at highest levels facilitated successful programme implementation
- Planning and coordination at national level involving all key stakeholders – including EPI and NMCP
- Social mobilization and community engagement was critical for vaccine demand creation amongst caregivers
 - Community engagement (caregivers, key opinion leaders, local and religious leaders) increased demand for malaria vaccine over time
 - Particularly important with quiet launch in 2019, high uptake achieved in relatively short period
 - Need for enhanced social mobilization for 4th dose of malaria vaccine demand creation – this is ongoing

Lessons learnt...



A proactive approach to ensure programme success

- Supportive supervision (technical support in communities) to identify challenges and provide timely solutions:
 - *Example:* job aids, on-site training for health workers to increase understanding of when children are eligible for vaccination through the schedule, and answer caregiver questions
 - Responding to needs of health workers – as primary messengers to caregivers (vaccine benefits, when to return for next dose, continue to use other malaria prevention, such as bednets)
- Stakeholder engagement at district level
 - Districts share experiences and learn from each other
 - *Example:* quarterly workplan to improve programme performance with follow up

Other important activities



- Post-introduction evaluation – assessing new vaccine introduction in routine immunization (6-12 months post introduction)
- Assess and improve data quality
- Reaching children with missed doses – (Periodic Intensification of Routine Immunization or PIRI)
 - Targeting 2YL (second year of life) vaccines – 2nd dose of measles with 4th dose of malaria vaccine
- Coordination and governance activities
 - District and cluster review meetings
 - Malaria vaccine programme coordination group meeting

Malawi hails malaria vaccine approval

JOSEPH MWALE, MZUZU BUREAU SUPERVISOR

Malawi has hailed the World Health Organisation (WHO) approval of malaria vaccine, saying it will complement other interventions towards reducing the number of people affected by the disease.

In an interview yesterday, National Malaria Control Programme manager Dr. Michael Kayange said while the vaccine was not a magic bullet in itself, it will add on to other efforts such as insecticide-treated net distribution and case management in helping to deal with the disease.

He said: "The vaccine is not a magic bullet that will end malaria, but it is an additional tool to other interventions. There is much more to be done to end malaria."



Malawi Embraces Malaria Vaccination

Written by John Paul Kayuni Saturday, 09/10/2021



Ministry of Health, Malawi
711 Tweets

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

Ministry of Health, Malawi ... · 06 Oct ·
WHO has approved the Malaria Vaccine, RTS,S
7 80 165

Scotland Malawi Partnership ... · 5h ·
Hearing LIVE from Dr. Mike Chisema in
#Malawi @health_malawi, sharing
Malawi's plans for the GSK
#malariavaccine RTS,S + a #COVID19
update, at today's Covid Co-ordination
and Health Forum.
#Scotland #Malawi
#ScotlandMalawiPartnership

Timveni Online
@timvenionline

World Vision Malawi has reaffirmed its commitment towards supporting awareness drive and availability of the new Malaria vaccine in all facilities across the country. #TimveniNews



timveni.com
WORLD VISION PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR
MALARIA VACCINE ROLLOUT

15:21 · 12 Oct 21 · Twitter for Android

h will include the malaria
od immunization programs
h Organization (WHO) approved
a vaccine for use following
ee African countries.

sperson Adrian Chikumbe told us
oost immunity and subsequently
ildren who are heavily affected

exact time this will start,
istry has already been giving
ildren in some districts in its pilot

Next steps in Malawi following the WHO recommendation



Initiating the new vaccine introduction process which include:

- Regulatory review by Pharmacy and Medicine Regulatory Authority (PMRA) possibly joint review with AVAREF – TBD
- EPI Sub-Technical Working Group – 03 Dec 2021
- Joint review by Malawi Immunization Technical Advisory Group and Malaria Advisory Board – 10 Dec 2021
- Endorsement by Senior Leadership at MOH – 07 Feb 2022
 - **Roll out Malaria Vaccine to all eligible children across Malawi**
- Actual vaccine introduction activities in non-implementing areas
- Vaccine community engagement and social mobilization activities