



Partnership To End Malaria

Case study

Zambia

Photography by Chris Lungu

When COVID-19 arrived in Zambia, staff at all levels of the health system adapted global guidance to ensure safe delivery of essential malaria services. The malaria community adjusted implementation of key interventions, such as integrated community case management (iCCM), while also leveraging existing malaria communication and service delivery mechanisms in the COVID-19 response.

18 million

Population at risk

5.3 million

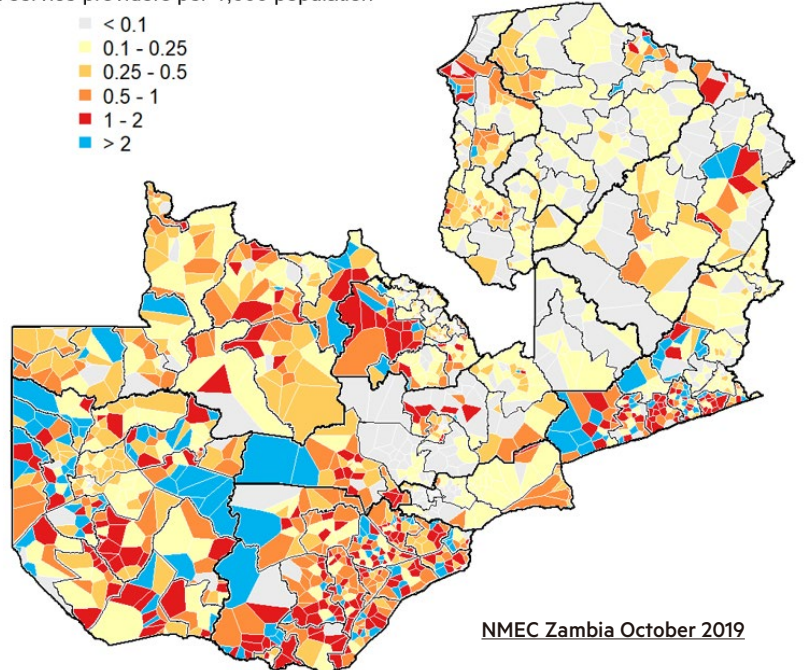
Estimated cases
per year

1,300

Estimated deaths
per year

[Zambia HMIS 2019](#)

Malaria service providers per 1,000 population



[NMEC Zambia October 2019](#)

In 2020, Zambia is continuing to train and deploy community health workers across the country to ensure equitable access to quality care, particularly for the hardest to reach populations.



Photography by Chilumba Sikombe

Zambia is aiming to deploy a total of 36,000 health care workers trained in integrated community case management (iCCM) to extend care for uncomplicated malaria for all ages at the community level. The approach provides access to prompt malaria diagnosis and treatment, and follows up on individual infections. This reduces severe malaria cases and deaths and lessens the burden on health facilities.

The National Malaria Elimination Centre within the Ministry of Health, the National Public Health Institute, and partners craft tailored messages to guide conversations between health care workers and communities about minimizing the spread of COVID-19 while seeking malaria services. Health care workers are trained on how to safely adapt care

delivery, and are provided personal protective equipment.

Despite early disruptions as health systems adapted to COVID-19, this targeted guidance coupled with modified smaller group community health worker trainings have helped ensure the expansion of iCCM. Since May, over 30 trainings have been conducted resulting in more than 650 community health workers added to the national iCCM network. These health workers will expand access to essential malaria services and COVID-19 information for an estimated 325,000 people.

Supporting community-based interventions is critical in ensuring continued delivery of essential health services and strengthening of resilient and responsive health systems.

Produced in collaboration with

