



2023 Sponsored Symposia

These Sponsored Symposia are held in conjunction with the 2023 Annual Meeting. All in-person Annual Meeting attendees have access to the Sponsored Symposia. These sessions add value to the Annual Meeting attendee experience.



Achieving Global Malaria Targets Relies on Quality Health Services: Lessons Learned and Results from PMI's Support for Quality Improvement of Healthcare Services for Malaria

Crystal Ballroom A - Lobby Level (West Tower)
Friday, October 20, 7 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

Recent publications from the Unitaid-funded CARAMAL project brought into sharp focus that the effectiveness of malaria control and elimination tools is dependent on the strength and quality of the health care systems through which they are delivered. Access to diagnosis and treatment of malaria, and the prevention of malaria in pregnancy depends on the availability and quality of routine health services at community, facility, and referral levels, but the quality of those services is often lacking in malaria-affected countries. PMI has prioritized support to countries to improve the quality of health services for malaria for more than 15 years. PMI's support has resulted in the development and implementation of effective quality improvement programs at community, facility, and referral levels, including the Outreach Training and Supportive Supervision (OTSS) quality improvement package that has been implemented in more than 15 countries. These innovative quality improvement programs have been tested, refined, and expanded over more than a decade.

This symposium will:

1. Outline PMI's approach to strengthening health systems and improving the quality of health services
2. Present the findings of an independent evaluation of these quality improvement approaches in multiple countries
3. Share country examples and lessons learned of successful quality improvement programs at community, facility, and referral levels

While malaria-affected countries and their partners have been successful in reaching high coverage of multiple preventive interventions (including ITNs, IRS, and SMC) when delivered through campaigns, coverage of malaria interventions delivered through routine health services has lagged, often failing to leverage malaria-specific support for strengthening service delivery and stalling progress towards malaria control and elimination. The targets set out by malaria affected countries and WHO's Global Technical Strategy will not be achieved until the health systems of malaria-affected countries deliver high quality healthcare services. Approaches that improve the quality of these services in malaria-affected countries, such as OTSS, have been developed and refined in multiple countries over more than a decade with the support of PMI, with a growing body of evidence on their effectiveness, including an independent evaluation of OTSS the results of which are featured in the upcoming Special Supplement. National malaria programs and their partners, as well as other disease control programs, can benefit from the lessons learned from these effective quality improvement programs that could be replicated in their countries.

(Continued...)

Co-Chairs

Meera Venkatesan

PMI/USAID, Washington, DC, United States

Patrick Kachur

Columbia University, New York, NY, United States

Overview of the PMI Impact Malaria project's quality improvement model

Dr. Lawrence Barat

PMI Impact Malaria Project, Washington, DC, United States

Can outreach, training and supportive supervision (OTSS) improve competency in malaria diagnostic testing and clinical case management? An evaluation of OTSS+ in Cameroon, Ghana, Niger, and Zambia

Carolina Vanderick

Managing Director, Tropical Health LLP, London, United Kingdom

How OTSS influences health facilities' readiness and health care workers competency to prevent and treat malaria in Niger

Dr. Daniel Koko

PMI Impact Malaria Project, Niamey, Niger

Champions Program: improving management of severe malaria in Cameroon

Dr. Germaine Ekoyol

National Malaria Control Program, Yaounde, Cameroon

Panel Discussion and Q&A on experiences with Quality Improvement in malaria-affected countries with session presenters and National Malaria Program representatives