



Rotary



Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia

Program Brief (2021–2024)

Executive Summary

The **Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia (PMFZ)** project—implemented by World Vision Zambia and Malaria Partners Zambia, with support from Rotary International, World Vision US, and the Gates Foundation—worked from April 2021 to August 2024 to significantly expand access to malaria testing and treatment in remote, underserved districts of Central and Muchinga Provinces.

The project's central strategy was scaling up the Integrated Community Case Management Plus (iCCM+) model by training, equipping, and deploying **2,500 Community Health Workers (CHWs)**. These frontline health workers brought essential management services directly to communities. By bringing care closer to where people live, CHWs increased early detection and treatment, improved data for decision-making, and strengthened Zambia's health system.

CHWs detected and treated more than 1.3 million malaria cases. CHWs became an essential first point of care, identifying and treating over 1.3 million malaria cases that might otherwise have gone untreated or been delayed and, thereby, saving lives.

Program Implementation

PMFZ worked in 10 districts across Central and Muchinga Provinces to:

- Develop a sustainable CHW training system by preparing 60 Ministry of Health trainers.
- Equip every CHW with diagnostic tools, treatment commodities, branded bicycles, protective gear, and reporting supplies.
- Deploy CHWs to high-need rural communities, each serving approximately 500 residents, reaching an estimated 1.25 million people.
- Conduct regular data quality audits, mentorship, supportive supervision, and data review meetings.
- Equip CHWs with smartphones and deploy a data analysis app for facilities.

Deepening Community & Rotary Members' Engagement

- The project mobilized **9,890 volunteer hours** from Rotary members.
- Advocacy efforts of Rotary members — via national and provincial malaria elimination structures in Zambia — helped to procure and distribute malaria tests and treatments to high-need districts.
- The project inspired additional malaria projects, including RotarACTION and new Rotary small-grant efforts, and the ultimate scale-up to the \$30 million Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Mozambique, and Zambia.

Results: What the Project Achieved

Across the 10 project-supported districts:

- Over three years, 1,255,061 malaria cases were detected by CHWs.
- In 2024 alone, more than 747,000 malaria tests were performed. In most areas served by the program, the workers are identifying at least as many cases of malaria as health facilities do, highlighting their effectiveness.
- CHWs accounted for 55.6% of all detected malaria cases.
- In 8 of the 10 districts, more malaria cases were detected by CHWs in the community than at health facilities.
- CHWs were able to treat 99% of all positive cases they identified—while children under 2 months, pregnant women, and people with severe symptoms are referred to health facilities per Zambia's national protocols.
- Increase in malaria tests and treatments across all age groups.

These results demonstrate the lifesaving role CHWs play in expanding access to timely diagnosis and treatment in rural communities and, thereby, saving lives.

Sustainability & Legacy

From the outset, PMFZ was designed to ensure long-term impact and integration within Zambia's national health system. Rotary continues to monitor project sustainability, and 94% of all community health workers were retained one year after the project concluded.

Government Ownership

- CHWs are embedded within the Ministry of Health system.
- Provincial and district structures continue to supervise CHWs.
- CHWs support additional health services—including vaccination campaigns—increasing their value and integration.

CHW Motivation & Recognition

- The program maintained low attrition (3.4% annually) due to supportive supervision, recognition awards, and consistent engagement.
- Equipment such as bicycles, protective gear, and other tools remain with CHWs after the project ends, enabling them to continue serving their communities.

Training Neighbors as Life-Saving Community Health Workers

Adapted from a [Malaria Partners International](#) story

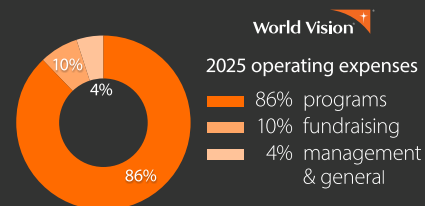


Meet Betsheba,
a CHW in Zambia

Betsheba is a single mother of three girls who supports her family by farming maize. In 2022, she was trained as a Volunteer Community Health Worker through Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia and now serves as a trusted health resource for about 500 neighbors, diagnosing respiratory illnesses and malaria.

One day, a man urgently sought her help for his wife, Emeldah, who was critically ill. Betsheba found the 37-year-old mother of two weak with fever, cramping, and vomiting, unable to eat or walk. A rapid diagnostic test confirmed malaria. Betsheba provided treatment, gave care instructions, and tested the family and nearby neighbors.

Two days later, Emeldah came to Betsheba's home with a live chicken in thanks. "I saw the grave," she said, afraid to leave her sons behind. Today, Emeldah is healthy and expecting her third child. Betsheba, who has lost loved ones to malaria, continues her work to protect her community from deadly disease.



World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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