



The Malaria Elimination Initiative

Imagine a world free from malaria



Since 2007, the MEI has been working in partnership with malaria endemic countries and regions to advance malaria policy and practice. Our multidisciplinary team of experts pioneers innovative, evidence-based solutions to accelerate progress towards ending transmission of this deadly disease.



Evidence to Impact

In these areas, we conduct cutting edge operational research, provide technical assistance, and strengthen capacity at the subnational, national, and regional levels. Partnerships are core to maximizing MEI's work and impact around the world. We work in service of and in direct collaboration with national malaria programs and local institutions to implement tailored and sustainable approaches. Through this work, we support efforts to collectively achieve population-level impact towards the elimination of malaria.

- Surveillance and response
- Vector control and surveillance
- Drugs and diagnostics
- Program management
- Advocacy, financing, and sustainability



Who We Are

The Malaria Elimination Initiative (MEI) comprises a multidisciplinary team of 30–40 faculty and staff with broad expertise in malariology, epidemiology, entomology, advocacy, sustainability, and program implementation, evaluation, and management. The MEI has activities in nearly 30 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia Pacific, and Latin America. Our team is based at one of the world's leading health and medical research institutions, the University of California, San Francisco, and sits within UCSF's Institute for Global Health Sciences.

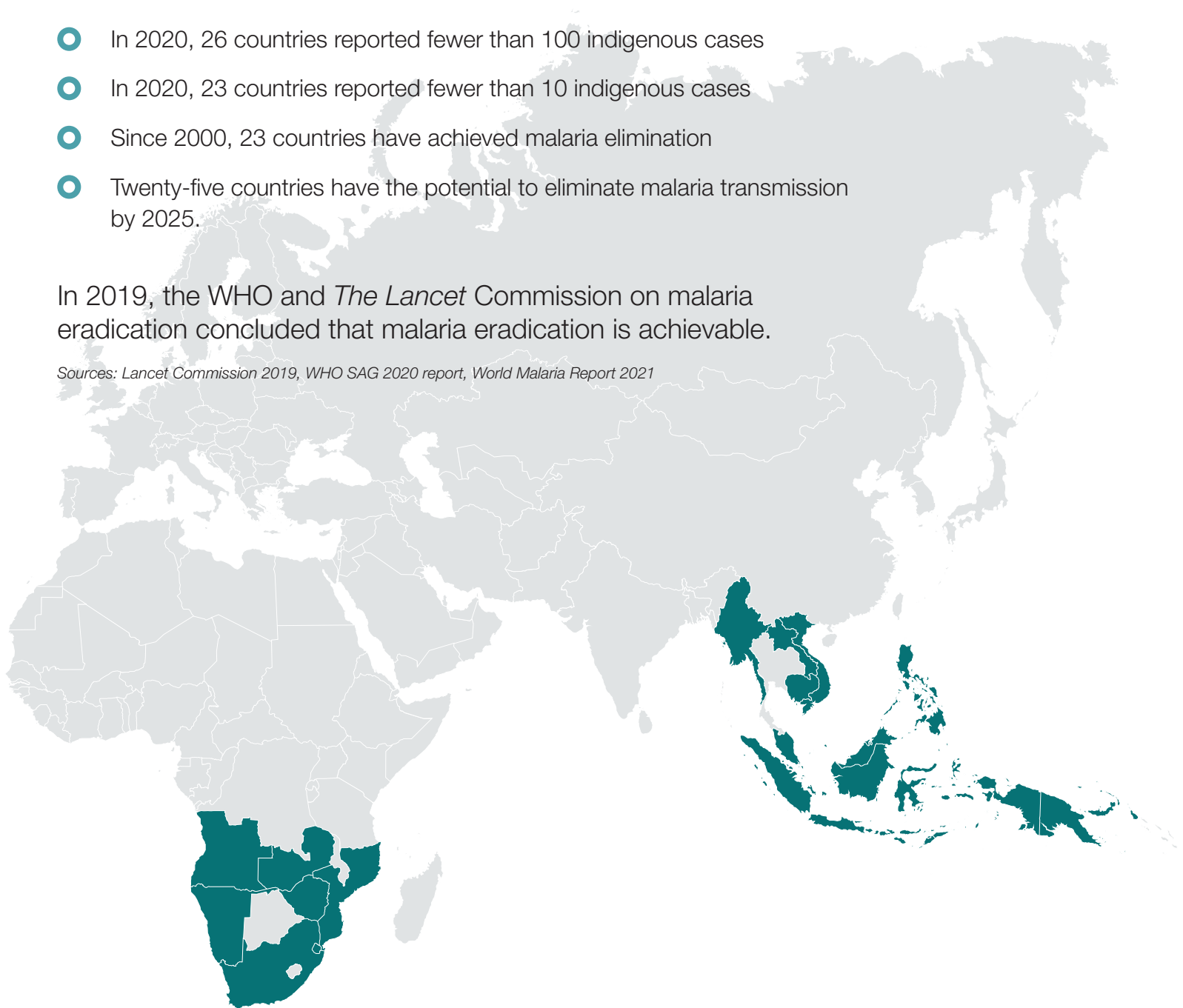


Progress Towards a Malaria-free World

- Over half of the world's countries are now malaria-free
- Every malaria endemic region in the world has committed to achieving malaria elimination
- In 2020, 26 countries reported fewer than 100 indigenous cases
- In 2020, 23 countries reported fewer than 10 indigenous cases
- Since 2000, 23 countries have achieved malaria elimination
- Twenty-five countries have the potential to eliminate malaria transmission by 2025.

In 2019, the WHO and *The Lancet* Commission on malaria eradication concluded that malaria eradication is achievable.

Sources: *Lancet Commission 2019*, *WHO SAG 2020 report*, *World Malaria Report 2021*



Progress Through Partnerships

How We Work

Whether strengthening surveillance and response strategies, building capacity to use data to inform decision-making, researching drug or vector control interventions, informing policy, or strengthening financing and sustainability, the MEI strives to remain one step ahead of the changing patterns of malaria transmission and the trends in malaria funding. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to eliminating malaria, so we tailor our work and deployment of our expertise to the local context, country priorities, health system, epidemiology, and needs of our government and operational partners. And we are committed to transferring this expertise to the next generation of malaria advocates and technical experts in endemic countries through training and mentorship programs.

Over the last fifteen years, the MEI has developed partnerships with national malaria programs, regional malaria networks, donors, global health leaders, and other malaria research institutions. Our aim is to develop a close network of collaborating organizations and consultants at the subnational, national, and regional levels that have the capacity to implement much of our work, empowering our local partners to take ownership and drive decision-making.

Subnational optimization as our operational focus

Our primary technical and operational focus is at country and subnational level. It is at district level that MEI excels, with lessons learned in eliminating and malaria-free countries increasingly being applied to higher burden countries grappling with low transmission areas and a high degree of heterogeneity. The MEI is supporting governments, donor agencies, and implementing organizations to determine how best to tailor appropriate intervention packages and optimize the allocation and sustainability of district health budgets as malaria transmission becomes increasingly focal.

Population-level impact through scaling of tools and approaches

The MEI develops tools and approaches that address the unique challenges faced by national malaria programs in heterogeneous transmission settings. The Malaria Elimination Toolkit helps malaria programs understand the drivers of transmission in a target area and the readiness of the health system for elimination; decide what actions to take and how to tailor its response; and ensure efforts are well-managed and sustainably funded. These tools have been used successfully at subnational and national level, leading to important changes in malaria policy and practice. From the characterization of high-risk populations and the collection and use of entomological intelligence to the subnational allocation of health budgets, contributing to population-level impact requires close collaboration with implementing organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors, and endemic country governments. These collaborations allow for the development and scale-up of tailored solutions to partner country challenges and the sharing of learnings across other countries and regions.

Engaging at global and regional levels

The MEI maximizes its global policy influence and impact through strategic engagement with multilateral agencies such as the World Health Organization and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. We also maintain a strong presence within the RBM Partnership to End Malaria and its associated Partnership Committees. Regionally, the MEI provides technical assistance and capacity strengthening support to a number of platforms driving malaria elimination efforts, including the Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APMEN), Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA), and the Elimination 8 (E8) in Southern Africa.



Our Impact

Since 2007, the MEI has been at the forefront of innovation and strategy development for malaria elimination. Formed at a time when malaria elimination was not a widespread goal, the MEI helped drive a paradigm shift within the malaria community, resulting in well-established consensus that elimination was feasible and should be supported at national and regional levels.

Over the years, the MEI has developed and optimized new and existing tools and strategies to suit heterogeneous transmission settings; generated novel evidence through operational research to inform national strategies and global policies for elimination; anticipated the important role of regional collaborative platforms in pushing the elimination agenda; and strongly advocated for long term, sustainable funding and political support for malaria elimination. The MEI expanded its vision from national and regional elimination to global eradication with the 2017 convening of *The Lancet* Commission on malaria eradication, which determined that achieving a malaria free world within a generation is ambitious, achievable, and necessary.

MEI has
influenced
over 48

surveillance and response
strategies and guidelines
at national, regional, and
global levels



**MEI's high-risk
population and
entomological
surveillance methods
and evidence**

— were incorporated —

into global guidance and
country practice

MEI's vision
and leadership
elevated
malaria elimination
and eradication
**on the global
agenda**



MEI-generated evidence on reactive
strategies informed WHO's updated
elimination guidelines

Eradicating malaria

is ambitious, achievable, and necessary.

The report of *The Lancet* Commission on malaria eradication, published in September 2019, was the first academic, peer-reviewed document of its kind and resulted in the following:

- Catalyzed a global discussion on eradication, garnering support for a malaria-free world from the highest levels of leadership at the Global Fund, PMI, UNITAID, and the WHO
- Publicly elevated malaria eradication on the global health agenda
- Supported by malaria endemic countries, regions, and implementing partner organizations

MEI catalyzed the establishment of regional malaria elimination initiatives in Southern Africa and the Asia Pacific

MEI has worked with

22 

national malaria programs and partners to adapt MEI tools and approaches for intervention targeting and tailoring

worked with 

38 partner countries

over the last 4 years

MEI faculty and staff have published nearly

350 

articles since 2007

MEI's budget advocacy work generated

\$2.5M

US dollars for domestic malaria elimination efforts in three countries

Core Expertise



Operational research and evidence generation

Goal We aim to inform policy and optimize delivery of elimination tools and strategies through the generation, rigorous analysis, and dissemination of new research.

What we do **Engage experts and implementers** to collaborate on the identification of solutions to common technical challenges, and design, implement, analyze, and disseminate findings from studies carried out to answer their primary questions.

Evaluate new tools and intervention packages to guide policy and practice on surveillance and response, vector control, diagnostics, and drug-based strategies.

Conduct literature reviews, case studies, landscape analyses, and feasibility assessments that fill gaps in knowledge and evidence, guide decisionmaking, and elevate best practices.

Disseminate new evidence and best practices through peer-reviewed journal articles, national and regional platforms, and research and advocacy fora.

Convene and/or participate in regional and global working groups and technical expert groups to inform development of evidence-based technical and advocacy strategies.



Technical assistance and capacity strengthening

Goal We aim to support national malaria programs and partners in targeting and tailoring intervention packages and optimizing budget allocation to reduce transmission, overcome barriers, improve efficiencies, and achieve program goals through technical assistance and capacity strengthening.

What we do Support data-driven decision-making to improve national malaria program efficiency and effectiveness.

Strengthen technical capacity for delivery and evaluation of surveillance and response, vector control, and drug-based strategies.

Bolster leadership and management at the district level and empower district health teams as decision makers.

Build resilience and sustainability through advocacy and planning at all levels of the health system for the transition of donor funding to domestic funding.

Scale proven approaches by working with donors and regional platforms.

**The Malaria
Elimination
Initiative**

UCSF Institute for
Global Health
Sciences

The Malaria Elimination Initiative (MEI) at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) believes a malaria-free world is possible within a generation. As a forward-thinking partner to malaria eliminating countries and regions, the MEI generates evidence, develops new tools and approaches, disseminates experiences, and builds consensus to shrink the malaria map. With support from the MEI's highly skilled team, countries around the world are actively working to eliminate malaria.

shrinkingthemalariamap.org

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