

Malaria Budget Advocacy Framework

Key messages

- Leaders in Africa, the Asia-Pacific, and the Americas are making bold, high-level commitments to end malaria, and increasing emphasis is being placed by countries and donors alike on the role of domestic financing in resourcing the malaria response. However, translating political will into tangible action and investment requires strategic advocacy by national malaria programs, their subnational counterparts, and allies to inform governmental policy and budget decision-making processes.
- Domestic resource mobilization and strong program management are critical pathways to ensure a resilient and sustainable malaria response at all levels. This is particularly important as country systems for governance and health decentralize, malaria transmission becomes more heterogeneous and focal, and co-financing requirements for receiving donor support are tightening. In elimination settings, the imperative for domestic financing is even stronger as countries prepare for transition from external development assistance.
- Leveraging the knowledge accumulated from years of partnering with ministries of health and partners across Asia Pacific and southern Africa in domestic resource mobilization and budget advocacy for malaria, the MEI developed the Malaria Budget Advocacy (MBA) Framework to guide countries to identify, prioritize, and address political and financial challenges in implementing an effective and sustainable malaria response, and support them to create an enabling policy and financing environment that paves the way for elimination.



About the Toolkit

The MEI Malaria Elimination Toolkit is a set of proven tools and approaches to help malaria endemic countries accelerate progress toward malaria elimination. Developed by the Malaria Elimination Initiative (MEI) at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), the toolkit addresses the unique challenges faced by national malaria programs in heterogeneous transmission settings. These tools have been used successfully at the national and/or subnational levels, leading to important changes in malaria policy and practice. The MEI recognizes that implementing any new tool or approach can be challenging. Technical assistance is available to support the tailoring and implementation of all MEI tools. Please visit our website shrinkingthemalariamap.org or contact us for more information at mei@ucsf.edu.

What is budget advocacy?

Budget advocacy is a strategic series of actions whereby advocates deliberately engage in government budget processes for prioritization of key issues, adoption of supportive policies, or more equitable allocation of resources. Budget advocacy involves the use of budget data and research to identify opportunities to improve budgetary decisions, set concrete advocacy objectives, such as increased budget allocations and more oversight of spending, and strategically implement activities to attain these objectives.

Effective budget advocacy requires advocates across levels to build up necessary capacity and form strategic alliances to realize changes at various stages of the budget decision-making process. For example, at the national level, advocates can seek to engage in the planning process and generate evidence to inform national spending priorities. At the local level, they can oversee expenditures, monitor what is spent by subnational governments, and use their findings to call for changes to budget allocations.

What is the MBA Framework and why is it useful?

The MBA Framework offers a step-by-step guide for national malaria programs (NMPs) and their partners to address resource gaps and support countries' efforts to step up the fight against malaria and fund core activities in their national strategic plans for malaria control, elimination, and/or prevention of re-establishment.

The MBA Framework is a five-module approach to building political support for increasing and sustaining domestic investments in malaria control and elimination (Figure 1). Specifically, the MBA Framework aims to help NMPs and their partners understand financial and political challenges that affect the country's malaria response, identify and prioritize opportunities for domestic resource mobilization and policy advocacy, and develop and implement a budget advocacy strategy that is fit-for-purpose. The Framework also provides key actions and considerations for advocates to successfully strengthen MBA capacity, implement, monitor, and evaluate advocacy activities, and incorporate successful approaches into existing strategies and systems.

Who should use this tool and how?

The MBA Framework is intended for use by NMPs and their subnational counterparts. Malaria staff and their civil society partners are well positioned to be effective advocates for program sustainability, acting as a liaison between national, subnational, and community health levels as well as between administrative governing bodies and health programs.

It will be necessary to engage a broader set of stakeholders along the way, as advocates' success depends on the supportive action of other actors in the malaria, health, and policy ecosystems. These stakeholders could include technical malaria partners, donor agencies, collaborating departments within the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance, local non-governmental organizations and

Figure 1: The five modules of the MBA Framework



civil society organizations, locally elected officials and government administrators, cross-border health counterparts, private sector companies, and community leaders.

The MBA Framework can also be applied to other health and disease elimination programs (e.g., neglected tropical diseases), programs in transition from donor financing, or programs in need of domestic resources.

The MBA Framework can be used independently, or it can be used in conjunction with other program management or problem-solving tools including the [SUSTAIN Tool](#) and the [LEAD Framework](#) in the MEI toolkit.

Technical assistance is available at MEI to support the adoption, tailoring, and implementation of the MBA Framework and all MEI tools.

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.

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