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**President's Malaria Initiative Reaches 6 Million in 2006; 30 Million People
to Receive Aid in 2007**

New Communities Program to Reach Vulnerable Groups

The President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) is already saving lives and reached more than six million Africans in its first year. In the second year, PMI has already reached five million more, and 30 million people will receive aid by the end of the year as PMI expands its programs, including in newly selected countries such as Madagascar.

In the first year, a rapid startup produced significant results including protecting over two million people with indoor residual spraying campaigns, distributing or retreating over two million insecticide treated nets, procuring over 1.2 million treatments of highly effective artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) and one million rapid diagnostic test kits, and training 10,000 health workers in malaria prevention and/or treatment.

"On April 25th, the United States marks its first Malaria Awareness Day and we commemorate Africa Malaria Day in Madagascar," said Ambassador McGee. "All Americans stand in solidarity with the Government of Madagascar in the fight against this disease and the great hope for a better future for African children and families."

The PMI is an interagency initiative led by USAID, with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as key partners. The goal of the PMI is to assist national malaria control programs to cut malaria-related deaths by 50 percent in the 15 focus countries in Africa by supporting a comprehensive malaria control effort led by national malaria control programs.

President Bush's commitment of an additional \$1.2 billion over five years is unprecedented in the fight against malaria. The goals of PMI are ambitious: reduce by 50 percent the number of deaths from malaria in 15 target countries, by reaching 85 percent of the most vulnerable groups — children under five years of age and pregnant women — with proven and effective prevention and treatment measures.

PMI is a rapid, but comprehensive and sustainable approach to saving lives. Interventions include residual indoor spraying of households with insecticides; the distribution of long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets to families; intermittent, presumptive treatment of pregnant women with antimalarials; and the roll-out of new, lifesaving, artemisinin-combination therapy to treat patients with malaria.

In addition, the Malaria Communities Program (MCP), a new grants program to provide \$30 million over four years to new partners, will support the efforts of communities and indigenous organizations to combat malaria at the local level in the 15 PMI focus countries with the goal of building, sustainable malaria-control programs in Africa.

The MCP will identify and enable groups to become new partners in malaria control in Africa, specifically aiming to:

Identify organizations uniquely positioned to work at the community level in the 15 PMI focus countries
Increase local and indigenous capacity to undertake community-based malaria prevention and treatment activities

Build local ownership of malaria control for the long term

Extend coverage of PMI and National Malaria Control Plan (NMCP) efforts to reach a larger beneficiary population with malaria prevention and control interventions

The MCP will offer technical and capacity-building assistance to successful applicants focusing on successful program implementation, needs analysis, and organizational strengthening, and offer possible mentoring relationships with established USAID partners.