

Malaria Budget Advocacy Framework

Key messages

- Leaders in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America are making bold, high-level commitments to end malaria, and there is increasing emphasis on the importance of domestic financing for health in malaria endemic countries. However, translating political will into tangible action and investment requires strategic advocacy by national malaria programs and their subnational counterparts to influence governmental decision-makers and budget processes.
- Malaria programs may be required to strengthen subnational leadership and public financial management to ensure a resilient and sustainable malaria response at all levels. This is particularly the case as country systems for governance and health decentralize, malaria transmission becomes more heterogeneous and focal, and preparation for transition from external development assistance begins.
- Subnational malaria staff on the front lines of control and elimination are well positioned to be effective advocates for program sustainability. Strengthening engagement of local leaders and budgetary authorities can catalyze substantial domestic financing impact.
- The Malaria Budget Advocacy (MBA) Framework guides countries to identify, prioritize, and address political and financial challenges in implementing an effective and sustainable malaria response, and supports 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 process whereby advocates deliberately engage in government budget processes to influence budgetary decision-makers for prioritization of key issues, adoption of supportive policies, and allocation of more or more equitable resources to improve people's lives.

A defining aspect of budget advocacy, versus general advocacy, is the use of budget data and research as evidence to inform the future decisions of policy makers and government officials.

In budget advocacy, public budgets are an instrument through which social problems can be understood and addressed.

At both the national and subnational levels, budget advocates, working together in strategic alliances, can play an important role in ensuring transparency and accountability in the way government spends funds. At the national level, advocates can get involved in the planning process and influence national spending priorities. At the local level, they can oversee expenditures, monitoring what is spent by subnational governments and using their findings to call for changes to budget allocations.

What is the MBA Framework and why is it useful?

Many national malaria programs face critical shortfalls in resource availability, use, and mobilization — due to insufficient domestic funding or unsustainable donor support. These shortfalls threaten the progress made against malaria and the achievement of ambitious elimination goals. The MBA Framework is designed to address these gaps by facilitating a multi-stakeholder consultative process to develop an advocacy strategy for malaria, while strengthening capacity of subnational and national leaders to access, mobilize, and manage domestic financing through advocacy and leadership.

To this end, the MBA Framework encompasses five modules on situational analysis, advocacy strategy development, capacity strengthening, strategy implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

Who should use this tool and how?

The MBA Framework is intended to be used by national malaria programs and subnational malaria program officials who are interested in engaging in malaria budget advocacy, in collaboration with relevant partners.

National or subnational malaria program staff will lead efforts from inception to conclusion of the MBA process. It will be necessary to engage a broader set of stakeholders for many steps along the way, as no one actor can achieve advocacy goals in isolation. These stakeholders could include technical malaria partners, donor agencies, collaborating departments within the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance, local non-governmental and civil society organizations, local elected officials and government administrators, cross-border health counterparts, private sector companies, and community leaders who may be engaged as advocates or as targets for advocacy.

UCSF MEI's advocacy team is available to accompany countries through the MBA Framework; however, the Framework can also provide stand-alone guidance to malaria-endemic countries interested in strengthening their resource mobilization efforts and capabilities. The MBA Framework can be used alongside or in sequence with other tools and frameworks in the MEI Toolkit, including SUSTAIN: A Sustainability and Transition Readiness Assessment Tool for Malaria and LEAD: Leadership and Engagement for Improved Accountability & Delivery of Services.

In response to country demand for domestic resource mobilization, UCSF developed the MBA Framework drawing on experience gained through engagements with national malaria programs in Namibia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

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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