



# Introducing MAMaZ Against Malaria



## Overview

MAMaZ Against Malaria is testing a community-based innovation for tackling severe malaria in Serenje District, in Zambia's Central Province. In this one-year pilot project, community health volunteers (CHVs) are being trained to recognise the danger signs of severe malaria and to administer WHO quality assured rectal artesunate (RAS), a pre-treatment that helps to stabilise young children (6 months to 6 years) while they are transferred to a health facility. Health workers in intervention health facilities are also being trained in severe malaria case management, and, specifically, the use of injectable artesunate, the WHO recommended drug for severe *P. falciparum* malaria.

### Key Facts at a Glance

- 12-month pilot project (July 2017 – July 2018)
- Implemented in Serenje District, Central Province
- Focus is on severe malaria in children aged 6 months to 6 years
- Implemented by Transaid, Health Partners Zambia, Development Data and Disacare in partnership with Zambia's National Malaria Elimination Centre and the Serenje District Health Management Team
- Funded by the Geneva-based Medicines for Malaria Venture



## Approach

MAMaZ Against Malaria is testing:

- The feasibility of training CHVs to provide rectal artesunate, a pre-referral intervention for severe malaria given at community level
- Effective ways to mobilise communities to access appropriate treatment for severe malaria and reduce life-threatening delays
- Effective ways to improve referral from community to health facility, via community-managed emergency transport systems
- How to build sustainable capacity at district level to support provision of comprehensive treatment for severe malaria
- How to prepare the ground for scale-up beyond the pilot intervention sites working in partnership with DHMT and NMEC

## See what the project is doing!

A short video of MAMaZ Against Malaria's work in Serenje can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7kpv3UtuE>

Or access the video via the Gates Foundation facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/gatesfoundation/videos/10156716606203072/>

## The Future

Based on these early results, MAMaZ Against Malaria has already demonstrated the value and feasibility of using RAS at community level in the fight against malaria. There is considerable scope to scale up the project's approach to other districts of Zambia, particularly rural districts with hard-to-reach populations.

## Early Results

Positive results based on the first five months of implementation include:

- Severe malaria child mortality reduced from 8% to 0.21%
- 100% of suspected severe malaria cases (947 cases) received pre-treatment with RAS
- 100% successful referral rate (from community to health facility)

## Achievements

Working in partnership with Serenje's DHMT, MAMaZ Against Malaria has:

- Trained over 500 CHVs to mobilise communities around severe malaria, including emergency transport scheme riders
- Equipped intervention communities with bicycle ambulances (designed by Disacare) and trained riders
- Trained 31 health workers in severe malaria case management
- Built district capacity to lead a demand-side intervention focused on long-term health behaviour change



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