

Sustainable Malaria Eradication and The Private Sector

As examined in [Making Country-Led Malaria Control a Reality: Innovating, Financing and Managing Sustainable Transitions](#), malaria remains both a profound health challenge and a significant economic threat across many regions where multinational companies operate. For decades, U.S.-based corporations have recognized malaria protection as essential to worker safety, operational continuity and the resilience of surrounding communities. The private sector plays a crucial role in the [Global Fund partnership](#), contributing life-saving products and services that are innovative, affordable and accessible. Progress toward eradication of malaria in more countries depends on it. Moreover, for companies working in remote or high-transmission areas, malaria control is not only corporate good citizenship and philanthropy, but in many cases an operational imperative.



Figure 1. Indoor residual spraying as a part of the Bioko Malaria Elimination Program. *Image Credit: MCD Global Health.*

Malaria reduces GDP growth by up to 1.3% per capita annually in affected countries.

Why Companies Invest in Malaria Control

Malaria imposes an enormous human toll, claiming hundreds of thousands of lives each year, most of them young children, and placing a heavy burden on families and communities across Africa and Asia. For employers, this human tragedy also translates into lost productivity, higher absenteeism and [substantial medical costs](#). As the broader report notes, malaria [reduces GDP growth by up to 1.3% per capita](#) annually in affected countries, functioning as a “tax” on economies and businesses alike.

Many multinational companies operate in regions where government health systems are overstretched; logistics of care delivery are difficult, and communities face high malaria burden. In these settings, private companies fill gaps in essential services—delivering diagnostics, treatment and preventive tools in partnership with public agencies—yielding benefits that extend far beyond the workplace and directly impact surrounding communities.

Private Sector Contributions to Innovation and Health Systems

Private-sector engagement in malaria control takes two distinct but complementary forms. First, health-focused companies whose core business is or relates to malaria control, such as BASF, Abbott and SC Johnson, innovate, develop and supply the tools that underpin national and Global Fund-supported programs. Second, companies operating in malaria-endemic regions invest directly in prevention, testing and treatment to protect their workforce, contractors and surrounding communities.

- **Abbott** expanded global access to [rapid diagnostic tests](#), helping scale fever-testing capacity that also strengthens surveillance for other infectious diseases.
- **BASF** developed the [Interceptor® G2](#), today's most effective dual-active insecticide-treated net, now central to malaria prevention in dozens of high-burden countries.
- **Chevron** has operated in malaria endemic regions for over a century. One notable example of its engagement is its 20-year support of the [Bioko Island Malaria Elimination Program](#), launched in 2004 in collaboration with the Government of Equatorial Guinea and other corporate partners. Over the course of 15 years, the program [contributed to](#) a 63% reduction in malaria mortality among children under five, a 75% decline in malaria prevalence and a 99% reduction in malaria transmission on Bioko Island. In 2019, this project earned the [U.S. State Department's P3 Impact Award](#), which recognizes high-impact public-private partnerships that improve communities and the world.
- **SC Johnson** operates the world's largest private urban [entomology research center](#) and created revolutionary [spatial repellents](#) designed to protect homes for up to a year, creating local jobs at manufacturing centers in the process. These tools have spillover benefits for combatting dengue, Zika and other mosquito-borne diseases.

Malaria control and health system capacity are mutually reinforcing. Especially as responsibilities transition from donor governments to local ones, effective malaria prevention and elimination depend on robust primary care, reliable disease surveillance, strong data systems and resilient supply chains. Private-sector initiatives expand testing capacity, generate high-quality surveillance data, improve case management and strengthen logistics in remote regions. These investments yield benefits beyond malaria,

strengthening defenses against dengue, Zika, Ebola and influenza, all of which also impact the workforce. Investing in malaria control is an investment in health system resilience, and vice versa.

As countries assume greater leadership in the fight against malaria and external financing evolves, multinational companies will continue to play an all the critical role in ways that help sustain progress and prevent resurgence.

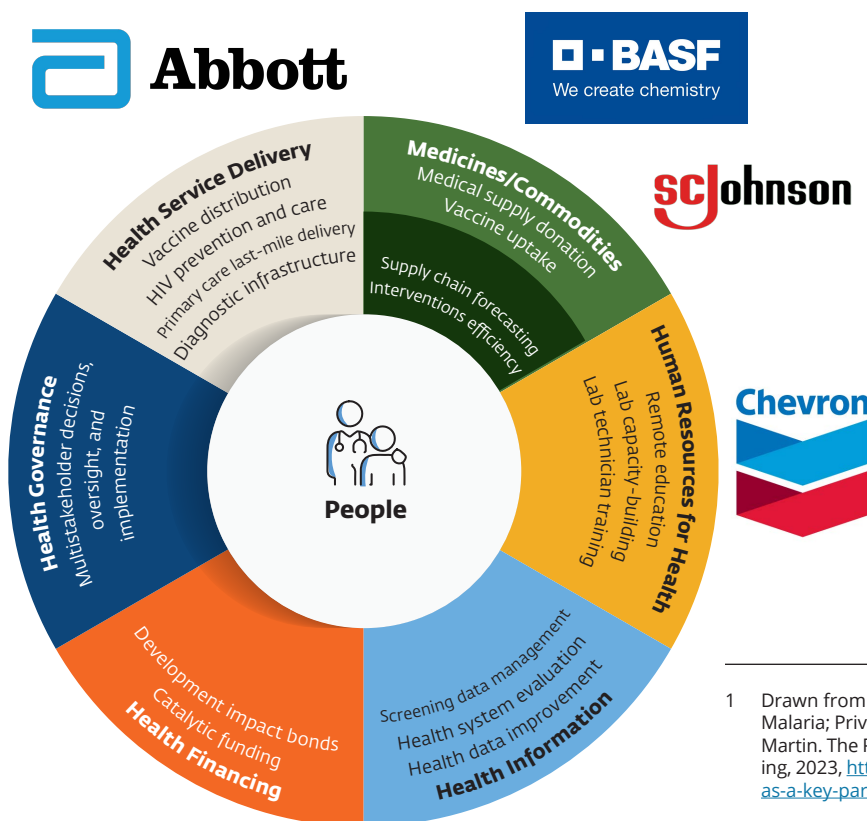


Figure 2. Private-sector contributions across the WHO's health system building blocks framework

U.S. companies strengthen malaria prevention and broader health systems by contributing innovations, commodities, financing, service delivery and workforce capacity.¹

¹ Drawn from Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Private Sector Roundtable on Global Health Security; and Rabin Martin. The Private Sector as a Key Partner in Health System Strengthening, 2023, <https://www.theglobalfight.org/issue-brief-the-private-sector-as-a-key-partner-in-health-system-strengthening/>