

Removal of Taxes & Tariffs on Anti-Malarial Commodities

Background

ALMA is working in partnership with the **Malaria Taxes and Tariffs Advocacy Project (M-TAP)** to help expand access to essential commodities used in the global fight against malaria by:

1. Identifying importation processes that can delay access to essential anti-malarial commodities or increase their cost.
2. Working in partnership with stakeholders in the global malaria community to promote policy change that removes importation barriers and increases the capacity of national governments to achieve their targets for malaria control.

Strong Policy Precedents by African Leaders

M-TAP's advocacy is strongly grounded in declarations made by ALMA leaders. In 2000, in Abuja, African Heads of State and Governments committed to take action against importation barriers that negatively affect the cost and timely delivery of essential anti-malarial commodities. The Abuja Declaration committed all signatories "to reduce or waive taxes and tariffs for mosquito nets and materials, insecticides, anti-malarial drugs and other recommended goods and services that are needed for malaria control strategies." In 2009, the 64th United Nations General Assembly reaffirmed the importance of removing tariff and non-tariff barriers on anti-malarial commodities.¹

Current Status of Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers in Sub-Saharan Africa

M-TAP's research indicates that while progress has been made in removing tariffs on anti-malarial medicines and rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs), most African countries still apply tariffs on Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs), insecticides and pumps for Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS).

Of the 45 African nations that have a malaria burden,

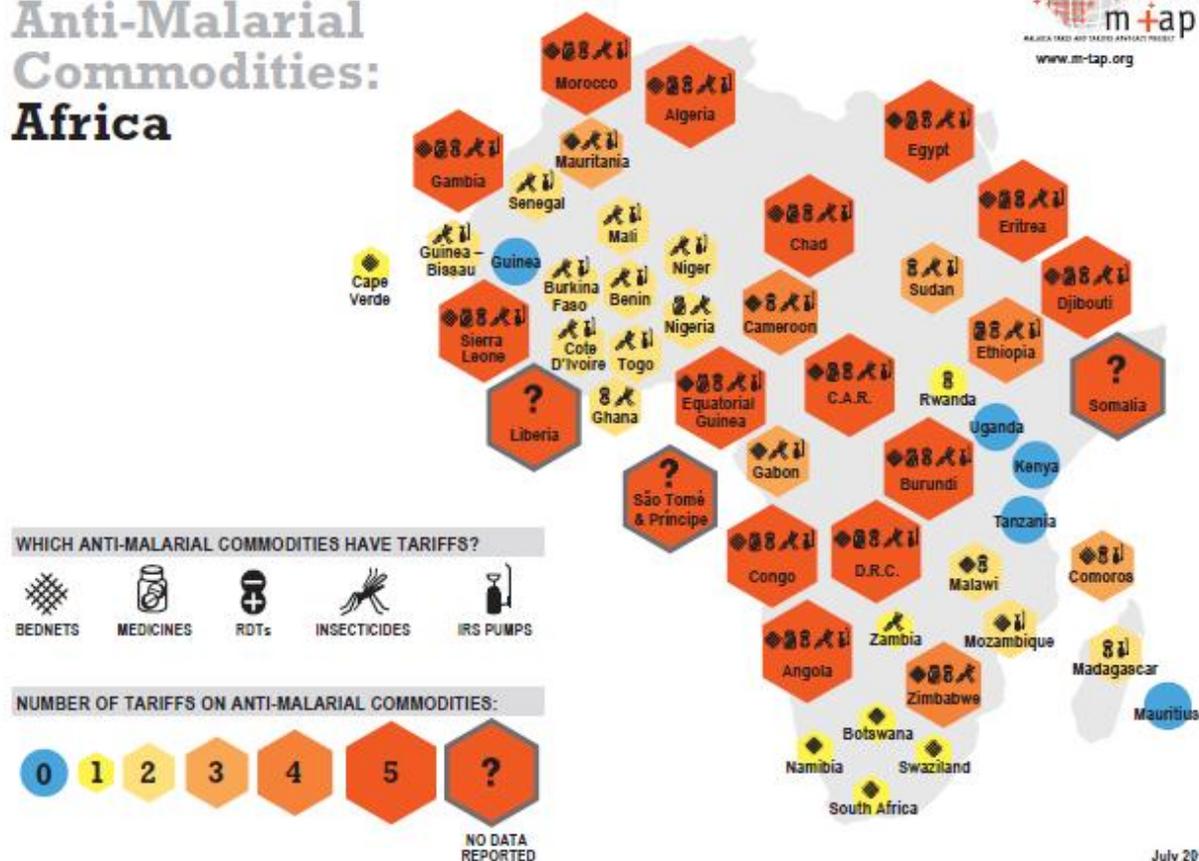
- 28 have removed tariffs on anti-malarial medicines (62%)
- 23 have removed tariffs on RDTs (51%)
- 19 have removed tariffs on LLINs (42%)
- 16 have removed tariffs on IRS pumps (36%)
- 12 have removed tariffs on insecticides for IRS (27%)

The data also show that:

- Only four African nations have completely removed tariffs on all five essential anti-malarial commodities identified by the World Health Organization (Guinea, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda)
- An additional nine African nations have removed tariffs on four out of five anti-malarial commodities (Botswana, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zambia)

¹ 64th UN General Assembly, Agenda Item 47, 2001-2010: *Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa.*

Tariffs on Anti-Malarial Commodities: Africa



In regard to non-tariff barriers, M-TAP’s research indicates that the importation processes of many African nations can delay the delivery of anti-malarial commodities to both the public and private sectors. These non-tariff barriers include:

- Confusion over the process required to secure tariff waivers;
- Lack of clarity over the international tariff coding that is applied to anti-malarial commodities; and
- Lack of publicly available information on the importation process and other importation charges that may be applied to anti-malarial commodities when they arrive in port.

NEXT steps

Our goal is to secure public support for policy action and to celebrate evidence of progress on the issue including:

- Positively position the Head of State who issues the “Call to Action” as a global leader in the fight against malaria
- Demonstrate African leadership in the global fight against malaria
- Strengthen the commitments that African leaders have made to reach 2010 and 2015 malaria targets
- Help to promote public-private partnerships focused on creating affordable and sustainable access to quality anti-malarial commodities

- A number of countries committed to remove taxes and tariffs on malaria commodities at the UN General Assembly in September 2010 and it is hoped that these pledges are acted upon as soon as possible.