

# Novartis Foundation ACCESS Program in Tanzania

## Improving access to effective malaria treatment through health system and community innovation

**Malaria remained a leading cause of child mortality in rural Tanzania, driven by delays in care-seeking, limited access to quality medicines, and gaps between households and the formal health system.**

The ACCESS program, implemented in the Kilombero and Ulanga districts, addressed barriers to malaria care at both household and health-system levels. The program combined community social marketing to encourage prompt treatment-seeking with health system strengthening. A key innovation was the training and accreditation of private drug shops through Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlets (ADDOs), improving access to quality, affordable antimalarials. Health facilities were strengthened through refresher training in malaria diagnosis and treatment, with a focus on Integrated Management of Childhood Illness..



### ? What changed?

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- Awareness of malaria increased from 62% to 84%
- Health facility attendance for malaria treatment rose from 27% to 52%
- Coverage of effective antimalarial treatment increased
- Program learnings contributed to the development of the Novartis Access Principles



### Why this matters for our work today

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ACCESS demonstrated the importance of addressing both demand- and supply-side barriers in health systems, and the value of public-private collaboration to deliver care at scale – principles that continue to inform the Foundation's approach today.

### Key partners

Ifakara Health Institute; Swiss Tropical Institute; local health authorities