Zero Malaria Starts with Me was launched in Mozambique in June 2018. Led by H.E. President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, and the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), the country has achieved commendable progress in driving action and accountability from senior government, private sector and civil society leaders, as well as increased funding and engagement from local communities to take ownership over the fight the end malaria. According to the latest WHO World Malaria Report, Mozambique recorded more than 9 million cases of malaria in 2018 and is one of the 11 highest burden countries in the world.
Shortly after President Nyusi launched the country’s national ‘Zero Malaria Starts With Me’ campaign in June, 2018. Shortly after, disaster struck. Cyclone’s Idai and Kenneth tore through Mozambique destroying infrastructure and malaria commodities and treatments increasing the risk of malaria outbreaks due to the extensive flooding. In response, the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) led a coordinated operation to protect more than a million people at risk of contracting malaria post flooding. With on the ground support from the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), WHO country office and U.S. President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI), the NMCP utilized a cholera vaccine campaign to distribute half a million mosquito nets to people who were forced from their homes.

The government quickly established a national emergency malaria fund mobilizing US$374,000, including $150,000 from the United Nations Foundation, in just ten days. Money from the Fund was used to support training and transportation of indoor residual spray teams to the areas most affected by the cyclones. In total, 514 spray operators were trained, covering 4 districts of Sofala province protecting close to 1.26 million people at the risk of malaria. The government also secured funding for millions of malaria diagnostics and treatments from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to replace stocks damaged during the storm and create an emergency supply in the event of a malaria upsurge post-flooding.

The National Malaria Programme worked with the Office of the First Lady to organize a nationally televised meeting with relief organizations and private sector companies to shine a spotlight on efforts to mitigate potential malaria outbreaks following the cyclone.

Building on the success of the cyclone response, Mozambique is now working to establish a permanent End Malaria Council and Fund as part of its continuing efforts to reduce the toll of malaria throughout the country.

Music artists Mr Bow, Julia Duarte, Liloca, Pureza Wafino, and Antonio Marcos created the song “Malaria Fora” to educate and engage citizens on the need end malaria.